

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Drug Exposure:

What is it? It is any use of drugs or alcohol during pregnancy. While there is speculation, there is not a clear nor known “safe” amount that can be consumed. When a woman is pregnant, just like all thing consumed alcohol and drugs travel through the placenta and reach the baby. An infant in the womb takes longer to process all that is transferred to them and therefore they have a higher Blood Alcohol Content level (BAC) and remain affected longer.

Causes and Diagnosis: The only cause is alcohol and drugs during pregnancy. There is no diagnosis, but early intervention and stable support have been known to best help.

Symptoms

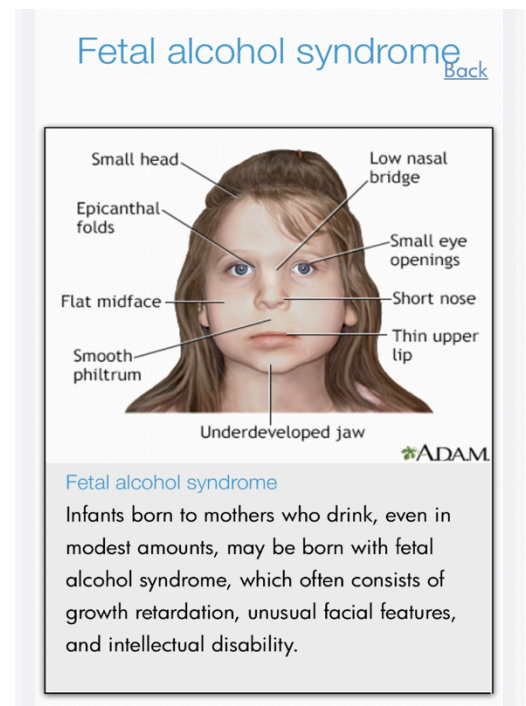
- hyperactive
- difficulty with attention
- learning difficulties or disabilities
- poor judgement
- struggle retaining information
- poor coordination
- visual and hearing impairments
- heart, kidney, bone weakness
- abnormal/underdeveloped body features and growth
- speech and language difficulties

**This is also a spectrum disorder and can be displayed in many ways and severities.

Common Misconceptions

- Misdiagnoses as ADHD, as the symptoms are very similar
- Easily detected- since the symptoms parallel that of ADHD and other common disabilities, the only way to diagnose is after admitting to drinking alcohol while pregnant. This is hard for parents to do

Facial Features of FASD



Resources of those with FASD:

- **HYPERLINK**
"https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/stories.html#Taylor"
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/stories.html#Taylor>
- <https://www.health4mom.org/fetal-alcohol-syndrome-wish-id-known/>

Speech and Language with FASD

Areas of Concern: Expressive and Receptive Language

- emotions
- verbal and non-verbal communication
- understanding language
- pragmatic skills

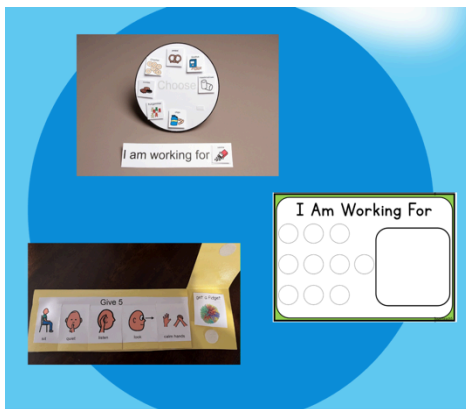
Example:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCg7_aZbchc&t=13s

Strategies

- Repetition
- Visual Cues and Prompts
- Specific Communication
- Slow rate of speaking
- Use of AAC when necessary

Matching the child's phrases and level of understanding**

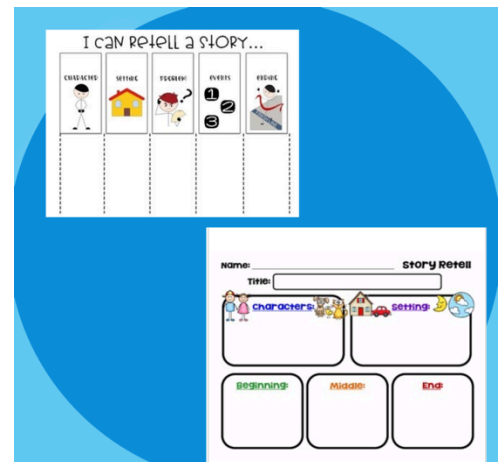


Reward Boards:

- Help with attention
- Support behaviors
- Reinforce positive choices

Story Retell

- Can be altered per grade-level/abilities
- Help with story retention
- Various speech abilities and can be used with visuals or core words



Communication Boards:

- Help promote self-advocacy
- Teach social pragmatics
- Important to always teach children about their own personal boundaries