

The FAS Tool Box: A Resource for Parents and Teachers

By

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Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and the spectrum of related problems that are now called FASD was first recognized as a medical and developmental problem in 1973 (Jones and Smith, 1973). It is still not completely understood as an educational and academic problem (Kable and Coles, 2003). Many teachers who find these complex and, sometimes, difficult children in their classroom feel frustrated and confused when searching for methods for helping them learn. Most teachers have not received instructions on teaching children with neurodevelopmental deficits associated with prenatal alcohol exposure and much of the information about FAS behavior and learning styles is not very accurate.

The do2learn.com website offers a solution to some of these problems. Their FAS Tool Box for Teachers was developed by Dorothy Strickland, Ph.D. and Molly Millians, Ed. S., an educational specialist with extensive experience working with alcohol-affected and other children with learning difficulties and differences. Development of the Tool Box and the Web delivery system was supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. The Tool Box contains sections on Classroom Management, Learning Strategies, and Educational Resources. In the Resources section, the Tool Box includes a number of down-loadable tools that the teacher can print or adapt for their own needs. Each form comes with Instructions for use and an example form that has been completed. The “Games and Activities” section includes access to a variety of games that support children in learning to understand emotions, label their own feelings, and develop the basic math skills that are so often a problem for this group of children. According to Dr. Strickland, the website has been very well received, totaling 5 million hits a month from all over the world. At the present time, according to Google’s statistics, the FAS Toolbox on this site is the top in hits in this area. All this activity suggests that it is not only parents and teachers of alcohol-affected children who are looking in, but lots of others as well because these tools are a pleasure to use for anyone.

References

- Jones, KL, Smith DW (1973) Recognition of the fetal alcohol syndrome in early infancy. Lancet 2, 989.
- Kable, JA, & Coles, CD (2003) Teratology of Alcohol: Implications for School Settings. In R.T. Brown (Ed) Handbook of Pediatric Psychology in School Settings, Mahway, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, pp. 379-404.

For more information, you can visit www.do2learn.com.

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The Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development Project is funded in part by the Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases.