

LEARNING ABOUT FAS/FASD

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) has a wonderful website to find out information about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). They have a videos page that gives the options to select the video that you would like to view by clicking on the highlighted link. Videos will play directly on your computer. You will not have to download any content onto your machine. **The resource center is continually being updated so make sure you check back often for more free materials. Go to the website at: <http://ntiupstream.com/MCHBproject/videos.aspx>**

The following videos were produced specifically for the MCHB FASD Grant and are presented by the clinical staff at Children's Research Triangle.

Here is a list of some of the video options they have on this website.

Light Alcohol Use During Pregnancy, By: Christy McCuen & Anne M. Wells, Ph.D.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was identified as a medical condition in 1973 and there seems to be wide acceptance of the idea that heavy alcohol consumption during pregnancy is detrimental to the developing baby. However, there continues to be wide speculation that light use of alcohol (e.g., a glass of wine with dinner, a bottle of beer) during pregnancy is not harmful. It is often claimed that there is no research that demonstrates the detrimental effects of light alcohol use. This presentation reviews the research literature about light use of alcohol: research has been conducted in this area and specific detrimental effects have been documented.

Parenting Children with Complex Histories By: Amy Groessl, LCSW

Children with pre-natal substance exposure often have histories of chronic neglect, multiple placements, abuse, family histories of addiction and mental illness as well as exposure to impoverished environments. These many risk factors can lead to attachment problems, sensory integration dysfunction, neurobehavioral problems and regulatory difficulties. Before caregivers can help their child with attachment, regulation and sensory processing, they must first be able to tolerate, modulate and cope with their own emotional responses. This presentation will give an overview of the different domains of impairment that these children may face plus introduce effective caregiver affect modulation and behavioral management skills.

Overview of effective behavior management strategies for the substance-exposed child, By: Erin Telford, Ph.D

The presentation reviews why traditional behavior management strategies often do not work with children with a history of prenatal substance exposure and alternative strategies that parents and caregivers can implement.

What to Expect from School Age Children with FASD's By: Greg Bailey, Psy.D.

This presentation introduces the core deficits of school age children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Areas of deficit discussed include cognitive, executive functioning, learning, memory, social, sensory, emotional and behavioral skills. Examples are included to illustrate these concepts.

Neurodevelopmental Impact of Prenatal Substance Exposures on the Very Young Child By: Cheryl Pratt, Ph.D.

Prenatal substance exposure disrupts the development of the brain in various ways. Alcohol for example not only affects how brain cells proliferate, but it also affects how those brain cells migrate during development. Prenatal substance exposures also cause inadequate and dysfunctional message transmission within the brain because of the effects it has on the neural circuitry. This damage may also be chemical and interfere with the production or transmission of neurochemicals. The brain can also undergo structural changes due to prenatal alcohol exposure, as a result the prenatally substance exposed young child often has difficulties and delays in their development. Primary difficulties that these young infants and toddlers may experience (problems in self-regulation, sensory processing problems, delays in development, and attachment and behavior problems) are discussed in this presentation.