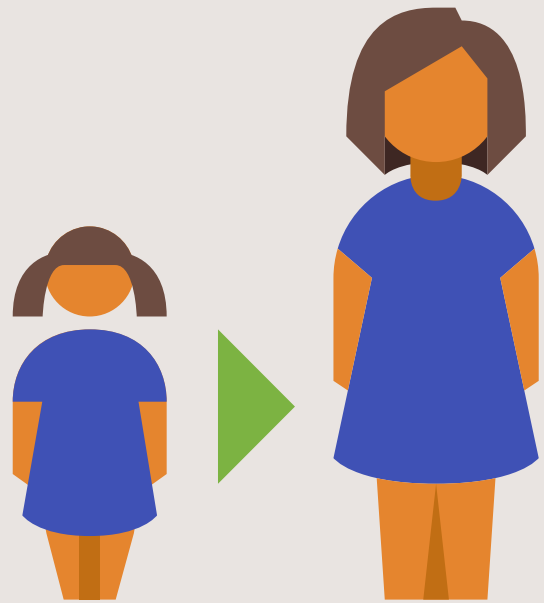


How FASD Presents Across the Lifespan



- Professor Ana C. Hanlon-Dearman talked about how FASD can look different at different ages.



- Prof Hanlon-Dearman works at the Manitoba FASD Centre in Canada in this building.



FASD is very common. People of all ages have FASD, in all parts of our community. But FASD is often hidden and people often have more than one condition.



- It's important to know what FASD is like in people at different stages of life because the way people are assessed for FASD changes.

Lots of people have FASD

International studies show FASD is very common.

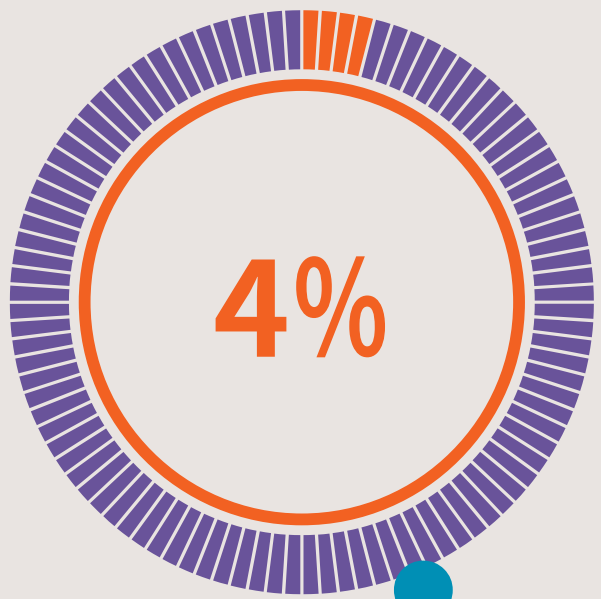
A big study in the US showed 4 in every 100 or 4% of people have FASD.

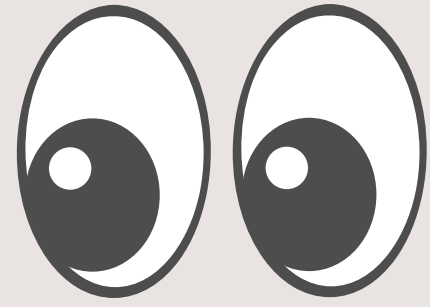
Studies in schools in Croatia, Italy, South Africa, Sweden, USA and the UK show between 2-6% of students have FASD.

Studies show 23% with FASD are in-patients in psychiatry centres.

More than 10% of people in prison are likely to have FASD.

Studies in several countries show that 17-50% of children in care might have FASD.



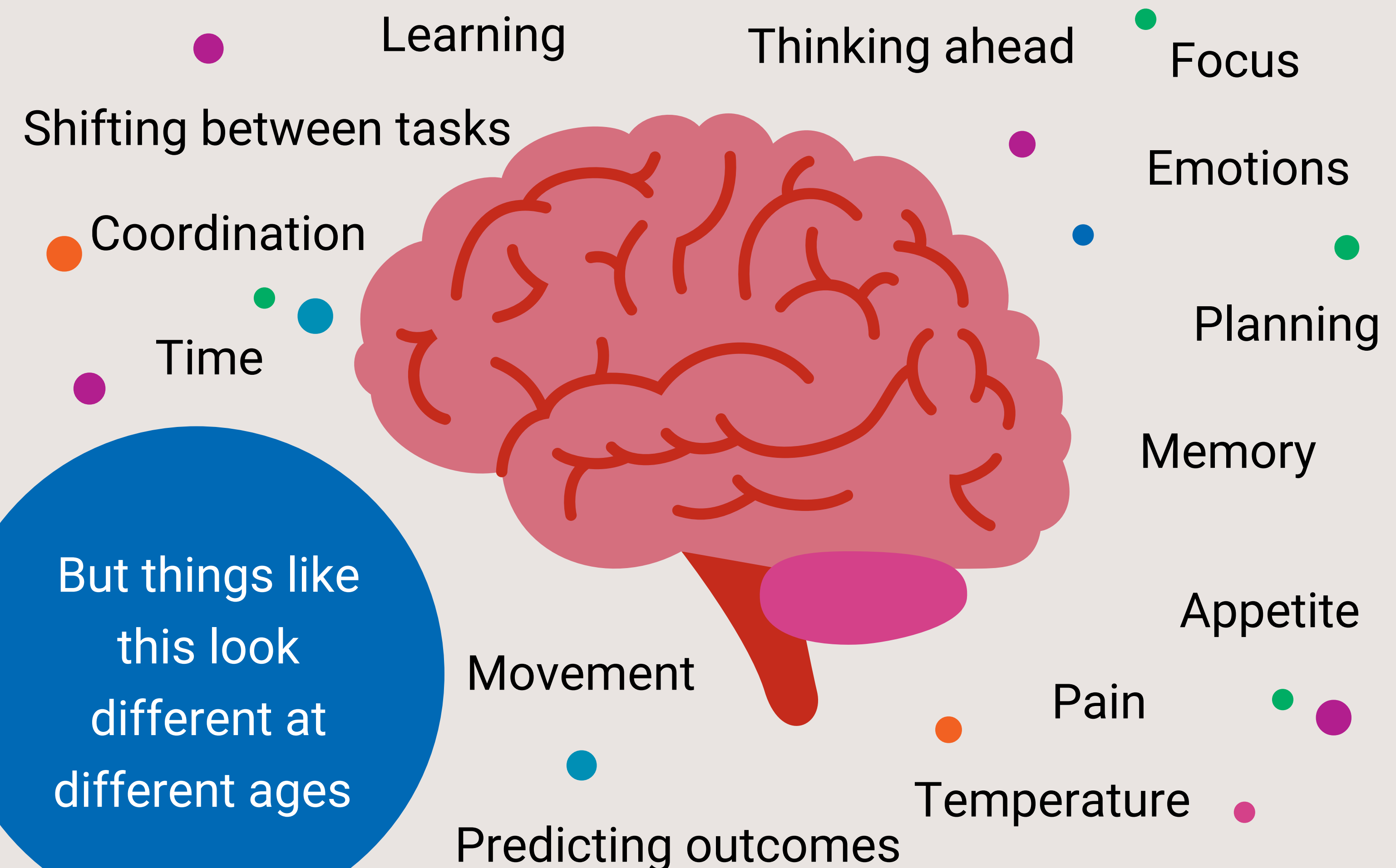


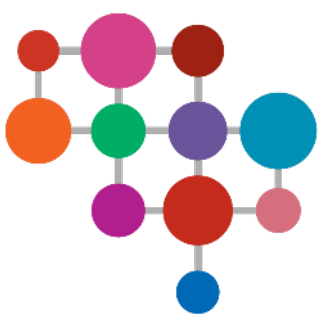
Identifying FASD

It's important to know what to look for so people with FASD can get the help and support they deserve.

Different parts of the brain can be affected by alcohol exposure in the womb.

Below are examples of how damage to different parts of the brain can affect someone with FASD





NATIONAL
ORGANISATION
FOR
FASD

FASD Symptoms in Infants

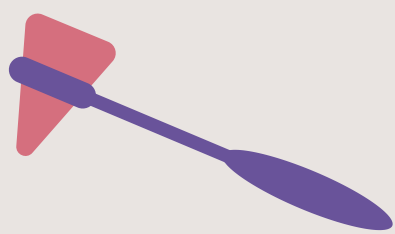
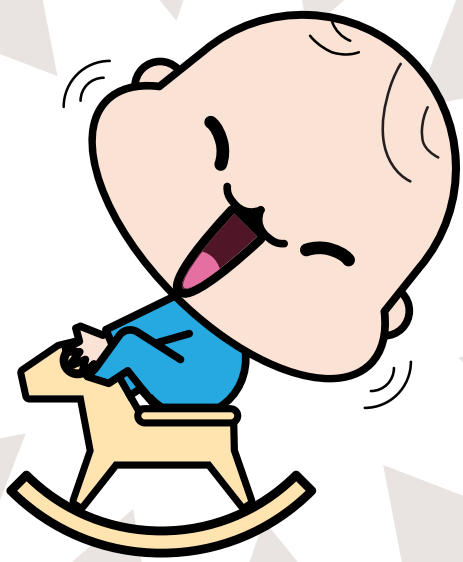


It can be hard to know if infants have FASD.

They can have a general delay in meeting typical milestones like sitting, crawling, talking, walking.



They can be overly excited or stimulated. They can seem "difficult".



They can have problems with sleeping, calming, attention, movement, or reflexes.



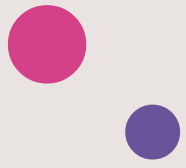
They may have unexpected responses to things like taste, smell and hearing.



FASD Symptoms in Preschool



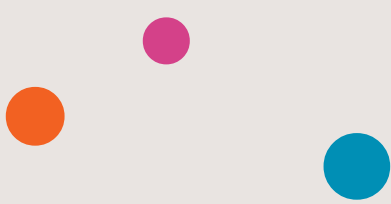
Hyperactivity



Attention problems



Language delay



Being uncoordinated



Unusual sensory responses,
like delayed listening



Becoming emotional
(often can look like anger)



Difficulties with memory



Delayed play skills



General delays



Adaptive delays



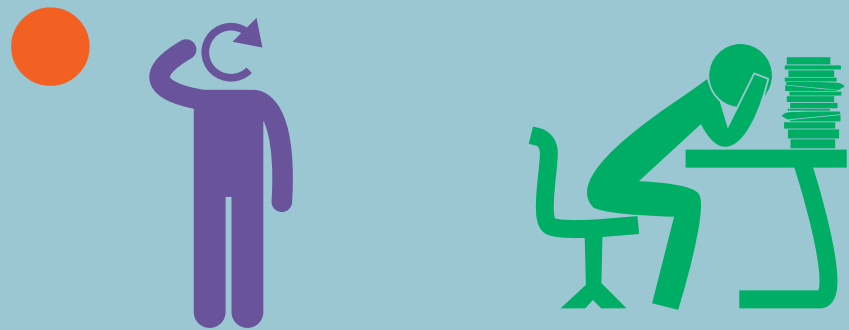
FASD Symptoms in School Age Children



Difficulty concentrating



Impulsive (don't think of consequences) and hyperactive
Emotional and frustrated easily



Memory problems at home and at school



Problems understanding language



Behaviour problems like getting overwhelmed or struggling with changes, telling truth



Hard to make friends and easily misled by others



Learning disabilities

FASD Symptoms in Adolescents & Adults

Problems with forgetting important things



Struggle to manage free time



Hard to make judgements even about personal safety



Difficulty managing time and money



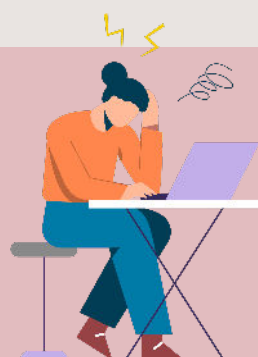
Appearing less 'mature' than people your age



Finding it hard to understand what other people say to you



Being sensitive to things like loud noises or bright lights



Gaps in thought process




Learning disabilities




Being impulsive and easily distracted


FASD Diagnosis



People with FASD have spiky development. They do things at different times from others their age.



For diagnosis they have a 'neurodevelopmental assessment' that can tell what skills they have. Different tests are used at different ages.



To get an FASD diagnosis you have to have 'severe' challenges in 3 or more areas.

FASD Diagnosis Matters At Any Age

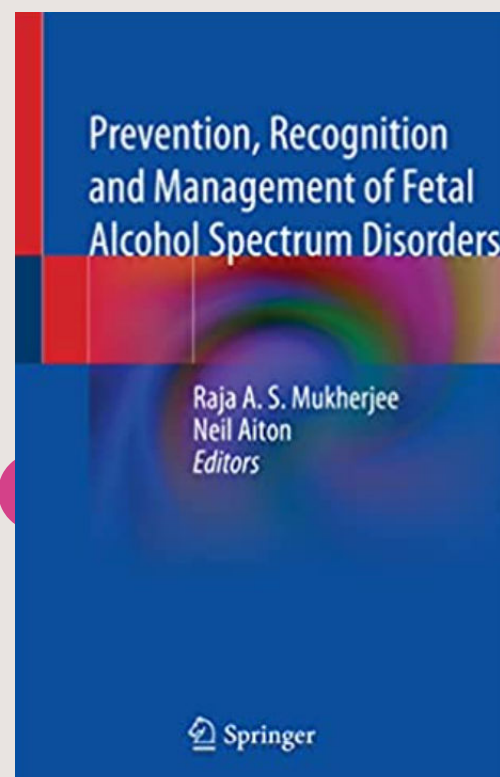
Knowing what to look for when assessing someone for FASD at different ages can be complicated, because everyone with FASD is different.



But it's important to know what to look for, because FASD can be diagnosed at any age.

Diagnosis can help people get the right support.

What is Raja & Neil's FASD Bookclub?



Prof Raja Mukherjee and Dr Neil Aiton wrote a book for other doctors about FASD. But they hope more people can access the information



In this online book club people who wrote chapters give 15- minute talks about what they wrote and then they answer questions



After each book club, the talks are shared on National FASD's YouTube channel



You don't have to read the book. It's expensive because it's for libraries and universities. But if you want to order it, it's here:

<https://tinyurl.com/RajaAndNeilFASDBook>