

Behavioural affects associated with misperception of underlying Primary Characteristics of FASD

Our Perception	Actual Situation
Resisting	<i>Can't understand or process verbal directions</i>
Bad	<i>Frustrated, defensive, challenged</i>
Lazy	<i>Doesn't understand, doesn't remember</i>
Lies	<i>Fills in the gaps, has memory problems</i>
Steals	<i>Doesn't understand ownership</i>
Doesn't try	<i>Exhausted, can't start, or afraid of failure</i>
Mean, rude	<i>Defensive, hurt, abused, unable to interpret social cues</i>
Constantly late	<i>Can't tell time, can't get organized, doesn't get the concept of time (for example, if you need to leave by 1:00 to get to a 2:00 appointment, that's an hour away)</i>
Doesn't care	<i>Cannot show feelings, is protecting himself or herself</i>
Refuses to sit still	<i>Overstimulated, needs to move while learning, doesn't know what he or she is expected to do</i>
Fussy, demanding	<i>Oversensitive</i>
Trying to make me mad	<i>Can't remember</i>
Trying to get attention	<i>Needing contact, support</i>
Immature	<i>Doesn't understand social cues and rules</i>
Doesn't get the obvious	<i>Needs many re-teachings, doesn't understand, despite intelligence</i>
Makes the same mistakes over and over	<i>Can't link cause to effect, can't see similarities, has difficulty generalizing</i>

Doesn't work independently	<i>Has chronic memory problems, can't translate verbal directions into action</i>
Is overly physical	<i>Is hyper- or hyposensitive to touch, doesn't understand social cues regarding boundaries</i>
Uses poor social judgment	<i>Is not able to interpret social cues, needs help organizing</i>

It isn't that the child won't!
It is that the child can't!

Source: Adapted from Malbin, D. 1993. *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Effects: Strategies for Professionals*. Center City, MN: Hazelden.

"Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that people do not choose to have an FASD. They want to fit in, live independently, have jobs, and make friends. They do not deliberately try to alienate others. Their brains function differently, causing them to learn differently and behave in challenging ways. Adapting to the situation and looking for ways to meet their needs can help improve the quality of life of people with an FASD. The problem is the alcohol, not the person" (Diane Malbin).