

The following notes can be printed and cut out to be used to guide your 5-minute speech.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders 5-Minute Presentation for Classroom or Public Meeting or Committee Presentation

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FAS Community Resource Center
www.come-over.to/FASCRC

Preparation: Take an empty baby bottle and a mini whiskey bottle that is filled with tea or coffee or some liquid that looks like whiskey. Pour the "liquor" into the baby bottle, hold it up for all to see, and begin:

1. Would anyone give this to a baby?

Of course not!

But every time a pregnant woman has a drink, it's like giving a drink to the baby inside.

The baby's BAC (blood alcohol concentrate) can be the same or higher than the mother's.

2. Alcohol causes more damage to the developing baby's brain than any other substance, including cocaine and meth.

Binge drinking causes the most damage, but moderate and light drinking can put the baby at risk as well.

3. Some doctors tell their pregnant patients that one or two drinks a day is okay, but there is NO safe level of alcohol during pregnancy.

Just one drink a day throughout pregnancy adds up to 39 baby bottles FULL of liquor.

4. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is the leading cause of cognitive disabilities in newborns.

But most people with FAS do not have developmental disabilities, and most have normal intelligence and normal appearance.

5. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is only the tip of the iceberg.

For every child born with full FAS, there are FIVE children born with invisible yet serious Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND).

Together FAS and ARND make up what is called Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

(FASD).

6. One out of every 100 babies born in the U.S. is born with FASD.

The most damage occurs to the brain and shows up as behavior problems during the school years.

7. The biggest problems with FASD are ADHD (they have poor impulse control), memory deficits (they forget the rules), and poor judgment (they make bad decisions).

Because of these three major problems, which are caused by brain dysfunction, the child ends up making the same mistakes over and over, in spite of the consequences.

9. They tend to be immature and have inappropriate behavior. They are at high risk of having clinical depression with suicidal tendencies.

Without help, they end up homeless, addicted, arrested, or dead.

8. Some kids with FASD get a diagnosis and get special education and other help, but most do not have a diagnosis or have the wrong diagnosis, and just get into lots of trouble.

They are at high risk of dropping out or getting kicked out of school, of getting in trouble with the law, of abusing alcohol and other drugs, of promiscuous sex, and are vulnerable to becoming victims of physical and sexual abuse.

10. The rate of drinking among women of childbearing age has been increasing.

Over half of women of childbearing age drink.
Half of all pregnancies are unplanned.

23% of pregnant women report that they drank during their 1st trimester, when the baby is really vulnerable to damage to the brain and organs.

11. Guys are not off the hook.

Although FASD can only be caused by the mother drinking during pregnancy, research shows that children of fathers who are heavy drinkers are at high risk of having learning disabilities, addictions, and mental health problems.

Alcohol consumption by guys during the teen

12. Studies show that most mothers who have babies with FASD were sexually abused by men when they were younger, and that birth mothers were likely to have been victims of serious abuse at some time in their lives.

The biggest factor in women staying sober during pregnancy is having her husband or boyfriend abstain along with her.

13. Birth control is not as effective as advertisements imply. Couples need to use TWO forms of birth control, because with just one form, the failure rate could be as high as 20%. That means that out of 100 couples who rely on just the pill or just a condom, 20 of them will get pregnant within one year.

The rate of birth control failure is even higher for teens.

14. There is no cure, but Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are 100% preventable.

If you are pregnant, don't drink.

If you drink, don't get pregnant.

(This can be read at the beginning to establish credibility)

All this information is from credible sources, like the March of Dimes, the FASD Center for Excellence, the National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, the National Institute of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(This can be written on a blackboard or a large piece of paper. Pass out the little information cards.)

For more information on raising awareness about FASD and the dangers of drinking during pregnancy, visit the FAS Community Resource Center:

www.fasstar.com
www.fasarizona.com

Suggestions for additional presentation time:
(located at www.come-over.to/FASCRC)

Monologue: "Secret Agent"
Monologue: "Hi My Name Is Rosie"
Easy "Quiz" on Substance Abuse
Chris Kellerman's Speech "Being Different"
"Help!" by John Kellerman
John's Conference Speech
Monologue: "Visible Teen"
Monologue: "The Beat Goes On"

Be sure to give credit to the web site
FAS Community Resource Center
www.come-over.to/FASCRC

Suggestions for handouts:

FAS and the Brain
Characteristics of FASD
Dads and Moms Risk
Nature of FASD
101 Reasons Mini Poster
Ain't Misbehavin'
Stats U.S. Birth Defects
FASDAY Awareness Poster
"No Thanks" cards
Snickers info cards

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One drink per day throughout pregnancy adds up to 39 baby bottles full of booze.





I say “No Thanks”
to alcohol and other drugs.
I want my baby to have the
best start for a healthy life.

Alcohol causes more damage
to the developing baby’s brain
than any other substance.

If you’re pregnant, don’t drink.
If you drink, don’t get pregnant.

www.fasday.com



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