

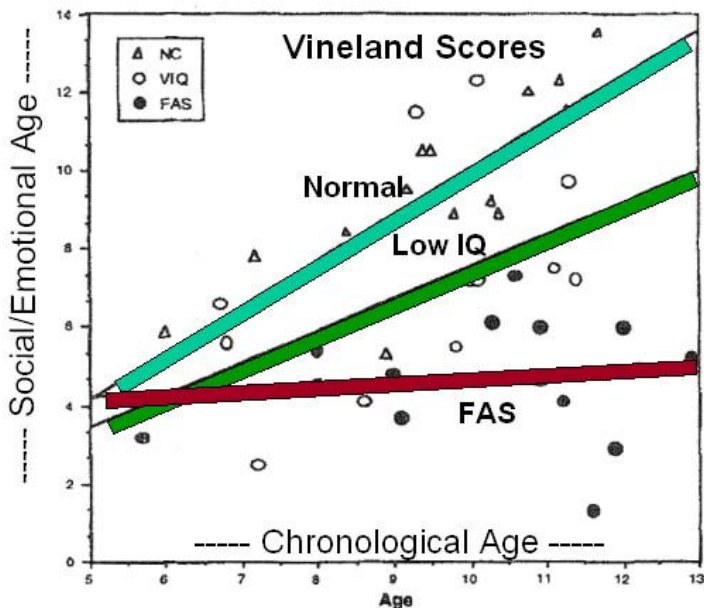
FASD and Social Development

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Research conducted by Dr. Ed Riley and associates made a comparison of social abilities among:

- Children with FAS
- Children with same IQ (no FAS)
- Control group (normal children)

Riley utilized the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales “VABS II” (parent version) to determine the level of social skills in these three groups. The results show that children with FAS have social skills stunted at the 4 to 6 year old level, regardless of age or intellectual abilities.



Citation: Comparison of social abilities of children with fetal alcohol syndrome to those of children with similar IQ scores and normal controls. Thomas SE, Kelly SJ, Mattson SN, Riley EP.. Alcohol Clin Exp Res 22:528–533, 1998.

<http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9581664?dopt=Abstract>

Social developmental age is reflected in emotional regulation and conscience development. The 18-21 year old with FAS may be functioning intellectually at the level of a 12-16 year old but socially and emotionally at the level of a 4-6 year old.

In another research report, Riley explains “arrested social development”:

Adaptive and Social Skills. Studies have suggested that alcohol-exposed children are at high risk for problem behaviors that can interfere with their participation in home, school, and social environments. For example, these children are more likely than non-exposed children to be rated as hyperactive, disruptive, impulsive, or delinquent. Furthermore, based on parent ratings of their child’s behavior, children with histories of prenatal alcohol exposure had significant and profound impairment, with particular difficulties in social, attention, and aggressive domains. Results from a recent study suggest that social deficits in children with FAS are beyond what can be explained by low IQ scores and indicate that they may be arrested, and not simply delayed.

Citation: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: An Overview with Emphasis on Changes in Brain and Behavior. Edward P. Riley¹ and Christie L. McGee, *Experimental Biology and Medicine* 230:357-365 (2005)

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