

The FASD ASSESSMENT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

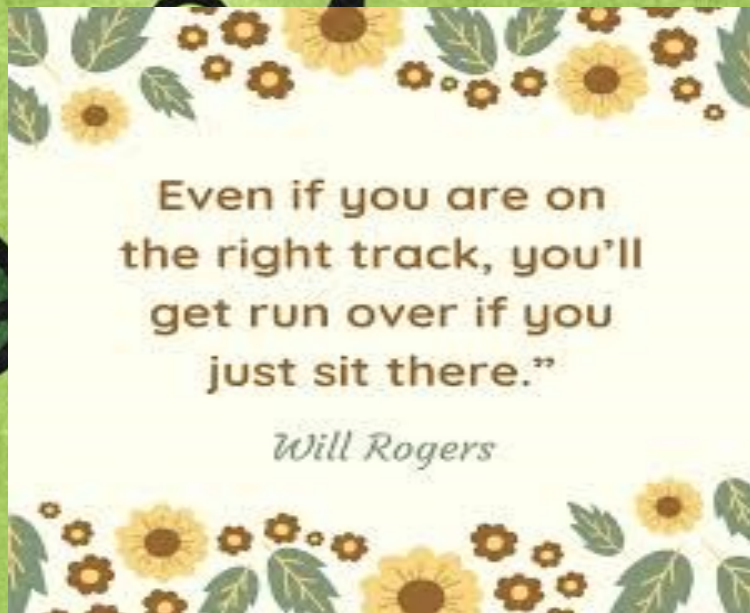


Below is a brief breakdown of the brain assessment areas that are tested by a physician/ pediatrician, psychologist, speech language pathologist and occupational therapist



1. **Academic Achievement:** reading, math, comprehension
2. **Attention:** ability to stay focused, for example, in a classroom setting
3. **Cognition:** reasoning, problem solving, planning, and IQ (intelligence quotient)
4. **Language:** receptive language (ability to understand what is said to them) and expressive language (ability to clearly communicate to others)
5. **Memory:** short and long-term memory, working memory
6. **Neuroanatomy/Neurophysiology:** head size, and other disorders related to the nervous system (i.e. seizures)
7. **Executive Functioning:** problem solving, planning, organizing, understanding of consequences, impulsive behavior and hyperactivity, abstract concepts such as time and money
8. **Adaptive Behaviours, Social Skills and Social Communication:** understanding of personal boundaries, social vulnerability, behaving younger than actual age
9. **Motor Skills:** balance, strength, coordination, reflexes and muscle tone; will ask whether your child has reached developmental milestones on time (i.e. crawling, walking, grasping objects)
10. **Affect Regulation:** ability to control emotions and display appropriate emotional responses
11. **Trauma History:** history of any traumas experienced, for example physical or emotional abuse
12. **Sensory Issues:** ability to process information that comes in through the senses





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Online Resources

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: a guideline for diagnosis across the lifespan

<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/188/3/191?>

(Canadian FASD Research Network, CanFASD)

Foundations of FASD

<https://estore.canfasd.ca/foundations-in-fasd?>

(free online course, Alberta.ca)

Caregiver course

<https://www.childwelfareinstitute.torontocas.ca/training?>

(free online course)

Caregiver resource guide

<https://canfasd.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Caregiver-Resource-Guide-FASD-March-2018.pdf?>

How to Explain a FASD Diagnosis to your child

<https://canfasd.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/How-to-Explain-an-FASD-Diagnosis-to-your-Child.pdf?>

The information on this page was retrieved from; <https://canfasd.ca/wp-content/uploads/publications/CanFASD-Caregiver-Guide-to-Diagnosis-Jan2020-interactive.pdf>, p.15