



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) For Educators

What do I do if a student with FASD has an outburst in class?

An accidental bump may feel like an intentional shove to a student with FASD and so outbursts may ensue. Try to intervene immediately, quickly and calmly to diffuse the situation by removing the source of stress.

How can I make sure a student with FASD understands assignments and class material?

Have the student reiterate directions in his/her own words to verify understanding. Check back with the student frequently to ensure there are no questions or problems.

How can I help a student with FASD stay more focused in class?

Place a student with FASD at the front of the classroom and keep the seating chart consistent throughout the year. Surround the student with armrests or some other border will create a comforting atmosphere. This will help the student focus.

What is the best way to teach a student with FASD?

Students with FASD have unique ways of learning. Show patience and continue trying different methods until something works. Visual and hands-on methods often prove effective. When possible, students should be provided with easy-to-read organizational charts and checklists to help keep track of progress.

What should I do if the classroom is too loud and distracting for a student with FASD to successfully complete his/her schoolwork?

Establish a quiet area for the student in the beginning of the school year. If the classroom becomes too distracting, send the student to his/her quiet area. Make it clear this area is not a punishment. Over time, students may be able to self-regulate.

How should I identify specific strengths and needs for a student with FASD?

Check the student's academic history if available. Talk to your student (or his/her parent) informally to understand why they have liked teachers or school in the past and determine their strengths and interests. This will provide insight to how your student learns as well as show the student you are genuinely interested in his/her success.