

FASD and Education

A Story from Ōtautahi, Christchurch Aotearoa, New Zealand



(Planetepapascom, 2018)



(Colliersconz, 2018)



SOUTH AND EAST CHRISTCHURCH

whakatauki

*Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia o tātou mahi
Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work*

my professional role

Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour

- 4 teams across Canterbury area
- Te Paeroa - 67 schools, 30 RTLB



SOUTH AND EAST CHRISTCHURCH

WHAT re FASD?

- One in two pregnancies exposed to alcohol, one in ten at high risk levels (estimates of 3000 babies born each year in NZ affected by FASD (Radionzconz, 2015))
 - FASD affects about 50% of children in Oranga Tamariki (State) care
 - Eight diagnostic teams, all in the North Island.
- (FASD working group, 2016, p1)

WHAT re CHRISTCHURCH?



(Bostoncom, 2018)

- 6 600 injuries
- 185 deaths
- Estimated 171,000 properties damaged with 12,000 seriously and 13,000 uninhabitable (Liberty, 2017)

- 7.1 earthquake – Sept 4, 2010 and 6.3 earthquake – Feb 22, 2011 followed by more than 14,000 aftershocks. (Liberty, 2017)



(Theguardiancom, 2018)

SO WHAT? FASD

- “Taking Action on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: 2016–2019 An Action Plan”

4 priorities:

- Prevention
- Early Identification
- Support
- Evidence (NZ based)

(FASD working group, 2016)



SO WHAT?

FASD and Education

NZ Govt Ministry of Education online FASD guide for teachers as part of a comprehensive online resource

“Inclusive Education: Guide for Schools”

<http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/>

The screenshot shows the 'Inclusive Education' website. The header includes the title 'Inclusive Education' and 'GUIDES FOR SCHOOLS'. Navigation tabs for 'HOME', 'GUIDES', and 'RESOURCES AND DOWNLOADS' are visible. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Guides > FASD and learning'. The main heading is 'Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and learning'. The text explains that FASD is an umbrella term for impairments from alcohol exposure in the womb, a lifelong condition affecting brain structures and functioning, and that the guide provides strategies for teachers. It also mentions planned updates. A sidebar on the right lists related topics like ADHD, Behaviour, and Transitions. At the bottom, there are 'BOOKMARK' and 'SHARE' buttons.

Inclusive Education
GUIDES FOR SCHOOLS

HOME GUIDES RESOURCES AND DOWNLOADS

Home > Guides > FASD and learning

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and learning

FASD is an umbrella term used to describe the range of impairments that result from exposure to alcohol in the womb.

FASD is a lifelong condition that affects brain structures, processes and functioning, and emotional regulation. Students with FASD can have strong visual memories, good verbal fluency, and high energy levels.

This guide provides teachers with targeted strategies to meet the multi-faceted needs of students living with FASD.

Planned updates

Terminology describing FASD is currently in flux as health professionals adopt new criteria for diagnosis. The guide will be updated with new terminology, resources, and processes as they are developed.

Specifically about
[FASD](#)

Highly relevant to
[ADHD](#)
[Behaviour](#)
[Peer relationships](#)
[Transitions](#)
[Universal Design for Learning](#)

Also related to
[Deterring bullying behaviour](#)
[Innovative learning environments](#)

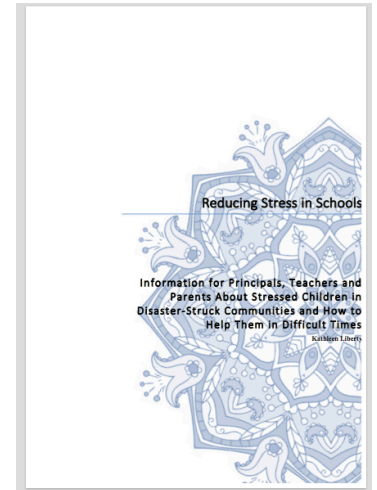
BOOKMARK SHARE

(New Zealand Ministry of Education, 2018)

SO WHAT? Chch Earthquake

“Reducing Stress In Schools:
Information for Principals, Teachers and
Parents About Stressed Children in
Disaster-Struck Communities and How to
Help Them in Difficult Times” (Liberty, 2017)

- Prompted by anecdotal information that teachers were finding complexities in the children coming into schools following the earthquakes, Dr Liberty decided to explore the effects of the Chch Earthquakes on the entering school population.
- Findings:
 - Increase on average of one behaviour problem per child
 - More than twice the number of children entering school with high Post-Traumatic Stress symptoms(Liberty, 2017, pp 71/72)



NOW WHAT?

- Liberty's research and findings has raised awareness of trauma, neurological/brain explanations for behavioural and learning challenges in schools
- RTLB are enabled to develop knowledge and encourage strategies that support rather than “blame”/punish children for their challenges.
- Within Chch there remains no diagnostic capacity and a limited understanding of FASD ...

BUT

development of trauma sensitive practice in schools supports those with undiagnosed FASD.

What Next?

Continue to work towards:

- FASD informed teacher practice
- FASD diagnostic services
- FASD informed support services ...

*Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia o tātou mahi
Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work*



(Amazoncouk, 2018)

References

- Amazoncouk. 2018. Amazoncouk. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Story-Talking-Lightyear-Ranger-Collection/dp/B002B7JY66>
- FASD Working Group (2016) *Taking Action on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: 2016–2019: An action plan*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.
- Liberty, K. (2017). *Reducing Stress in Schools*. New Zealand: University of Canterbury
- New zealand ministry of education. 2018. *Inclusive Education*. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: <http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/>
- Radionzconz. (2015). *Radio New Zealand*. Retrieved 2 September, 2017, from <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/insight/audio/201752639/insight-for-3-may-2015-nz-s-neglected-foetal-alcohol-problem>

Images:

- (Iain McGregor/Christchurch Press/Reuters) in Bostoncom. 2018. Bostoncom. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2011/02/christchurch_earthquake.html
- Colliersconz. 2018. Colliersconz. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: https://www.colliers.co.nz/offices/christchurch_agency/about/
- Planetepapascom. 2018. Planetepapascom. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: <https://www.planetepapas.com/alcool-grossesse-prevention/bebe-alcool/>
- (Shuzo Shikano/AP) in Theguardiancom. 2018. The Guardian. [Online]. [9 October 2018]. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world>