

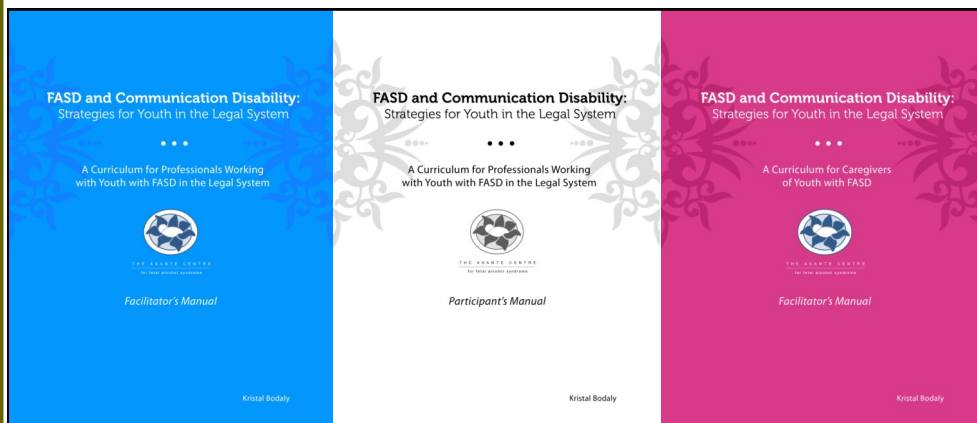
“FASD and Communication Disability: Strategies for Youth in the Legal System” Now Available!

After two years of learning and elbow grease, the project team is happy to announce that the “FASD and Communication Disability: Strategies for Youth in the Legal System” curriculum is complete and available for free download on the Asante Centre website (resources page)! The team would like to recognize and extend our gratitude to the Advisory Committee, consultants, pilot participants, evaluators and the many others who dedicated their time and effort to its development, and the collaboration on building an effective tool.

Over the years the Asante clinical team has noticed that a majority of the youth participating in the Youth Justice FASD Program have an identifiable language disability. With communication impairments, in addition to other brain deficits, these youth are at greater risk in the justice system. So often the youth’s rights are compromised because they are not able to fully understand the legal processes. In the spring of 2009 the Asante Centre received funding through the Victoria Foundation’s FASD Action Fund to develop a curriculum for professionals and caregivers who are supporting youth within the legal system who have FASD and an underlying language disability.

The curriculum addresses general understanding of communication disabilities and the impact on youth involved in the legal system as offenders, witnesses and victims, as well as the challenges of engaging youth with these disabilities, and what caregivers and professionals can do to support and advocate for these youth within the Youth Criminal Justice System. Kristal Bodaly, Speech-Language Pathologist and principal author of the curriculum, consulted with a number of experts in the areas of FASD, communication disability and the justice system in order to construct a comprehensive and accessible guide for working with this vulnerable population.

The curriculum includes two versions to meet the unique needs of professionals and caregivers, each consisting of 15 hours of training materials. All materials are available on the Asante Centre website, and are designed to be delivered by a speech-language pathologist in partnership with a legal professional. Please contact the Asante Centre for more information.



If you would like to be removed from the newsletter mailing list, please contact the Asante Centre at newsletter@asantecentre.org.

Mark Your Calendars

International FASD Awareness Day

September 9, 2011

Contact your local MCFD FASD Key Worker for events happening in your area.

Speaking of Kids Conference

October 21, 2011

Killarney Secondary School, Vancouver
www.asantecentre.org/news.html

FAST Club and BrainGamer Club

September, 2011 (fall and winter start dates)

University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford
<http://www.ufv.ca/kpe/FASTclub.htm>

Getting Connected: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder 4th Annual Fall Conference

November 4 - 5, 2011

Douglas College, New Westminster Campus
www.asantecentre.org/news.html

5th National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD

April 18 - 21, 2012

The Hyatt Regency, Vancouver
www.interprofessional.ubc.ca

Minga Marketplace has a new and improved website, offering more of the latest resources! Bookmark the new site www.mingamarketplace.com for a full listing of products available!



The Asante Centre is seeking a speech-language pathologist to provide therapy for school aged and preschool aged clients, as well as perform assessments within the context of a multidisciplinary team for clients with a question of ASD or FASD. Please see the www.asantecentre.org for more information on the position, as well as how to apply.



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FASD Videoconference Learning Series



Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.

Visit the FASD-CMC website (www.fasd-cmc.alberta.ca) for a video overview of the FASD Learning Series, and how it has made a positive difference for people living with FASD as well as those who support them.

In 2003, the Alberta FASD Cross-Ministry Committee (FASD-CMC) was formed with the mandate to act as the primary vehicle to support a collaborative approach to plan and deliver provincial government programs and services associated with FASD.

As part of the education and training mandate of the Committee, the FASD Videoconference Learning Series was developed to increase both community and individual capacity to support people living with FASD and their caregivers across the lifespan. The series offers free education opportunities tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals and family members/caregivers affected by FASD, support service providers, healthcare providers, educators, legal and justice services, and professionals in the research and evaluation field.

The learning modules take place live in Alberta, and are available by videoconference technology to communities across the country. Each module offers a comprehensive view of a particular subject relevant to FASD. The live sessions provide participants the opportunity to interact with the presenter during a facilitated Q&A period, and meet and share with people from all areas of the FASD field. Each session is also professionally filmed and posted online to enhance accessibility for people unable to attend the scheduled sessions.

Nearly 60 sessions have been held on a variety of topics, including healthy relationships and sexuality, financial management, assessment and diagnosis, internet safety, employment issues, information for legal professionals, parent-teacher relationships and strategies for the classroom, mental health, medical management and more. The sessions represent an array of expertise in each topic area.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Across the Lifespan

The Asante Centre would like to recognize the Village Assist Ridge Meadows Society for their generous contribution of \$7000.00. Village Assist was instrumental in building homes in Sri Lanka following the 2004 tsunami, thanks to the support of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows residents. With the Village Assist mandate coming to a close, the society selected the Asante Centre to receive the residual funds for our support of the community in relation to FASD prevention and intervention. We know the funds will make a difference to the families we serve!



What can you do?

Become a member of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Society for British Columbia!

Name/or Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

or become a member on our website: www.asantecentre.org

Email: info@asantecentre.org

FAST Club Returns!

The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) and partners are conducting a study entitled **“Strength-Based Interventions for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders”**.



Some may already be familiar with this earlier program entitled, “FAST Club”. Preliminary research results from the initial study indicate that participants showed some positive gains in both motor skills and some aspects of cognitive functioning upon completion of the program. What makes FAST Club unique is that there is a focus on the existing *strengths* of the child, and then these strengths are developed to the fullest.

Studies indicate that children with FASD demonstrate two such strengths: a) in their motor skills and b) in their aptitude for working with computer-based technologies. Families have the choice of one of two programs, each incorporating one of these two strengths:

FAST Club - A physical activity and motor skill program where each child engages in an individually prescribed strength-based program.

BrainGamer Club - Children will engage in a video game and neurofeedback program. Each child will get to choose their own video game. Altering brain patterns to play fun video games may lead to positive behavioural and cognitive outcomes.

Children will be tested on a number of capacities both pre and post programs, including physical capabilities and motor skills, cognitive and adaptive functioning, and neurocognitive abilities. There will also be investigations of how the children’s sleep patterns and physiological stress response may be impacted by participation.

Both programs consists of 2 sessions per week for 12 weeks. Programming and testing will commence in September 2011, with both fall and winter programs offered. The research team is seeking children 6 – 13 years old for FAST Club, and 6 - 16 years old for BrainGamer Club; both with a confirmed diagnosis under the umbrella of FASD. The program is completely free of charge.



For more information on either of the programs or to register, please contact Alison Pritchard Orr at 604-504-7441 or alison.pritchardorr@ufv.ca. Please also visit the website at <http://www.ufv.ca/kpe/FASTclub.htm>.

The subject matter contained in this newsletter does not necessarily represent the opinions and ideas of the Asante Centre. The Centre does not endorse or guarantee any information, products or services discussed, and cannot be held responsible for the use or misuse of its contents.

Your Charitable Donations are appreciated.

Donation (tax receipt provided): _____

Send cheque or money order to:

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