Prenatal exposure to alcohol is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and developmental disabilities. In addition to difficulty with attention, lifelong effects may include a range of physical, mental, behavioral and/or learning problems.

FASDs are estimated to affect as many as 40,000 infants annually in the U.S., so 2% to 5% of school children would likely benefit from therapeutic interventions, including special education services. The prevalence of FASDs is comparable to spina bifida and Down syndrome rates.

Pediatricians and other pediatric health professionals can make a difference. Although FASDs can’t be cured, early recognition and diagnosis-specific interventions can improve outcomes that last a lifetime.

Diagnose a child with these behavioral symptoms:

- Impaired learning/encoding
- Social communication problems
- Attention deficits
- Distractibility

Answer: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs)

Children with impairments in neurocognitive functioning, self-regulation and adaptive functioning may have one of the FASDs and should be screened for prenatal alcohol exposure.

However, if ADHD immediately came to mind—you’re not alone.

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aap.org/fasd

The FASD Toolkit is a one-stop clinical resource of compiled tools that range from clinical decision support and communication aids to practice management guides that support quality care in the medical home.

American Academy of Pediatrics

Awareness and identification tools at aap.org/fasd