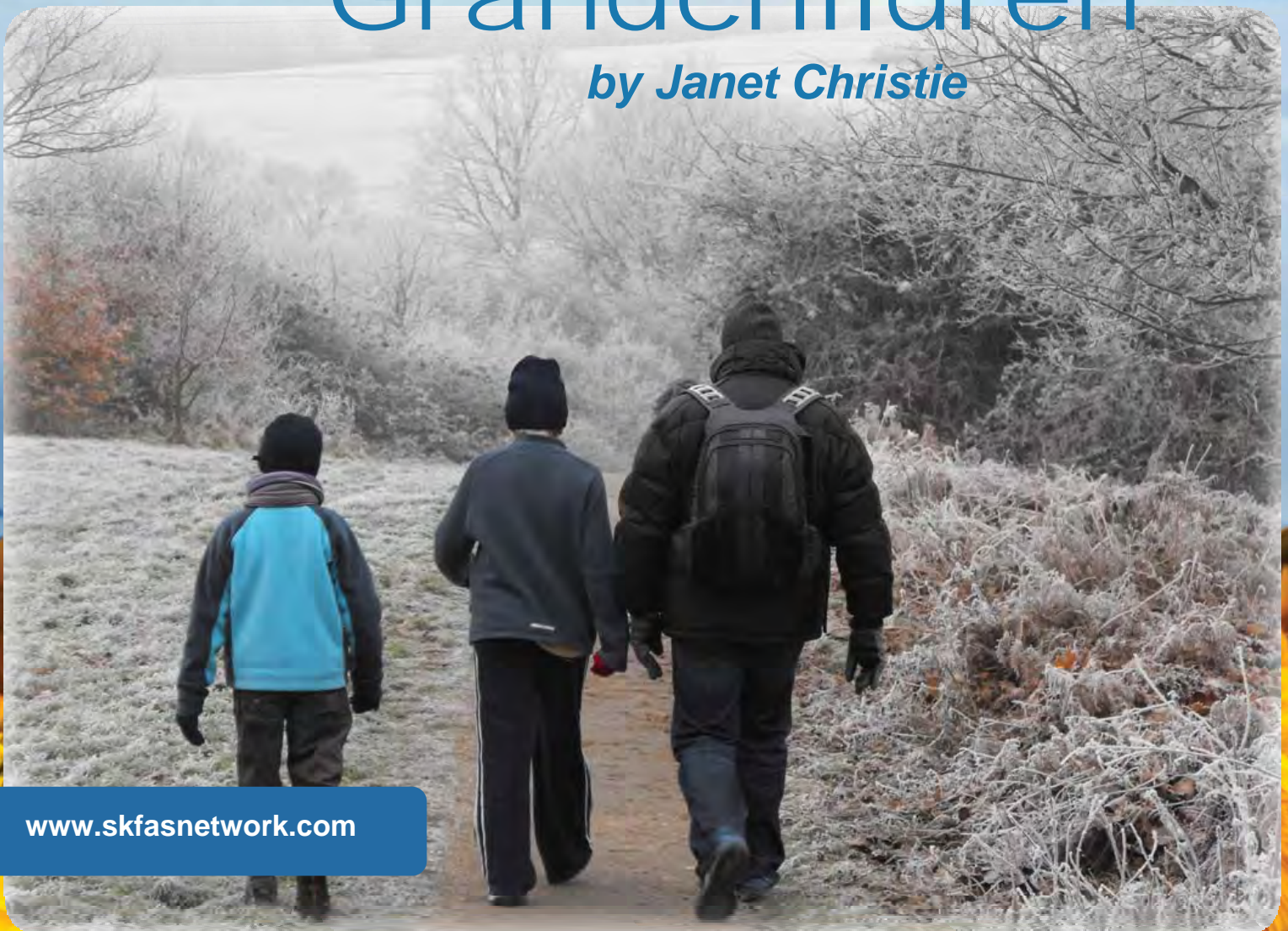


# LIVING WITH FASD

*Feature Article:*

## Grandparents *Raising* Grandchildren

*by Janet Christie*





## Network Board Members

The FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan is a provincial community-based organization. We are led by a volunteer board of directors from communities throughout the province. At our recent Annual General Meeting there were a few changes to the board of directors. Marion Tudor, past president of the board, completed her term. Marion was on the board for many years and generously shared her wisdom, practical ideas and steady presence. We wish Marion well and know that she will continue to advocate for individuals and families living with FASD. As we said good bye to Marion, we also welcomed new board member, Tracey Neudorf. Tracy brings great enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the board and we all look forward to her involvement.



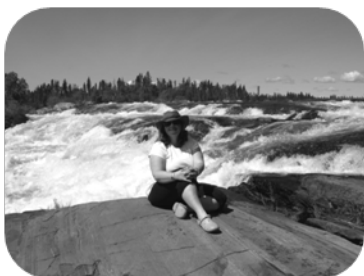
Pictured left to right: Rae Mitten, Shirley Hellquist, Tracy Breher, Sandy Overs, Sylvia Nagy, Tracey Neudorf, Lisa Brownstone, Trudy Shingoose Sharon Taylor. Not in picture: Kim Skidmore and Marilyn Macdonald.

## Network Staff

Summer is a great time around the Network office. We do much of our planning and organizing for the coming year, but of course, like most people, we also like to take time off to enjoy our beautiful Saskatchewan summer! Here are a few snapshots of Network staff having a bit of summer fun.



**Jessica Kaban**  
Executive Director  
Enjoying life in the City of Bridges.



**Beverly Palibroda**  
Communications Coordinator  
Taking a break by the waters of Robertson Falls.



**Lynette Janzen**  
Events Coordinator  
A perfect summer evening—once around the farm on the tractor!



## Living with FASD

Fall 2009

Editor: Beverly Palibroda

*Living with FASD* is published twice yearly by the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan Inc. This publication is a benefit of a \$15.00 membership available by contacting the office.

## Article Submission

Plans are underway for the next issue of *Living with FASD*. We welcome personal stories, poetry, photos, article reviews or research findings. To discuss submissions please contact the Network at (306) 975-0806 or E-mail [fasdcommunications@sasktel.net](mailto:fasdcommunications@sasktel.net).

Deadline for submissions is February 1, 2010.

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## President's Message

by Trudy Shingoose

Being involved with the FASD Support Network of SK has been a challenging, exciting and extremely rewarding experience. Having very little hands on experience with community based organizations in the past, I find it quite amazing how much is accomplished behind the scenes with limited funding and human resources. As this has been an important year of change for the Network, I would like to dedicate this report to the Network staff: Jessica Kaban, Beverly Palibroda and Lynette Janzen.

I am pleased to welcome Jessica Kaban as the Network's new Executive Director as of June 1, 2009. Jessica was hired at the Network in the fall of 2008 and from the moment she walked in, she never looked back. Jessica brought a renewed sense of energy to the Network with her eagerness to learn, help on extra projects and to support her co-workers. Jessica not only stayed on top of all of these responsibilities, but she also maintained a keen outlook for future developments. The Board is extremely proud to have Jessica as the Executive Director.

I am also pleased to welcome Beverly Palibroda back as our full time Communications Coordinator. Beverly had been working part time so that she could offer her expertise with

another organization. Throughout the trials of change in the past months, Beverly has been instrumental in helping the Network continue to move forward smoothly. Beverly's knowledge, strength, support and guidance is not only acknowledged, but full-heartedly appreciated. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank Beverly for all her dedication to the Network, Board and staff over the years.

The third piece to our extraordinary staffing model is Lynette Janzen. Lynette was hired in September 2008 as the Events Coordinator. With all the province-wide trainings and special events that the Network is involved with every year, this position is a very important one for the success of our organization. Lynette has also played a large role in keeping the Network's commitments throughout the change of management.

As a Board, we know that without dedicated staff this ongoing journey would not be as far along. Saying this, I would also like to praise each of the Board members who have, throughout the years, offered their persistence and determination in an effort to improve the outcomes and support for individuals and families living with FASD.

### Network Website

Just a quick reminder to stop by the website to download resources, get answers to your questions or to read back Issues of our newsletter, *Network News*.



New additions to the site are nine back issues of *Living with FASD*. Feel free to download back issues to read articles that you have missed or share favorite articles with others.

We are just a few mouse clicks away at  
[www.skfasnetwork.ca](http://www.skfasnetwork.ca)

### Contact Us

#### FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan

510 Cynthia Street  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 7K7  
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[www.skfasnetwork.ca](http://www.skfasnetwork.ca)

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[fasdnetwork@sasktel.net](mailto:fasdnetwork@sasktel.net)

#### Beverly Palibroda

Communications Coordinator  
(306) 975-0806  
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#### Lynette Janzen

Events Coordinator  
(306) 975-0896  
[fasdoffice@sasktel.net](mailto:fasdoffice@sasktel.net)

# Around the Network Office

## From the Events Coordinator

With the beginning of fall, the Network is working on an exciting season of projects and community events funded through the Ministry of Health's Cognitive Disability Strategy and the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority. Here are a few things we have planned for the 2009-2010 year:

**Parent and Caregiver Retreat  
FASD: Living with Hope**  
November 13 -14, 2009  
Saskatoon

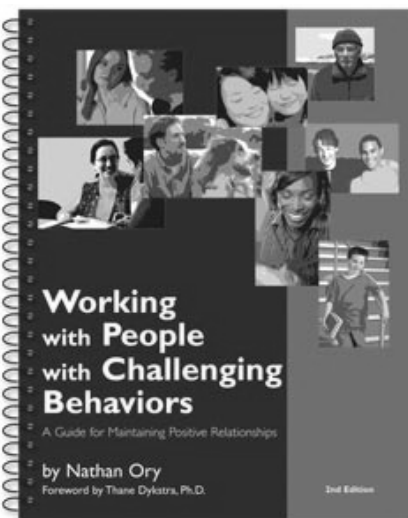
What does it mean to live with hope? This event is a chance for parents and caregivers to gather with others who understand FASD and to ponder the role of hope in their lives. Wendy Edey, of the Hope Foundation, will join the retreat and talk about the positive effect of hope on daily life and personal wellness. Over the course of the event, retreat guests will have time to share experiences, learn from others, encourage and be encouraged and take time to for relaxation.

**Training for Mental Health Service Providers**  
**Presenter: Brenda Knight**  
January 2010 Regina, SK

Mental health service providers commonly struggle to understand issues related to FASD and mental health. This one-day intensive workshop has been designed specifically for professionals like counselors, therapists, psychologists or community mental health workers. The workshop will provide the necessary information to better meet the mental health needs of individuals with FASD, parents, caregivers or siblings of individuals with FASD. Workshop participants will gain information and practical skills to apply in their daily practice.

**FASD: Supporting through Challenging Times**  
**Presenter: Nathan Ory**  
February 8-11, 2010  
Saskatoon & North Battleford

Nathan Ory is internationally recognized for his expertise and sound practical strategies related to FASD and challenging behaviours. In February 2010, Nathan Ory will be in Saskatchewan to deliver training in Saskatoon and North Battleford. Parents and caregivers as well as professionals from all sectors of human service delivery will benefit from a discussion of the complexities of FASD and the need to find creative ways to support individuals. This engaging speaker will guide participants' understanding and shape their responses to a wide range of often confusing behaviours.



**Nathan Ory's practical book is highly readable and one that you will turn to again and again.**

**Lunch and Learn: FASD and the Justice System**  
March 2010  
Yorkton & Prince Albert

We have planned two lunch-eon events as a way to bring together concerned individuals from the justice system. Over lunch, service providers from corrections, policing and the courts will gain information about FASD and forge important connections with others. A guest presenter will speak to issues of criminal involvement, victimization and effective support and accommodations for individuals with FASD.

**FASD Prevention and Awareness in Academic Settings**  
Ongoing through 2009 – 2010  
Province-wide

Now in the fifth year, this project continues to build and strengthen relationships with post secondary facilities throughout Saskatchewan. Members of the FASD Speakers' Bureau offer introductory information about FASD to students in a various disciplines. Over the years we have delivered FASD prevention and awareness workshops to hundreds of students.

**For more information about these events, please  
Contact Lynette:  
(306)975-0896 or email  
fasdoffice@sasktel.net.**

All events will be promoted by email. To be notified, call or email the Network office and ask to be added to our contact list. Contact information on page 3.

# Information and Resources

## Book Review: *Forgetful Frankie The World's Greatest Rock Skipper*

### Review by Beverly Palibroda

*Forgetful Frankie is one book in a series of several children's books written with the aim of explaining various disabilities in a simple and straightforward manner. By stepping through some of Frankie's life experiences, young readers have a chance to learn more about FASD while being entertained. This simple yet powerful little book will help children with FASD to better understand themselves or their peers who might be affected by FASD.*

The authors of this book very cleverly incorporate Frankie's troubles, his strengths and the strategies and accommodations he, his parents and his teachers use so that he can succeed. Strategies are used at home, at school and with his

"There are so few resources available to help broach sensitive topics with children; there are even fewer that address a sensitive topic like FASD with such insight and charm."

peers. For example, *Forgetful Frankie* explains strategies like how pictures are used to show his class schedule at school, how his parents have set up a homework area at home and how he wears an alarm watch to help him remember different things throughout his day.

As I read through this book, I was particularly appreciative of the positive yet realistic tone of the book's language and messaging. I also valued the way

Frankie described some of the common and often misinterpreted behavioural signs and symptoms of FASD. By having this character describe his own actions and behaviours and then explain, in a matter of fact way, why these behaviours happen, it serves to reduce the stigma often associated with FASD. This book prompts young readers to develop empathy and understanding and look beyond Frankie's actions to try to understand the underlying brain differences of a child with FASD. In Frankie's words—"FASD means my brain works a little differently..." What a fabulous lesson for children to learn at a young age.

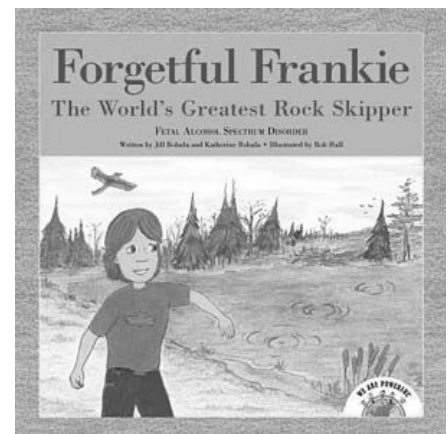
The important messages of this book are further accentuated by the delightful illustrations and artwork depicting Frankie in daily activities like playing with friends, setting the table and skipping rocks at Beaver Pond. I can see how the activities and characteristics of FASD, as presented in this book, would be very useful for promoting discussion between a parent and a child or even among a teacher and a group of children.

I highly recommend this book for parents, teachers and family members who want to promote understanding of disabilities and acceptance of diversity. The lessons in this book are valuable for non-affected

siblings, peers, cousins and other children who might be confused by some of the behaviours they see in children with FASD.

But, I especially recommend this book for moms, dads or grandparents who are parenting children with FASD. There are so few resources available to help broach sensitive topics with children; there are even fewer that address a sensitive topic like FASD with such insight and charm. This book is sure to be a valuable tool to begin talking about FASD in a positive and non stigmatizing way.

## How to Order



To order this book or others in the series call 1-866-602-5462, email [bobula@wildberryproductions.ca](mailto:bobula@wildberryproductions.ca) or visit the website at [www.wildberryproductions.ca](http://www.wildberryproductions.ca).

# Community News and Activities

## **FASD Resource Kits Are Distributed to Saskatchewan Communities**

*At the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan office, we often field calls requesting copies of books, DVDs and other learning materials. Callers tell us that up-to-date resources about FASD are not available to them. A recently implemented province-wide FASD Resource Kit Campaign will definitely help with the lack of resources and learning materials at the community level.*

### **Beginning the FASD Resource Kit Project**

This past spring, the Network received funds through the Public Health Agency of Canada. With these funds we were able to select and purchase resources then distribute FASD Resource Kits to communities and organizations from all regions of Saskatchewan.

Each FASD Resource Kit contained 12 carefully selected items. Some of the chosen

books provided a broad perspective and understanding of FASD and would be best suited to a beginning learner. Other selections were research based and

academic in nature. Still other books were chosen because of the accessible content, tone and straightforward language. Some were

included for the valuable practical support strategies while others were selected because they presented compelling life stories of individuals and families living with FASD.

### **Distributing the FASD Resource Kits**

We know that individuals and families living with FASD access services and support from a broad range of sectors. Many service providers in these sectors are working hard to learn more about FASD. For these reasons, we targeted agencies from the health, education, employment, justice, social services, disability and family support sectors. Agencies have been encouraged to make the resources available to as many people as possible. Several libraries also received kits to ensure that members of the public could access quality resources on the topic of FASD.

### **Expected Benefits of this Project**

By offering varied resources to communities, several needs were met and we anticipate benefits coming from the FASD Resource Kit Campaign. For example:

- Individuals, families, members of the public, frontline workers and professionals from diverse sectors can increase their knowledge of FASD.

- People will gain improved awareness of FASD and the activities of the Network.
- New connections and partnerships with organizations and communities will be forged through the contact and sharing of resources.
- Service providers, now armed with more information, can better meet the needs of individuals and families living with FASD.
- Distribution of Resource Kits in rural, remote or isolated areas allowed us to reach individuals and groups who may not otherwise have access to current and accurate information about FASD.
- Access to informational materials may, in fact, serve as gateway for community members to seek additional support or services through the Network.



A selection of materials included in the FASD Resource Kit.

# Community News and Activities

## **Saskatchewan FASD Speakers' Bureau Continuing along the Path to Understanding**

The Saskatchewan FASD Speakers' Bureau is comprised of a group of individuals who have an interest in educating and informing the public about matters related to FASD. The Speakers' Bureau has been operating since 2004 through a partnership between the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute and the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan. Each member brings a unique perspective to the topic of FASD. Some members of the Speakers' Bureau are parents of children, youth or adults with an FASD while others are employed in a field of work where they have gained a high level of knowledge and expertise.

Each member of the Speakers' Bureau has received comprehensive training and continues to participate in ongoing training on issues such as prevention, assessment and diagnosis, support strategies and accommodations. Members gain knowledge of FASD as a lifelong disability. FASD is a disability that changes throughout the lifespan—from the prenatal stage through adulthood. With the blend of lived, practical experiences and theoretical knowledge, speakers are equipped to present to a wide variety of audiences.

## To Book a Speaker

To book a speaker for a conference, staff training, community event or any situation where there is a need for information about FASD, please contact the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan or the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute. Contact information below.

### **FASD Support Network of SK**

Toll Free: 1-866-673-3276  
fasdnetwork@sasktel.net  
www.skfasnetwork.ca

### **Saskatchewan Prevention Institute**

306-655-2459  
bdrew@preventioninstitute.sk.ca  
www.preventioninstitute.sk.ca

## **Staying Connected with the FASD Community**

If you are interested in FASD there are a number of ways to stay connected and well informed. The Network has an active **email contact list**. We routinely send out informative emails throughout the year. The emails contain notices about Network activities, new resources, projects, community events and our quarterly newsletter, Network News. We also share notices and news from other provinces.

To be added to our email list get in touch with the Network office; contact information on page 3.

Another great source of information is the **FASD Canadian Link**. This is a moderated list serv dedicated to sharing information about FASD. Moderators and members can send news and information about FASD out by email to members across Canada. To subscribe to the link search the phrase FASD Canadian Link or visit [http://lists.von.ca/mailman/listinfo/fasd\\_canadian\\_link](http://lists.von.ca/mailman/listinfo/fasd_canadian_link).

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

**by Janet Christie**

My name is Janet Christie. Of the many hats I wear, I am a birth mother of a son with FASD and I am a GRG. GRG stands for *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*. According to a 2001 Canada Census report, I am not alone; there are 8780 such grandparents in British Columbia where I reside. I've become a statistic—again! How did this happen?

When planning this article, it occurred to me that when grandparents end up raising their grandchildren, a story of heartache is often involved. In my family, and many others, that heartache is called addiction.

In 2005, I was involved in a pilot project that launched the FASD Key Worker program in BC. Following the pilot, I worked for two years as a Key Worker providing support to families faced with FASD, including GRG's. During that time, I met several GRG's who were all raising their grandchildren because their children, the natural parents, were incapable due to addiction. While not documented anywhere I am aware of, addiction is the thread that weaves many of us GRG's together. In my personal situation my son

also has FASD, and I am beginning to suspect that my granddaughter has been affected as well.

GRG's come from all walks of life—different ages, races and socio-economic backgrounds. One GRG I worked with, God bless her heart and tired soul, was an 80 year old single grandmother raising two grandchildren under the age of ten. As you can imagine, many GRG's struggle with diminished energy, along with medical and health issues. Most are struggling financially as retirement savings slowly dwindle away. All of us have had to change our lives dramatically, in one form or another, in order to care for our grandchildren.

In order to keep our grandchildren safe, we often have to make painful and difficult choices involving our own

children. GRG's can no longer be the doting grandparents they long to be. Instead, they are faced with the responsibility of being parents. This new role is convoluted and confusing for everyone. Regardless of how difficult the situation may be, I have observed one commonality: The reason we have dedicated our lives to raising our grandchildren is because of the unconditional love we have for our children and our grandchildren.

I remember the moment my granddaughter was born, nine years ago to be exact. It was an emotional experience for me on many levels. I can still picture my son in the delivery room. How puffed with pride he was as a young father in his early twenties. He had managed to give up drugs near the end of the pregnancy, and his face still had the sores of a junkie, his haunted eyes black and hollow. He hadn't gained his weight back yet and his baggy jeans hung off his skinny hips like a scarecrow. I had to resist the urge to cinch up his belt as though he were still a little boy. Three months previous I had been waiting for a call that he had died from drugs, yet there he was



**Janet Christie, "Of the many hats I wear, I am a birth mother of a son with FASD and I am a GRG."**

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

cradling his baby in his toothpick arms, tears rolling down his cheeks. I held my grandbaby when she was only moments old.

## For More Information:

[www.fasdconnections.ca](http://www.fasdconnections.ca) click on Critical Issues and select Grandparent and Kinship Care.

CANGRANDS, National Kinship Support and Canadian Grandparents [www.cangrands.com/](http://www.cangrands.com/)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Canadian Resources [www.mama-val.tripod.com/](http://www.mama-val.tripod.com/)

In Saskatchewan—Grandparents Involved Full Time GIFT contact [digift@sasktel.net](mailto:digift@sasktel.net)

Even though I had anticipated it would happen one day, my life changed, and so did my granddaughter's, on September 3, 2005. Like many other GRG's, this change occurred without a lot of notice. That was the day Tessa\* was apprehended by Children's Services in Alberta. Her mother called me frantically asking if I would take Tessa.

Needless to say, I had many mixed emotions. The previous fourteen years raising her father had been tumultuous. I felt as though I had finally *arrived* where I could put my feet up and have a cup of tea without interruption, perhaps even contribute healthily to a relationship when, with the ring of the telephone, everything changed. Instead of beginning the time of my life I had been looking forward to, I found myself a single woman entering my fifties, about to take on the long-term parenting of a five year old.

Any preconceived ideas of what things might be like went out the window like a flash in the pan. The honeymoon period lasted for about five minutes. How very angry Tessa was—all her rage directed at me as though I were the reason she no longer lived with her mommy.

Much has happened in the four years since Tessa has come to live with me. Today, she is nine years old and the tallest girl in her class, "except for Cody when his hair stands up." We've had 16 different social workers. Her father married. We moved into bigger digs. Her mother moved back from Alberta and has just regained visiting rights. I met a man—how I had the time to do that, I will never know. I broke my leg. I'm writing a book. We got a cat.

After years of therapy, Tessa's rage seems to have

*finally* left her body and she has *finally* settled in. She has taken to crawling into bed with me some mornings when she wakes. One such morning she slid her warm body in beside mine, wrapped her chubby little arms around my neck, and greeted me with hugs and kisses. "Good morning, Nana," she said in the sweetest voice in the whole wide world. As I breathed in the scent of her soft, milky-white skin, I had a flashback to when her Daddy, my son, was a little boy her age, and a time when I made some very foolish choices. I was suddenly filled with gratitude I had been given this second chance. I remember feeling as though I was in heaven. "I'm going to hold on to you forever," she whispered. "I'm going to hold on to you forever too, baby," I replied. "I'm going to hold on really, really tight and never let you go."

*\*Not her real name*

## Contact Information



Janet Christie  
Phone: 250 889-9561  
Email: [jan.christie@shaw.ca](mailto:jan.christie@shaw.ca)

Janet Christie is available as a speaker and workshop presenter on a number of subjects including the area of women's addiction as it pertains to FASD.

# International News, Research and Stories

## ***More Countries throughout the World are Working for FASD Prevention and Awareness***



*Many countries throughout the world are realizing that prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause lifelong disabilities and health consequences.*

In response to this knowledge, community groups and governments are working on prevention of FASD and providing information and support to individuals and families living with FASD. Canada and the United States have been leaders in research, prevention and intervention approaches, however other countries are getting more involved. For example, in Europe, an informal network called the **European FASD Network** has been established and a website developed. The purpose of the website is to share information and resources for those working in the area of FASD prevention in Europe. Research papers, reports, educational materials, media articles and event information can be accessed. If you are interested in seeing this site, visit [www.eufasd.org/EN/home\\_en.php](http://www.eufasd.org/EN/home_en.php) or search the phrase European FASD Network.



*Another interesting advance in international examination of FASD is the development of the Collaborative Initiative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, the CIFASD.*

The CIFASD brings together international researchers to engage in a multidisciplinary and cross-cultural assessment of FASD. The aim will be to conduct research to increase information about effective intervention and treatment of FASD. According to the website, "Input and contributions will come from basic researchers, behavioural scientists, and clinical investigators who are willing to utilize novel and cutting edge techniques, not simply to replicate previous or ongoing work, but rather to move the field forward in a rigorous fashion." For more information visit [www.cifasd.org/](http://www.cifasd.org/).

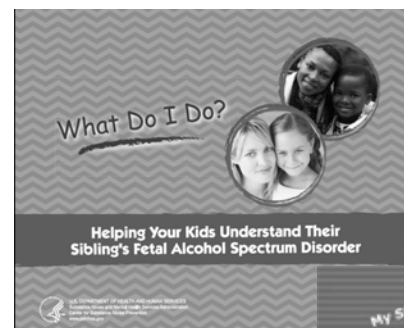
## ***Helping Siblings Understand FASD***

*The sibling relationship is an important and sometimes complex relationship. Siblings of children, youth or adults with FASD have a very particular journey of understanding their sibling, working through their own feelings and coming to terms with the life experiences that are influenced by having a sibling with a lifelong disability.*

Two booklets are now available on this topic. Both have been produced by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration SAMHSA (2006). The booklet, *My Sibling Has a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Can I Catch It?* is written for children to help them understand FASD and the sometimes confusing behaviours of their sibling.

The second booklet, *What Do I Do? Helping Your Kids Understand Their Sibling's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder* is written for parents.

These two booklets are in the public domain and available to download and reprint. Single copies can also be ordered. Search the phrase FASD Center for Excellence. Once on that website select publications and then select booklets. This will take you to ordering details.



# Questions and Answers

## Parenting with an FASD

by Susan Opie

**Q.** *My daughter recently found out that she is pregnant. She is having a healthy pregnancy and is determined to raise her baby and be a good mom. Do you have any thoughts or ideas about individuals with FASD and parenting?*

**A.** Parenting is a complex task requiring physical stamina and energy, persistence, patience, problem solving skills and an ability to shift to new and different ways of responding to children as they grow and develop. For parents with FASD, parenting may be a huge challenge. For some adults with FASD parenting is not possible; but many others are able to successfully parent, particularly with supports from extended family or community resources.



### Being Realistic

- Parenting a child has huge consequences for that child. If the parent does not have the capacity to parent, or does not have adequate support and resources to parent, the child may be at risk in multiple ways.
- Preventing pregnancies in someone who cannot parent or who could not manage an additional child at this time is critical. Having to give up a child to a family member or to child welfare is a devastating

event, with potential long-term negative outcomes for the adult with FASD, e.g. grief and loss, increased substance abuse.

- Safety of children and support of parent with FASD are interwoven needs.

### Increasing Parenting Success for Adults with FASD

- For a teenage or young adult mother with FASD living with a supportive adult throughout the pregnancy and early parenting stages can be helpful. For example, a teen and her baby living in a foster home.
- For all parents with FASD, having supportive people they can call when they have questions or become overwhelmed is important.
- Parents with memory difficulties may need visual or written reminders of parenting tasks. Alternately, regular television programs can be used to cue a parent's day. For example, feed the baby when particular shows start or finish.
- All first time parents may feel concern or stress the first time their child is sick or hurt. Parents with FASD may need someone to explain in more depth what to do, to remind them about the doctor's instructions or to set up memory cues for a child's medication.

- Parents with FASD may need to have the same information explained more than once; family and community supports are most helpful when they are able to be patient, non-judgmental, and willing to repeat conversations as often as needed.
- Parents with FASD may become overwhelmed by their child. This may occur due to sensory issues if a child has been crying or fussy, or due to too many demands being placed on the parent, for example. Having support people available at these times is important.
- Parents with FASD may need some respite from their children if they frequently become overwhelmed. Respite may be provided by a family member, community support, day care or mother and child programs.
- **CAUTION:** Remember that respite breaks from parenting a child may be a risk for the parent with FASD who needs the consistent routine of caring for a child. The loss of routine during a respite break may lead to undesirable risk for the parent with FASD.

©Susan Opie, MSW, RSW (2008)  
Contact Information  
sopie@granite.mb.ca



# Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

510 Cynthia Street  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7L 7K7  
Toll-Free: 1-866-673-FASN (3276)  
In Saskatoon: 975-0884  
fasdnetwork@sasktel.net  
www.skfasnetwork.ca

The vision of the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan, a parent-led organization, is for individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and their families to recognize themselves as safe, supported, valued and contributing members of the community.

To reach this vision we provide support to people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, their families and circles of support by:

- Providing information and education
- Promoting early assessment, diagnosis and intervention
- Advocating for the development of life-long support services for individuals with FASD
- Establishing partnerships
- Working to increase awareness of FASD

## ***Fourth National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Facing the Future Together: Where do we go from here?***

April 14-17, 2010  
Vancouver, BC

Website: [www.interprofessional.ubc.ca](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca)

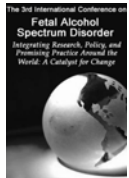
## ***FASD Finding Hope—an online documentary***

FASD: Finding Hope tells the stories of four mothers and their kids, as they search for answers and understanding of FASD. This documentary follows the families from home to school to a groundbreaking summer camp, and features important insight from the doctors, experts, teachers and caregivers who strive to promote a greater understanding this all-too-common, and often misunderstood condition.

Available to view online at [www.knowledge.ca/findinghope](http://www.knowledge.ca/findinghope)

## ***Webcast of sessions from the 3rd International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder***

Plenary sessions from the 2009 International Conference on FASD are now available online. Visit [www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/FASD09.htm](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/FASD09.htm)



## ***Promising Practices, Promising Futures Alberta FASD Conference***

February 8-9, 2010  
Calgary, Alberta

This year's conference will feature a special focus on strategies for managing caregiver and professional stress. Registration will open in November and details will be posted at [www.fasd-cmc.alberta.ca](http://www.fasd-cmc.alberta.ca).