

SECTION 6

SUBSTANCE USE & FASD

People with FASD have brain-based differences that may put them at a greater risk for substance use challenges and can also make engaging and benefiting from substance use support and treatment difficult

The reasons why someone with FASD may have challenges with substance use are complex and involve intersecting biological and environmental factors. When supporting individuals with FASD who struggle with substance use it is important to consider the unique strengths, challenges and needs of each person.

POTENTIAL AREAS OF CHALLENGE

- **Executive functioning** (e.g., storing information, planning the future, regulating behaviour)
- **Abstract thinking** (e.g., challenges with time, space, cause and effect)
- **Verbal language processing** (e.g., challenges with accurately understanding verbal information)
- **Social difficulties** (e.g., challenges reading and responding to body language)
- **Memory** (e.g., challenges remembering information and following verbal instructions)
- **Coping** (e.g., challenges with stress)
- **Sensory integration** (e.g., difficulty modulating incoming stimuli)

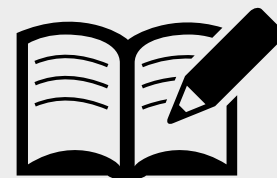
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS



Meet people where they are at and understand what their goals and abilities are in the moment



Consider the relationship you have with clients and use culturally-safe approaches



Continue to learn about FASD and the strengths and challenges that can impact substance use treatment