FASD in the Classroom

Training Syllabus & Course Information

Designed for: Teachers • Special Needs Assistants • School Leaders • School Staff • Further & Higher Education Staff • Education Professionals

Course Overview

FASD in the Classroom is a practical workshop designed for people working in education who want to develop their understanding of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the ways it can affect children and young people in educational settings.

The workshop focuses on recognising possible signs of FASD, understanding the lived experience of education in Ireland, and developing practical approaches that can help children and young people remain engaged in education. Participants will explore alternative teaching strategies, best practice when challenges arise, and ways of adapting support to meet individual needs.

Who Should Attend?

There is no requirement to have a child or young person with a diagnosis of FASD in your class, school, college or university to attend. FASD is frequently undiagnosed, and a person may instead have a diagnosis of a co-morbid or secondary condition. Understanding FASD can therefore be valuable for any education setting.

The workshop is open to anyone working in Education in **Ireland or Northern Ireland**.

Learning Outcomes

- Develop a clear understanding of FASD and its potential impact on learning and educational participation.
- Recognise possible symptoms and presentations of FASD within the classroom.
- Understand how FASD may affect memory, attention, executive functioning, behaviour, communication and relationships.
- Explore practical strategies and alternative approaches that can support teaching and learning.
- Gain insight into what it can be like to experience education while living with FASD.
- Develop confidence in responding constructively when challenges arise and identify sources of additional help.

Delivery & Practical Information

Delivery	In-person training at your educational establishment
Duration	Workshop format
Certificate	Certificate of attendance issued following the training
Croke Park Hours	The certificate may be used to contribute to Croke Park hours in the usual way
Materials	A copy of the presentation slides is provided by email after the training concludes
Cost	€500 per school, plus travel costs incurred in reaching your location from our HQ in Ennis

Outline of Training

Understanding FASD and translating knowledge into practical classroom support.

1. An Overview of FASD

- What Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is and how prenatal alcohol exposure can affect brain development.
- Understanding FASD as a neurodevelopmental condition and why it can present differently from one person to another.
- Why FASD may be overlooked, misunderstood or undiagnosed.

2. Recognising Symptoms of FASD in the Classroom

- Possible signs and presentations that education professionals may observe.
- Understanding difficulties with memory, attention, processing, executive functioning, communication and regulation.
- Recognising the difference between a student who 'won't' and a student who may be unable to meet an expectation without appropriate support.

3. Supporting Children & Young People to Maintain Education

- Practical approaches to improve engagement, participation and educational stability.
- Creating predictable routines, clear communication and appropriate expectations.
- Working collaboratively with families, colleagues and other professionals.

4. Alternative Approaches & Teaching Strategies

- Adapting teaching methods and the learning environment to individual needs.
- Using repetition, visual supports, structure and other practical strategies.
- Considering strengths-based approaches that help students experience success.

5. Experiencing Education with FASD

- What it can feel like to navigate education while living with FASD.
- Understanding frustration, misunderstanding, exclusion and the impact of repeated educational difficulties.
- Building empathy and insight into the student's perspective.

6. Best Practice When Challenges Arise

- Responding constructively to behaviour and educational challenges.
- Looking beyond the behaviour to identify unmet needs and possible triggers.
- Reducing escalation and supporting positive relationships between students and education staff.

7. Where to Go for Additional Help

- Identifying sources of information, advice and further support.
- Knowing when and how to seek additional professional input.
- Signposting families and education professionals towards appropriate resources.

8. Question & Answer Session

- An opportunity to ask questions, discuss practical situations and consider how the learning can be applied within your own educational setting.

Putting Understanding into Practice

Supporting inclusion, participation and positive educational outcomes.

A Practical, Person-Centred Approach

FASD in the Classroom is designed to move beyond awareness and provide education professionals with practical ideas that can be used in everyday settings. The emphasis is on understanding the individual, adapting the environment and considering what support is needed for a child or young person to succeed.

The workshop encourages participants to consider behaviour and educational difficulties through a neurodevelopmental lens. By recognising that traditional approaches may not always work for someone with FASD, education professionals can explore different ways of communicating, teaching, structuring the school day and responding to challenges.

Why This Training Matters

You do not need to know that a student has FASD before the training becomes relevant. Because FASD can be undiagnosed or may present alongside other conditions, increased awareness can help education professionals recognise when a different approach may be needed.

The workshop is suitable for individual schools and educational establishments and can support a whole-school approach to developing greater understanding, consistency and inclusion.

Training Arrangements

In-person delivery: The training is delivered at your educational establishment, making it possible to focus discussion on the realities of your setting and the needs of education staff.

Cost: €500 per school, plus the cost of travel incurred to reach your location from our headquarters in Ennis.

Certificate: A certificate of attendance is issued and may be used to contribute to 'Croke Park hours' in the usual way.

Slides: A copy of the presentation slides will be provided by email after the training concludes.

Questions & Discussion

The final part of the workshop provides dedicated time for questions and answers, allowing participants to explore issues arising from the training and consider practical application within their own classrooms, schools, colleges or universities.

Confidentiality

Participants are asked to respect confidentiality throughout the training, particularly where attendees choose to share personal experiences or examples involving children, young people, families or colleagues.

Booking Information

To arrange FASD in the Classroom training for your educational establishment, please contact FASD Ireland to discuss suitable dates, delivery arrangements and travel requirements.