

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study.

## ***Brain Structure Versus Brain Function*** Module Two: Part B



This guide is intended to facilitate conversation after viewing the video clip [Module Two: Brain Structure Versus Brain Function](#) (1:48 – 6:32 minutes)

### **General synopsis**

Module Two: Brain Structure Versus Brain Function highlights three key points: A) Brain structure and brain function are not the same, B) All behaviour serves a purpose, and C) Prenatal alcohol exposure during pregnancy impacts the brain's ability to communicate.

### **Key point B:**

#### **All Behaviour Serves a Purpose**

- All behaviour is goal-oriented, meaning that it is functional, and it serves a purpose.
- It may be difficult to determine the reason behind the challenging behaviours of an individual with FASD.
- Rather than focusing on the oppositional or resistant nature of behaviour, try to determine what the individual's goal is, what may be obstructing them, and how to capitalize on their strengths to help them reach the objective.
- When trying to understand an individual's challenging behaviours, consider alternative explanations for the behaviour, for example an individual may lie to compensate for a poor memory or choose the wrong peers to gain a sense of belonging (see Additional Resources "Brain not Blame" for more ideas).

### **Questions for reflection and discussion:**

- In what kinds of situations have you seen an individual with FASD be misunderstood as oppositional or defiant? Reflecting on what you now understand about FASD, what do you think their goal might have been?
- What are some ways that you could support an individual to overcome the obstacles to his or her goal(s)?

### **For more information:**

**The Canada FASD Research Network (CanFASD)** is a leading source for information related to FASD in Canada:

<http://www.canfasd.ca/>

**Alberta FASD Home** (Alberta government):

<http://fasd.alberta.ca/index.aspx>

**KNOWFASD** is a resource maintained by the University of Alberta: [www.knowfasd.ca](http://www.knowfasd.ca)

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