

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 C



This guide is intended to facilitate conversation after viewing the video clip [Module Two: Brain Structure Versus Brain Function](#) (6:32 – 13:24 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 impacts the brain's ability to communicate.

#### Key point C:

##### **Prenatal Alcohol Exposure Impacts the Brain's Ability to Communicate**

- There are approximately 80-100 billion neurons in the brain that connect and act like roadways to transport information.
- Prenatal alcohol exposure changes the efficiency of these roadways to move information. Roads that should be fast and direct (like a paved highway) can be slow and indirect (like a country gravel road).
- Added challenges like “snowstorm days” can further impede a brain's ability to communicate. As a result, individuals with FASD exhibit behavioural patterns that are “consistently inconsistent.”
- See educator tips for facing a difficult day in “Reframing FASD Educators” in the Additional Resources.

#### Questions for reflection and discussion:

- Have you experienced this pattern of consistent inconsistencies? What could you do to support this individual?
- How can understanding consistent inconsistencies change your expectations and subsequent response to the behaviour?

#### For more information:

McGill University's *Brain from Top to Bottom* website explains the brain at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels: <http://thebrain.mcgill.ca>.

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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