

## A Dad's Story About His Children with FASD

Nine years ago my wife and I adopted two small African American children. They were siblings. The little boy was six years old and the little girl was three. These children had been living in foster care as their parents were unable to meet their needs.

Both of these children suffer from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. By their outward appearance no one would ever know. The boy is handsome and the girl is beautiful. Unfortunately they suffer in ways that are not readily apparent to those who do not know them. This creates some challenges as we have to educate teachers and faculty as to their special needs and seek their collaboration in seeing that these special needs are met.

They have difficulty with simple math problems. It has also affected their reasoning skills. FASD has also impacted their ability to see the consequences of impulsive, socially unacceptable behavior. Essentially it has diminished their ability to function without adequate oversight and care.

They do have talents however. The boy is extremely athletic and the girl loves to be involved with music. She has a wonderful voice. Imagine what their lives could have been had their mother given them proper prenatal care and abstained from alcohol. It's sad that her indulgence has had such a detrimental impact on these good children.