

Terra and Jeremy

From the moment Briar was placed in our arms, we knew she was ours. She seemed perfect in every way and had these huge, beautiful eyes that seemed to take in everything around her. She had our whole family wrapped around her finger from the beginning.

As she grew older we started noticing that she wasn't as quick to do all that her older sister had done at the same age. Physically she was perfect, but by 11 months we could tell she was delayed both physically and mentally and we started trying to figure out what was wrong. As adoptive parents we knew it might be very difficult to trace Briar's birth-family history. But we were lucky. We will be eternally grateful that her birth mother had the courage to be honest and admit that she had consumed alcohol daily for the first five months of gestation. Without her admission we would not have been able to get a diagnosis for Briar or know what it was that was causing her to struggle in life. At just under a year, Briar was diagnosed with a mild case of FASD and we started to learn about her invisible disability.

FASD was not part of our vocabulary until Briar came along. It is a disability that is 100% preventable and that is why we feel so passionate about sharing our story. We want others to know that there is hope and that, though limited, resources are available to anyone who may be affected by FASD.

We hope that FASD becomes a common household name so that everyone can become educated on the effects of alcohol use while pregnant. Briar will live with brain damage for the rest of her life. If her story helps one woman understand the effects her drinking may cause, resulting in a healthy child who may have otherwise been born with FASD, then our story was worth sharing.

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