

ASSESSMENTS MATTER

If we misunderstand the child, we misunderstand the support.

Assessments shape eligibility, services, supports, and expectations. When the underlying disability is misunderstood, interventions often miss the mark.



ASSESSMENTS GUIDE EVERYTHING



ASSESSMENT

Understanding strengths and needs



ELIGIBILITY

Determines access to supports



IEP GOALS

Sets the right priorities



SERVICES & SUPPORTS

Provides appropriate interventions



OUTCOMES

Affects learning, behavior & well-being

If the assessment is inaccurate, everything that follows can be misaligned.

WHAT WE SEE vs. WHAT MAY ACTUALLY BE HAPPENING

WHAT WE SEE



Attention seeking

Just wants to be the center of attention.



Refusal / Noncompliance

Being stubborn or choosing not to listen.



Anxiety (just a mental health issue)

Overreacting or worrying too much.



Inconsistent effort

Not trying or being lazy.



Social issues / Defiance

Rude, disrespectful, or oppositional.

WHAT MAY ACTUALLY BE HAPPENING



Overwhelm or dysregulation

Struggling with sensory overload, communication, or big emotions with no tools to cope.



Processing overload

Cognitive fatigue, fear of failure, transition difficulty, or difficulty understanding the task.



Brain-based differences

Heightened stress response, unpredictability, and executive function challenges.



Variable skills & memory

Difficulty with generalization, memory retrieval, and performing under stress.



Social skill delays

Difficulty reading cues, impulsivity, and immature adaptive skills.



WHY THIS MATTERS

When the root cause is misunderstood, supports are often designed for the wrong problem. This leads to frustration, missed progress, and continued struggle for the child and the adults around them.

- ✓ Wrong goals
- ✓ Wrong interventions
- ✓ Wrong expectations
- ✓ Wrong outcomes



CHILDREN DO BETTER

when we understand the "why."

Accurate assessments lead to understanding.
Understanding leads to the right supports.
The right supports lead to better outcomes.



**Improve outcomes & reduce teacher frustration.
Train and make a plan for students with FASD.**

