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FASD

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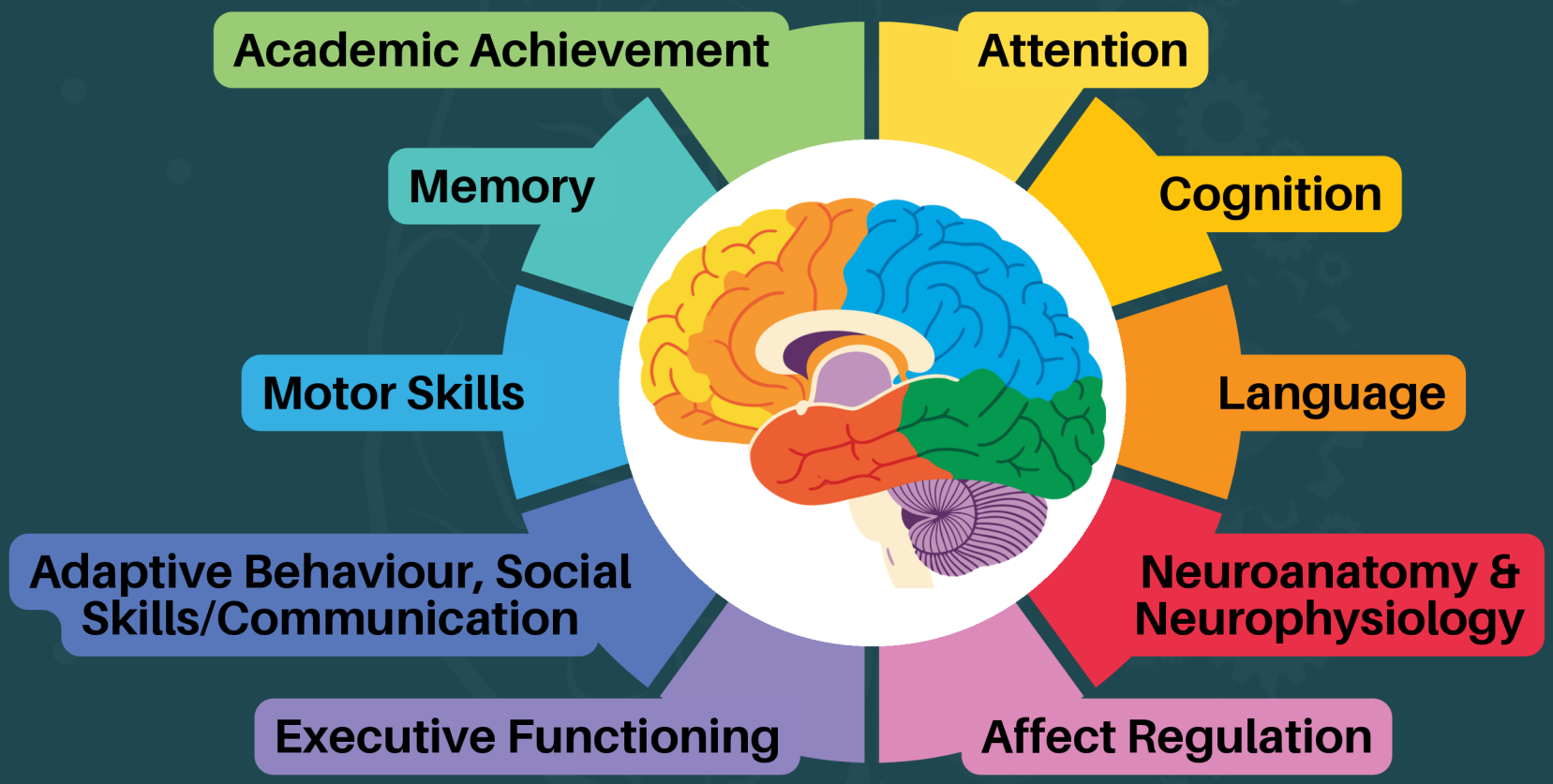
How Might FASD Affect the Brain?

FASD can impact many **different areas** of the **brain** and is likely to be **different for each person**. Here are the brain areas that **may** be affected by FASD.



It is important to note that **not everyone with FASD** will **be affected in all areas** or even one of these areas. Swipe for explanations on these brain domains!

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How Might FASD Affect the Brain?

Attention

Attention: may be easily distracted or have difficulty sitting still or paying attention.

Cognition

Cognition (Thinking and Reasoning): may have challenges with understanding complex ideas, using reasoning skills, or problem-solving.

Language

Language (Expressive and Receptive): may experience delayed language development; may have difficulty understanding lengthy conversations or instructions; may not follow through with instructions/rules; may demonstrate knowledge without understanding.

Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology

Neuroanatomy/Neurophysiology: May result in possible seizure disorder or abnormal MRI and EEG scans.

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How Might FASD Affect the Brain?

Affect Regulation

Affect Regulation & Emotion Management: may be easily overwhelmed; have anxiety, depression, or mood imbalance; state regulation difficulties

Executive Functioning

Executive Functioning: may have difficulty planning, sequencing or organizing; may have difficulty with cause and effect; may appear impulsive or hyperactive; may struggle with time management, abstract ideas or concepts.

Adaptive Behaviour, Social Skills & Communication

Adaptive Behavior, Social Skills & Social Communication: may have difficulty reading social cues or understanding boundaries; may have difficulty with personal hygiene, money, or coping skills; may behave younger than their age/may present as socially and emotionally immature.

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How Might FASD Affect the Brain?

Motor Skills

Motor Skills: May cause struggles with printing or using a pencil, cutting with scissors; may have difficulty with balance, strength, reflexes, and muscle tone.

Memory

Memory: may have problems with long-term, short-term, and working memory; difficulty recalling information stored in memory; may seem forgetful or struggle with memorization.

Academic Achievement

Academic Achievement: May cause difficulty in school with reading, math, organization, abstract concepts, and more

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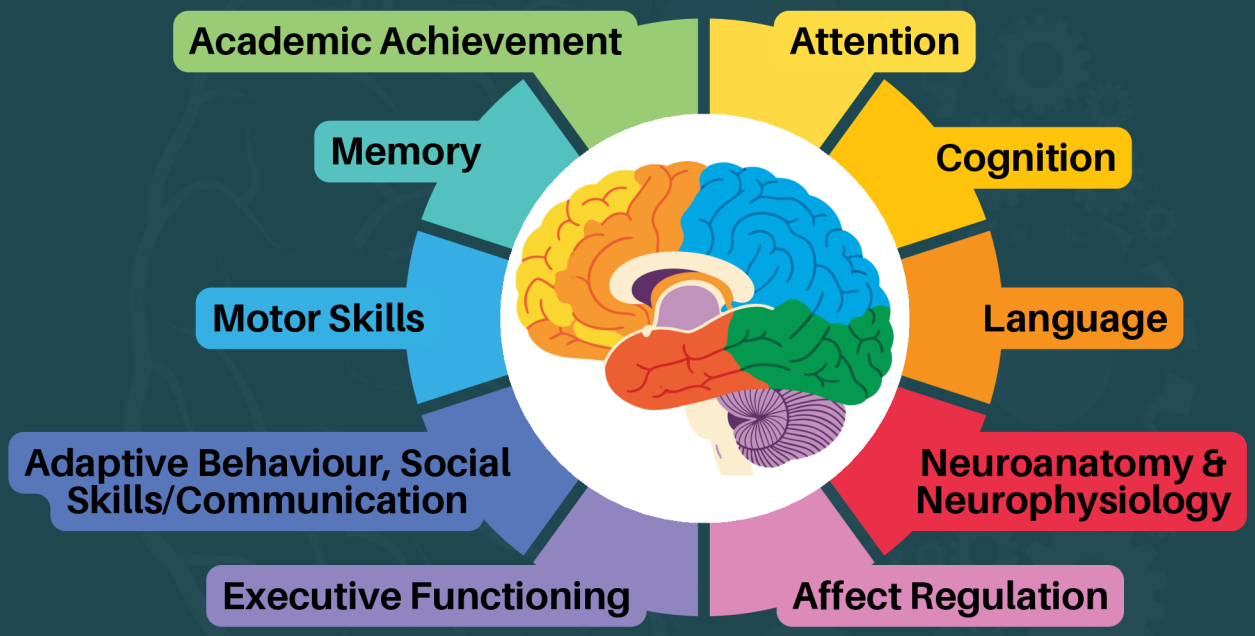
How Might FASD Affect the Brain?

Remember: The brain areas **affected** by FASD can be **different for each person.** These are what **could be** affected, **not** what **will be**.



FASD presents differently in everyone, resulting in individuals with diverse strengths and challenges. What could be a strength for someone might be a challenge for another; just like people without FASD!

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