



# STORYTELLING

## FASD BEHAVIOURS

- Children with FASD have significant short-term memory problems. This creates difficulty knowing the difference between reality and fantasy/fiction.
- They may not recall what they are asked to tell or have the language to explain what occurred. Some children may not remember whether a story was made up, a dream, or really happened.
- Children with FASD may lie a lot, which can lead to those around them to have trouble trusting them or believing their stories.

## STRATEGIES

- **Avoid redundant questions:** Questions such as “Are you sure this happened?” may make your child more likely to answer with what he thinks you want to hear.
- **Supervise:** Know what they have been doing and need to do next. This way you will know what really happened and be able to remind your child of the facts.
- **Practice storytelling:** Have your child make up stories and read both fiction and non-fiction stories. Help her recognize appropriate times to tell stories, and differentiate between storytelling from lying.
- **Ask “Truth or Story?”:** To cue your child to stop and think before continuing to tell you what occurred.

Children with FASD may lie over and over again, for many reasons:

*They may be trying to please you with what they think you want to hear,*

*To get attention with a ‘good story’,*

*Have trouble remembering the truth so ‘fill in the blanks’ in their memory,*

*Have trouble thinking in a logical way, or*

*They might really believe the lies they are telling you.*

## QUICK TIPS

- HELP YOUR CHILD SORT OUT THE TRUTH FROM A LIE.
- PRAISE YOUR CHILD FOR HAVING A GOOD IMAGINATION - BUT ALSO TEACH HIM THE GOOD TIMES FOR STORYTELLING AND THE BAD TIMES, USING REAL LIFE EXAMPLES.

