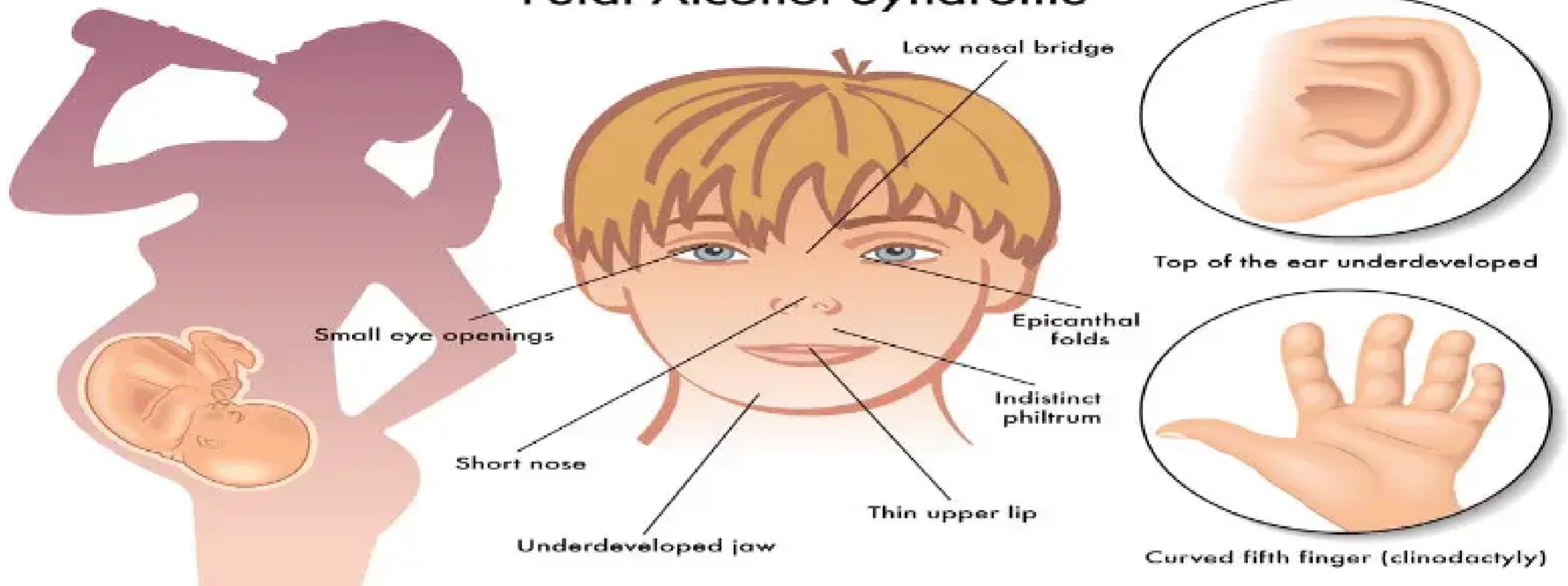


# (FAS) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome



## FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS

Fetal alcohol syndrome is a condition in a child that results from alcohol exposure during the mother's pregnancy. Fetal alcohol syndrome causes brain damage and growth problems. The problems caused by fetal alcohol syndrome vary from child to child, but defects caused by fetal alcohol syndrome are not reversible.

### Causes:

When a pregnant woman drinks alcohol, some of that alcohol easily passes across the placenta to the fetus. The body of a developing fetus doesn't process alcohol the same way as an adult does. The alcohol is more concentrated in the fetus, and it can prevent enough nutrition and oxygen from getting to the fetus's vital organs.

Damage can be done in the first few weeks of pregnancy when a woman might not yet know that she is pregnant. The risk increases if the mother is a heavy drinker.

### Symptoms:

- A small head
- A smooth ridge between the upper lip and nose, small and wide-set eyes, a very thin upper lip, or other abnormal facial features
- Below average height and weight
- Lack of focus
- Delayed development and problems in thinking, speech, movement, and

### Symptoms

- Poor judgment
- Problems seeing or hearing
- Learning disabilities
- Intellectual disability
- Heart problems
- Kidney defects and abnormalities
- Deformed limbs or fingers
- Mood swings

While FAS is incurable, there are treatments for some symptoms. The earlier the diagnosis, the more progress can be made. Depending on the symptoms a child with FAS exhibits, they may need many doctor or specialist visits. Special education and social services can help very young children. For example, speech therapists can work with toddlers to help them learn to talk..

**Schedule an Appointment:  
ALCOHOL AND DRUG INTERVENTION CENTRE**

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