

## **FASD Awareness Day 2020**

### **Martyn's Story**



Our journey with FASD began just over a year ago. Due to being a same sex couple we felt that adoption was the best way forward for us to have our own family. After being approved we raised an interest in a six-month old baby boy who had been prenatally exposed to alcohol and had been recognised as having Foetal Alcohol Syndrome due to some of his presenting developmental delays and physical features.

We had to do a great amount of research ourselves as our adoption training covered very little in this topic. We were lucky enough to find people at FASD Network UK who talked with us and helped us to understand better what the future may hold for him and for us as his parents.

Our son was very much written off in terms of his development in documents by the medical professionals and social care who were monitoring his development and wellbeing. However, when we met him, we saw a determination in him that, apart from his loving foster family, others just didn't seem to see. It was love at first sight and we knew he was the child who would become our son.

He is now two and is progressing amazingly. Although still not walking fully, he still manages to get around and keep up with his peers. In the last year of being home his language skills and self-care have developed well in our loving care. Each day he surprises us with what he can do and we know that his determination and ours will help him to thrive and be the best he can be to the fullest of his potential.

We would urge adopters who are offered a child with prenatal alcohol exposure or suspected Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder not to just say no. Do your research and ask questions. Our children have all the love in the world to give. Disability shouldn't be a barrier to having a forever family and a forever home. We love our son with all our hearts and he was the best decision we have made for our family.

If you have been affected by issues in the article or want to find out more please contact:

**Email:** [fasdnetwork@mail.com](mailto:fasdnetwork@mail.com)

**Facebook:** FASD Network UK

**Web:** [www.fasdnetwork.org](http://www.fasdnetwork.org)

**Twitter:** FASDNETUK