

## **EAGLES, ELEPHANTS AND TURTLES**

From Claire...

We have been told that we are overprotective and underestimate our son's potential. We have been reminded of the Eagle saying..."take him to the edge of the cliff, gently push and watch him fly!".

Unfortunately, our '**Eagle Story**' reads more like this....

They took him to the edge of the cliff, gently pushed and watched in horror as he fell to the ground. They did not realise he had a small fracture in his wing. They could not see it, it was invisible. They then spent the next two years putting him back together. Teaching him to walk, talk, smile, laugh and hope. Slowly they made their way to the cliff top once more. This time they sat and sat and sat. They were patient and wise in the knowledge that he would step off the cliff on his own, when he was ready. They would keep him warm, safe and secure while they waited and simply enjoy the view. When he does feel ready to take that step, they will not watch from on high, but they will look from below and be ready to catch him, should he fall.

### ***Message:***

*If you have the opportunity to work with a parent or child living with FASD make sure your contribution is a positive one. Before making comment or passing judgment, reflect on where these parents have been. Understand that they may have already been at the bottom of the cliff and they have worked very hard to get that child into a position where they feel they can start climbing again. Respect that these parents come with the wisdom only experience can bring. LISTEN. Make allowances for their grief and suffering. After all, long after the health and teaching professionals have passed through their lives, it is these parents that will continue to provide, protect and, if necessary, pick up the pieces.*

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This morning our son declared that he thought he probably did have the "memory of an **elephant**", however he added that he also had the internal processing speed of a **turtle** so often he just doesn't have enough time to find what he is looking for!

This is a great analogy as memory and recall in sequence is a real issue for him. His brain seems to store things with a "crazy paving" affect ... all the bits are there but they just don't connect in a logical way. It must be frustrating for him.

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