

## Story Dialogue

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Story Dialogue is a Health Promotions tool that takes case stories from our practice and subjects them to a collective analysis to discover generalizations about a particular practice, in our case, the practice of FAS prevention that we have been engaged in these past many years. This method, predominately used for examining health practices, provides a number of important components that are consistent with our guiding principles and empowerment practice.

Story dialogue is a useful tool to learn to use. First, it is based on a reflexive analysis of stories that can meaningfully engage practitioners. Second, it has an ability to "give back" to those involved, in a group dialogue, which provides insights for all participants. Third, it will assist with the evaluation of our own experiences and best practices and finally, this tool is a new technique for service providers to use in examining their own best practices.

The process of Story Dialogue is describe in the diagrams attached however the core elements of this tool are the preparing of a case story, which should be completed before the story dialogue event, the sharing of the story in a structure dialogue and the creating of insight cards as a second level synthesis and way to externalize stories. These insight cards are then used to build categories for write-up and the development of composite theory notes on our work.

For more information on this interesting and effective means of evaluating your work around FASD, or any other area, read the work by Joan Feather and Ron Labonte (1996) ***Handbook on Using Stories in Health Promotion Practice***. Prairie Region Health Promotion Research Center: University of Saskatchewan. This publication is available online at the University of Saskatchewan website [www.usask.ca/healthsci/che/prhprc/centre/occpap.html](http://www.usask.ca/healthsci/che/prhprc/centre/occpap.html)

The following questions were put together to facilitate a story dialogue process for our participatory evaluation. Fell free to use them if they are helpful.

### Story Dialogue Questions

(to assist in writing your Case Story)

There are three parts to constructing your Case Story; Describing, Explaining and Reflecting (see diagrams following these questions). Here are some prompts in each of these areas that will help you put your story together.

#### **REMEMBER:**

Use "I" or "we" and own this story  
Write about YOUR experience  
There is no fixed order just speak from your heart and mind.

#### **Describe**

Tell about how you first became involved with the FAS Network.

(Who was involved? What were others doing or not doing? What was helpful or puzzling about this experience?)

What was going on for you in your work at this time?

**Explain**

Why did you choose to do this work with the Network?

How has your involvement with the Network impacted your work generally and your work with the community?

Has your work affected the issue of FASD in our community?

**Reflect**

What has been the good and the bad about your work with the FAS Network?

If you were able to do it over again, how would you do your work differently?

What action would you like to take in changing the issue of FASD?

What would you need to help you to continue to do your best practice, both in your work and with the Network?

Remember these are only prompts and you are welcome to add any additional information that you think is important. This information will be used for evaluation purposes.