



**FASD Caregiver as Educator Trainings celebrate Cognitive Diversity**

“When caregivers, including parents of all kinds (biological, foster, adoptive and grand), of children affected by prenatal alcohol exposure receive respect for their experience and increased support to learn skills to educate their children *magic happens*,” according to Deb Evensen, internationally known Alaska based FASD education consultant. At the end of the last school year, the OSMAP FASD Program worked with the IDEA program of the Galena City School District to host five two-day FASD Caregiver as Educator trainings offered by Evensen at their statewide hub locations: Fairbanks, Anchorage, Mat-Su, Juneau and Kenai. Although the original intention for the trainings were for homeschooling parents, attendees included a diverse cross section of education, health, faith and social service providers. While Evensen offered a broad educational background to understand the impacts of prenatal alcohol exposure, the training focused on increasing capacity and improving skills for those individuals responsible for educating youth with brain based needs originating by FASD and strategies to prevent the subsequent trauma that ensue if these needs are not met.