

**Project Airy the Canary 2021 -**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Education for Kids

Project Airy provides three simple downloadable lessons to share with your students that are centered around learning about CO alarms and how to stay safe from CO exposure\*. The lessons are designed to be brief (10 minutes) and taught over three consecutive days to encourage students to look for alarms in their homes and talk to their parents about what they have learned. However, they can be easily modified to fit into any time schedule.

There are three main learning objectives:

* Know that all homes need CO alarms to keep people safe
* Describe what a CO alarm sounds like (and how it sounds different than a smoke alarm)
* Know what to do when the alarm sounds

A detailed knowledge of CO is not necessary to teach the lessons, though there is more information available on our website (<www.thejenkinsfoundation.com>). Generally, CO is a toxic gas that is odorless, colorless, and entirely undetectable to human senses. It is produced by a number of different sources, many of which we encounter every day. The danger comes in being exposed to it in high concentrations which can quickly become life-threatening. Tragically, many people suffer injuries (including permanent brain injury) and even death because they are not aware of the danger of CO and don’t know to have alarms in their homes. Children are particularly at risk of the toxic effects of CO due to their smaller body size.

The only way to be alerted to the presence of high levels of CO before it begins to cause injury is with a CO alarm. Our mascot, Airy, and the history of canaries “working” as the original CO alarms in mines to safeguard miners helps kids understand the function of alarms and why we need them to stay safe. Airy’s website ([www.airythecanary.com](http://www.airythecanary.com)) has kid-friendly information, downloadable activity pages, as well as fun facts about canaries. It can be used as a visual complement to the lessons and also to share with parents to encourage further conversations at home.

Project Airy is designed to tie-in with Fire Prevention Week and teaching concepts about fire safety ([Sparky School House - Teach Fire Safety. Save lives.](https://sparkyschoolhouse.org/#lessons-section)) but it can be taught independently at any time of the year.

Please send us your questions, comments and suggestions. If your class would like to showcase their artwork or information they’ve learned, we’d love to share it on Airy’s Facebook page to encourage others. Thank you for your interest – know that your efforts can save someone’s life.

Sincerely,

Kris Hauschildt

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*\* If you live in Cowlitz County, please contact us for a free teaching kit*

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