

October is Children's Health Month!



October is Children's Health Month and each year EPA celebrates the importance of protecting children's environmental health in the places where children live, learn and play.

Children are not little adults! Children are more vulnerable to environmental pollution and contaminants due to their behaviors and biology. Healthy school environments can affect the attendance and performance of both students and educators. Here are a few resources you can use to help make our learning environments healthier places.

Children's Health Month Page Relaunch

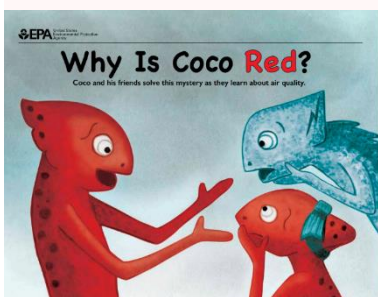
Check out our updated [Children's Health Month](#) website – this is a great place to start, learn and share children's environmental health links and resources. Be sure to check out the new infographics!

This year's Children's Health Month's theme is to protect children at all stages and in all communities. Childhood is made up of a sequence of stages, with each stage facing unique environmental risks. Here are the weekly themes for 2022:

- October 1 – 8 : Maternal Health
- October 9 – 15: Infants and Toddlers
- October 16 – 22: School Aged Children and Adolescents
- October 23 – 29: [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week \(NLPPW\)](#)



New Children's Book on Air Quality, Wildfire Smoke & Asthma



[Why Is Coco Red?](#) was just released. In this story, Coco and his chameleon friends learn about how wildfires can affect air quality and their health. This book is a sequel to [Why Is Coco Orange?](#) and both books are great resources for children, especially those with asthma, as well as their parents, teachers and caretakers. **Please contact [Bryan Fiedorczyk](#) if you would like up to 3 FREE copies of *Why is Coco Red?* for your school library** (while supplies last).

Click on this link to our new [Why is Coco Red? video](#) to watch and listen to a narrated video at [EPA's YouTube channel](#).

Safer Choice Cleaning Products for Schools

EPA's [Safer Choice program](#) can help teachers and school staff find products that perform and contain ingredients that are safer for children's health and their classroom and school environments.

Check out the [Safer Choice Fact Sheet for Schools](#) for an overview of the program, why it is important for schools to consider safer products and a list of typical products reviewed. To help find specific products with the Safer Choice label go to the [Safer Choice Products Search](#) site.



Nominate Teachers and Students for Environmental Awards



Do you know any talented and dedicated students or teachers making a difference for a healthier environment in your community? Nominate them for a [President's Environmental Youth Award \(PEYA\)](#) or a [Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators \(PIAEE\)](#).

Participation in the PEYA program is frequently a life-changing experience for many of the young people and their project sponsors. For PIAEE winners, teacher awardees and their local education agencies will receive awards of up to \$2,500 each for professional development in environmental education and to fund environmental educational activities and programs. **Nominations are due January 11, 2023.**

2022 Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators Awardees

This year we recognized two educators in Region 10:

- **Alfonso Gonzalez, Jr – 2022 PIAEE Winner - Chimacum Elementary School – Chimacum, Washington**

Mr Gonzalez is a 6th grade math and science teacher and initiated the Ocean Guardian School project that engages students in hands-on activities including fish trapping, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, and water quality testing in a nearby creek.

- **Elsie Mitchell – 2022 Honorable Mention - Chief Leschi Schools – Puyallup, Washington**

Ms. Mitchell is a high school teacher at Chief Leschi Schools and the creator of the school's Natural Resources Career and Technical Education Pathway that includes innovative science courses.

More details on the 2022 and previous PIAEE winners and honorable mentions are available on the [PIAEE Winners site](#).

Check out our other sites for additional information and resources:

- Past issues of EPA Region 10 Healthy Schools News: <https://www.epa.gov/children/healthy-schools-news-pacific-northwest>
- EPA Schools: www.epa.gov/schools
- EPA Environmental Education: <https://www.epa.gov/education>
- EPA Children's Environmental Health: www.epa.gov/children

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