

STEM Learning Videos

SECONDHAND SMOKE -FINAL

Carlos learns about the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Characters:

- Carolina (wife/mom/“expert”)
- Jorge (husband/father)
- Juanito (the baby)
- Carlos (Carolina’s brother)

SCENE 1: Carolina and Jorge’s Kitchen

Carolina and Jorge are sitting at their kitchen table, making plans for Juanito’s first Birthday. Jorge sips a cup of coffee. Juanito sits in a high chair, eating. Carolina holds a pen and looks down at a to-do list.

CAROLINA: (looking up) We have time to make a piñata, right? We have to have a piñata.

JORGE: Carlos and I will be painting the garage, but maybe Isabela can help you out?

Jorge sets down his coffee.

CAROLINA: What time is Carlos coming over?

JORGE: He should be here any minute.

Juanito coos. Jorge looks at him.

JORGE: I can’t believe Juanito is almost one year old!

We hear a car pull into the driveway.

CAROLINA: That must be Carlos.

Carlos, Carolina’s brother, enters the kitchen.

CARLOS: Hello!

Carolina and Jorge smile as he sits down next to Juanito.

CARLOS: Hello, Juanito!

Juanito smiles.

CAROLINA: We were just going over the details for Juanito’s Birthday party.

Exposure + Genetics Version

CARLOS: He's growing up so fast! And he looks just like Mom with those eyes! (*To Juanito*) But you have your dad's black hair.

JORGE: Before he was born, I thought for sure Juanito would have dark eyes like me and Carolina.

Carolina grabs a picture from the refrigerator.

CAROLINA: Take a look.

Carlos looks at a photo of Juanito and Elena in which their similar eye color is clearly visible.

JORGE: (to Carlos) Oh! Before I forget...can I get that table from you today? We'll need tomorrow it for the party.

CARLOS: Sure. Let's grab it before we start painting. I forgot to grab those extra rollers.

Juanito squeals. Carlos begins to light a cigarette.

JORGE: Carlos! You can't smoke in here!

Carlos stops.

CAROLINA: How many times do we have to tell you not to smoke around Juanito?

CARLOS: Sorry! I keep forgetting. I always smoked around Alejandro when he was a baby!

CAROLINA: That doesn't make it okay! I don't want Juanito to end up with asthma from your secondhand smoke!

Juanito slams his hand down on the table.

CARLOS: But I'm the one smoking...

Carolina serves Juanito some more food.

CAROLINA: Smoking *is* bad for you, but the smoke from your cigarette is also bad for anyone who breathes it in.

CARLOS: Really?

JORGE: Yeah. That's why I quit. There are thousands of chemicals in tobacco smoke and a lot of them are toxic. Secondhand smoke can cause asthma, cancer...what were the other ones, Carolina?

CAROLINA: Colds, ear infections...bed death...

Carolina offers Juanito a sippy cup.

CARLOS: I'm sorry. I don't want to harm Juanito. It's just a bad habit.

JORGE: We know. We just want to keep everybody healthy, including you.

CAROLINA: (to Juanito) Are you all done?

Juanito smiles.

JORGE: Ready to grab that table and those rollers?

SCENE 2: Jorge's Truck

Jorge and Carlos are driving to Carlos's house to pick up the extra table for Juanito's Birthday party. Carlos attempts to light a cigarette.

JORGE: Bad news, Carlos. You can't smoke here either.

CARLOS: Not even if I roll the window down?

Jorge checks the rearview mirror.

JORGE: Nope. It's bad for us, and it's bad for Juanito.

CARLOS: Juanito's at home!

JORGE: Yeah, but the smoke can linger and cause him harm later. You know, it can harm you and I too.

Carlos puts away his cigarettes.

CARLOS: Where did you learn all of this?

JORGE: When your sister was pregnant she wanted to make sure our baby grew up healthy—especially since your dad had so many health problems.

Jorge makes a turn. Carlos looks out the window.

CARLOS: Lots of people get cancer...

JORGE: Yes, but smoking increases your chances.

Carlos looks back at Jorge.

Exposure + Genetics Version

JORGE: Your body is made of...what's the word... I can't remember. But there are tiny things that make up your body, and when you smoke it can damage them...Carolina can explain it better.

CARLOS: (pause) Do you think I put Alejandro in danger by exposing him to my secondhand smoke?

JORGE: Alejandro seems strong and healthy. But your health is also important and you should think about quitting. Now the important thing is to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.

They continue driving.

SCENE 3: Carolina and Jorge's Kitchen

Carolina is sitting at the table looking at a tablet. The aftermath of Juanito's earlier meal is still visible. Jorge and Carlos walk in, laughing.

JORGE: We put the table—

CAROLINA: Shhh! (setting the tablet down) Juanito just went down for a nap.

JORGE: (whispering) Sorry! We put the table in the garage.

Jorge and Carlos sit down at the table.

CAROLINA: Thanks for letting us borrow it, Carlos.

CARLOS: No problem!

Exposure + Genetics Version

CARLOS: Hey...Jorge said you found a video that explains some of the stuff about smoking and cancer.

Carolina looks confused.

JORGE: The video about secondhand smoke and the...I can't remember the word—the things...what are they called?

CAROLINA: Oh! (Remembering to keep her voice down.) Oh, cells. Yeah, I can show you that.

Carolina pulls up a video on the tablet.

VIDEO: If we could zoom inside any part of our body, we would see that all of our organs -- our heart, lungs and even our brain -- are made up of small structures called

cells. Each cell is designed to work in a specific way so that all the parts of our body function correctly. If we zoom further inside, we would see that every cell has small chains of DNA. Some parts of that DNA forms genes. Humans have approximately 25,000 genes in each cell. These genes provide the instructions for everything the cell does. Each type of cell uses a specific combination of genes. That is how we can have the same genes in each cell – and end up with a heart and lungs and a brain. Most of the time, these instructions stay the same for the cell's entire life. Sometimes, however, changes, called mutations, can change a part of the gene. This mutation can change the instructions and can make the cells behave differently. Many times these mutations do not cause a problem. But sometimes the mutations can lead to diseases, like cancer. Mutations can sometimes occur on their own. But, mutations are more common when the cells are exposed to certain chemicals. Some of the chemicals found in tobacco smoke can cause mutations. This is why people who smoke – or are exposed to second-hand smoke – have lung cancer more often.

Juanito's cries can be heard from the other room.

CAROLINA: Oh, Juanito...He was asleep for less than an hour!

Carolina stands.

CAROLINA: Carlos, find me before you leave. I have something I want to talk to you about.

Jorge grabs Juanito's utensils and plate and puts them in the sink.

CARLOS: Sure thing. The painting will take a while so I'm not leaving anytime soon.

CAROLINA: Okay.

Carolina leaves the kitchen.

JORGE: So what do you think, Carlos?

Carlos slumps down in his chair.

CARLOS: (sigh) My dad died of lung cancer...and he was a smoker. Which makes me think maybe it's time to cut back on smoking. I knew smoking could make me sick, but I didn't realize my secondhand smoke could be harming people around me.

Jorge pats Carlos on the shoulder.

JORGE: Maybe some painting will take your mind off smoking.

They leave the kitchen, laughing.