

***SAMPLE LETTER FROM PARENT TO DAYCARE CENTRE***

Date

Name of Contact (Owner or Manager of Daycare)

Title

Name of Daycare Centre

City, Province, Postal Code

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to you because I am concerned about Bisphenol A (BPA), a toxic chemical found in hard, clear plastic bottles, and the linings of some tin cans. As a suspected endocrine disruptor, BPA exposure to children is especially risky, even at low doses. I would therefore ask you to ensure that food and beverage products that you provide in your daycare centre are BPA-free.

The list of health risks caused by BPA exposure is too long to be ignored. The U.S. National Toxicological Program (NTP) Centre for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR) published a report from an expert panel on the evaluation of BPA. According to their report, "The Expert Panel expressed some concern that exposure to Bisphenol A causes neural and behavioural effects" in children. A BPA Consensus Statement, issued in August 2007 by 38 leading scientists gathered together by the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, notes that the "wide range of adverse effects of low doses of BPA in laboratory animals exposed both during development and in adulthood is a great cause for concern with regard to the potential for similar adverse effects in humans." The most popular baby book in North America, *Baby 411*, advises in its most recent edition that parents stop using BPA-containing baby bottles in favour of bottles that do not contain this toxic chemical.

In light of these recent reports, and the mounting evidence showing BPA's numerous health hazards, I want to make sure contact between my child and this chemical is minimized. I have attached a form that other daycares are filling out, providing an assurance that they are taking measures to provide readily available BPA-free products.

There are safe alternatives to all uses of BPA in food and beverage containers. Comparably priced baby bottles made of glass, aluminum, and BPA-free plastic are readily available, as are water bottles made of aluminum and steel. BPA in the linings of tin cans can easily be replaced by safer resins. (Indeed, while one in three infant formula cans have BPA, two thirds do not.)

I look forward to hearing from you on this issue. I hope you can provide an assurance that if any containers or products that you currently supply your daycare with contain BPA, you will replace those products with alternatives that are BPA-free.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

(Name)