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# TRYING TO LIVE 7 DAYS WITHOUT ANY PLASTIC

Working mother succeeds with bottles, bags but when it comes to food, well, not so much

## BEAT THE WRAP

### LIVING PLASTIC FREE

SECOND OF FIVE PARTS

**FRANCINE KOPUN**  
FEATURE WRITER

My editor asks me if I think I can live for a week without plastic and I stupidly agree, thinking it will fulfill a fantasy of mine.

I dream of whacking every plastic toy that has been brought into our house since my son was born four years ago. My fantasy includes a brown packing box, the Goodwill and a shopping expedition to The Toy Space Inc., an eco-friendly, family-owned store that sells

wooden toys.

My son will buy educational hand puppets and grow up to be an acclaimed actor. Or a best-selling author, telling *Vanity Fair* that he got his start making up stories for Peter and Patty puppet.

Second thoughts sour my fantasy as I mentally scan the contents of our house. The meat we buy is wrapped in plastic. So are the mushrooms, milk, cereal, bread and sparkling water. My toothbrush is plastic. I think the bumper on our Dodge Caravan is plastic.

I decide to try anyway. With everything going green these days, I should be able to make it up as I go along.

As it turns out, even organic produce is wrapped in plastic and a



KEITH BEATY/TORONTO STAR

Francine Kopun and son Joey, 4, use their plastic-free alternatives.

good, plastic-free water bottle is hard to find.

#### THURSDAY NIGHT

I talk to my son about getting rid of his plastic toys. He looks up at me thoughtfully, his plastic soother bobbing up and down in his mouth.

"No."

How about the broken ones?

"No, Mommy." He tilts his head to one side.

I know what he's thinking: Is this going to require tears?

I tell him what plastic is and how

PLASTIC continued on A11

ACC: Cutting down on waste, A10-11

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