

## shop talk

By Carolyn Graham

# Lunch Is In the Bag

The variety of food and drink boxes, bags and containers out there represents a virtual buffet of choices. And the best part is that these fresh new “lunch containment systems” are geared toward keeping our children – and our planet – healthy and well fed.



Kids need to stay hydrated while they're on the go at school, but it's not always easy to find a container that won't leak all over their homework. The **Contigo AUTOSEAL** line of mugs and bottles (\$15.99 for two, [www.gocontigo.com](http://www.gocontigo.com)) offers several products that kids can keep handy when they need refreshment – but are also both spill- and leak-proof. The 9-oz., BPA-free bottles come in a variety of colors, and the AUTOSEAL function ensures that the mug reseals after each sip.



The **Hip Reusable Waste-Free Lunch Kit by Kids Konserve** (\$40-\$42, [www.kidskonserve.com](http://www.kidskonserve.com)) includes a cloth napkin, a stainless-steel drink bottle, a “food cozy” for wrapping sandwiches and two small stainless-steel food containers tucked into a recycled-cotton sack. The food containers are leak-proof and have recyclable, BPA-free plastic lids.

We all feel guilty about using plastic baggies, but how do we keep our kids' lunches from tasting like dried-up sponges? **LunchBots** (\$14.99, [www.lunchbots.com](http://www.lunchbots.com)) are stainless steel, and come in Uno (no divider, good for sandwiches and burritos) and Duo (works for crackers and cheese and other snacks) styles.



Parents these days are turning more to lunchboxes with character rather than just characters. That's why I like the **Four Peas Lunch Bag** (\$18, [www.fourpeasonline.com](http://www.fourpeasonline.com)). Invented by a Chicago-based teacher and mom, Four Peas brings a fresh, simple look to her line of nylon, PVC-free insulated lunch boxes, which come in a variety of cute styles.

**Lunchsense** ([www.lunchsense.com](http://www.lunchsense.com)), a mom-invented product, adds an organized punch to lunch. They come with a set of plastic (BPA- and phthalate-free) containers that stack up like peas in a pod. The box itself folds out and is packed with a drink bottle and a puncture-proof ice pack. Lunchsense comes in three sizes (\$35 for small, \$39 for medium and \$44 for large) and several colors.

