

# Clean Water for Carolina Kids

## Safe Drinking Water in North Carolina Child Care Centers

Your child care center has chosen to partner with RTI International to ensure this center continues to provide the highest possible quality drinking water. Many children spend much of their week in child care, so safe drinking water at child care centers is very important. As part of the Clean Water for Carolina Kids study, RTI will test your child care center's drinking water for lead and offer guidance on any appropriate solutions so that your children have safe drinking water while in child care.

### Why was this child care center selected, and what will participation involve?

We do not expect to find high levels of lead in this center's drinking water. This center was 1 of 120 licensed child care centers using public water supplies selected to reflect a wide range of building ages and water suppliers. RTI will work with child care centers to test drinking water and reduce any lead found in the water. We will do the following:

- Meet with the child care center administrator to learn about building and drinking water information.
- Conduct a survey of the building, including all drinking water locations (e.g., sinks, water fountains).
- Test drinking water samples for lead.
- Communicate test results and any appropriate actions (e.g., installation of drinking water filters).
- Serve as a resource for child care providers and parents.

We will visit the center for about an hour, and we will not interact with the children or disrupt their routines.

### Why is RTI conducting this study?

RTI dedicates resources to investigating emerging national and local issues, such as lead in drinking water. Many of our staff members are parents who have children in child care centers throughout the Triangle area, and we understand the importance of keeping our children safe from environmental hazards. This study focuses on child

care centers using public water supplies, as these centers are not routinely monitored and because younger children are the most vulnerable to the negative health effects of lead.

### How will this study help kids in North Carolina?

Through the Clean Water for Carolina Kids study, we hope to demonstrate the importance of on-site lead monitoring for child care centers, and how lead in water can be controlled with simple, affordable solutions that centers can implement themselves. With your support, RTI can help lower North Carolina children's exposure to lead.



### More Information

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