

FACTFILE: GCSE HOME ECONOMICS: Child Development



Quality Marks Used on Products

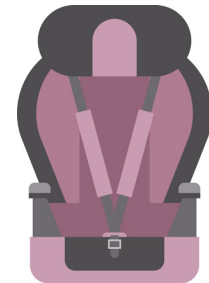
Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- Identify quality marks used on products and explain their benefits to the consumer.

Products

- Car seat
- Toys
- High chair



<http://www.safekids.co.uk/toysafetymarks.html>

BEAB approved

BEAB stands for The British Electrotechnical Approvals Board. This mark is found on electrical products.



It tells the consumer the product has been tested for electrical safety and fire risk and compared with European and international standards.

Products

- Bottle steriliser
- Formula feed maker

What are safety marks?

Safety marks are found on a variety of products that are needed for the newborn baby. The main benefit of these marks is to reassure the consumer that the product they buy is safe to use. There are a number of different safety marks that have been detailed below.

The Kitemark

If a product has this mark on it, it has been tested by the British Standards Institute. A company can only put this symbol on their product when it has been tested for safety, reliability and quality.



When purchasing a product for a child with this safety mark on it the consumer can be assured of its safety and quality which is vitally important.

CE

This mark must be on a variety of products to allow them to be sold within Europe. If the product has this mark it has met European safety and environmental requirements.



Products

- Toys

Fire safety

This symbol will reassure the consumer as it has been through testing to show that it will not catch fire when in contact with matches or cigarettes.



Products

- Mattress
- Play gym

The Lion Mark

This mark helps to ensure high safety standards are being met in toys. Toys with this mark must follow the code of practice by the British Toy and Hobby Association. Not only must this toy follow high safety standards but consideration must be made when advertising the product to ensure it is done ethically.



Products

- Toys

Age warning

This mark is found on toys and it is a warning to consumers that the product is unsuitable for children under 3 years old.



This could be because there is a choking hazard as the product contains small parts.

This will help the consumer select the most appropriate toy for the age of the child.

Products

- Toys



Quality marks help consumers make a decision on the product based on a variety of reasons such as the environmental or ethical impact in producing these products.

Organic Cotton

This symbol appears on cotton items that have been produced from organic cotton. This means the cotton has been grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers or toxic pesticides.



Why might this be important when choosing children's products?

- The product has been produced in an environmentally friendly way;
- Workers are treated better;
- No harmful chemicals are used during production. This means there is less chance of allergenic and carcinogenic toxins.

Fairtrade



This symbol tells the consumer that the producer has been paid a fair wage for the material and manufacturing of the product. There are a number of food products that consumers can purchase with the Fairtrade logo. For babies and children consumers may purchase cotton products that have been grown to The Fairtrade standard.

Recycling



It may be important to some consumers to look after the environment. One way they can do this is to purchase goods which have the recycling symbol on them. Some products will have this symbol if the packaging can be recycled.

Learning activity

Have a look at a selection of products designed for babies and young children and identify the symbol and describe what this means.

