

Plastic tableware for children

In this exercise, you will be looking at the design of children's tableware. You will have to consider the needs of young children, their likes and dislikes and their ability to handle cutlery and dishes. You will have to consider the design of individual items of children's tableware and the properties of the materials that will be used to make them.

Answer the questions in the boxes below.

Write your name:
1. Give three reasons why plastic is a suitable material for children's tableware. a) b) c)
2. Name a suitable polymer for children's tableware:
3. State whether your chosen polymer is a thermoplastic or a thermoset:
4. Name a polymer that leeches harmful chemicals and so should not be used for children's tableware:
5. Name a machine that melts polymer pellets and is used to inject molten polymer into a mould:
6. Name a mechanism that is often used to force molten polymer into a mould:
7. State how a moulded product is removed from a mould:
8. Explain why bright colours are used for children's products:
9. Explain why children's cutlery is sometimes made "chunky"
10. Give three safety specifications for children's tableware: a) b) c)
11. Describe the difference between one-off production, batch production and mass production?
12. Explain why plastic products are often inexpensive to buy, yet the machinery used to make the products is very expensive.
13. Briefly explain why plastic products should be recycled when the product is no longer required.