

Green and gorgeous little peapod child

Annie Chapman kicks off our new green baby column with Green People

LO and Annie

I have a confession to make.

My LO (that's 'little one' – I know, I know – abbreviations are really annoying but if I want to be an accepted member of the mummy tribe, I have to use the lingo) wasn't born when I first received my **gorgeous looking** box of Green People goodies.



Still, as soon as I popped one of the lids and sniffed the contents I was dying to try out the all of the **gift box** products from www.greenpeople.co.uk, including the baby wash.

I was reassured by the website's claims that the range is made: 'with the very finest, purest ingredients. They are the **gentlest** products you can buy for your baby.'

The wash is so gentle and soothing that I felt guilty and only used a little of it; saving it for LO who appreciated its **cooling** chamomile fragrance, particularly in the recent hot weather.

The moisturiser on the other hand has been liberally spread over both of us, provoking a very pleasing reaction from DB (dearly beloved). The scent is clean and **fresh** and not at all old lady, which is always a potentially untrendy association with lavender.

LO had dry skin as she was overdue and this gentle moisturiser has taken over from the olive oil that made her smell like a bowl of pasta. It's also perfect for smoothing on after the pre-bedtime bath as it's such a **calming** fragrance.

Prevention is better than cure so I started using the baby balm before any nappy rash appeared. I'm using washable nappies and was a little worried that a sore bottom was inevitable, but it seems not; LO's bum remains as **smooth** and as kissable as the cliché.

But don't just take my word for it; this bootilicious **balm** comes with some excellent endorsements:

2009 Bizzie Baby Award – voted by mums

TIPS Highly Commended Award – Recommended by Midwives

Finally, the baby salve. A clear lotion that comes in a **handy** little tube that's perfect for popping into the change bag when your hands are full. A little goes a very long way so there's value for money here too.

This beautifully packaged box of goodies is the perfect gift for an **ethically** minded new mummy. Actually it's the perfect gift for any new mummy.

For £28.50 you get:

- Soothe & Calm Baby Balm 40ml
- Mum & Baby Moisturiser 150ml
- Chamomile Baby Wash 150ml

- Baby Salve 30ml

They'll even **personalise** the gift for you if you want to add a message.

I was spending my 'confinement' on the lovely Hexham maternity ward, also known as the Hexham Hilton, it's wonderful; calm, **serene**, restful.

I was clearly going to need something to help me look correspondingly **fabulous** in all the photos my DB was going to take of knackered mother and newborn. To save on space in my hospital bag I sought out a cleanser that would double as a makeup remover (amazing what a bit of mascara can do). Oh, and it would have to be ethically sound and without any chemicals because of my sensitive skin.

Step forward the Gentle Cleanse from www.greenpeople.co.uk. With chamomile, **marshmallow** and aloe vera this 2 in 1 claims to: 'liberate your skin from pollutants and impurities.'

The page on the website informs me that it is:

- Formulated to balance, nourish and moisturise
- Anti-ageing and anti-inflammatory properties
- Rich, sensual aroma from pure plant sources
- Suitable for areas of sensitive skin and safely removes eye make-up (including waterproof mascara)

And it really does. My skin was **squeaky clean** but not tight and the fragrance was delicious; fresh, clean and reminiscent of summer days.

I used the Vita Min Fix moisturiser alongside the cleanser. Voted 'Best Moisturiser for Dry Skin' by Natural Health & Beauty magazine 2008'. The aspect that most attracted me was that it was a '**24hr solution** for dry and tired skin'. That was undoubtedly what I needed.

The mix of evening primrose, avocado and seaweed may not sound very attractive but wow! What a heavenly scent. The floral tones are sophisticated and uplifting and it really did feel like it was **nourishing** my skin.

I have very dry patches and a tiny dab of this yummy mummy **revitaliser** in the afternoon before visiting time had my skin glowing and looking fresh for the ubiquitous montages of mother and daughter.

A 200ml bottle of Gentle Cleanse is £14.50 and will last for absolutely ages as you need very little to achieve a **sparkling** clean. For £13.50 get you a 50ml bottle of Vita Min Fix, but it is to be used similarly sparingly; a petit pois sized dab, amply moisturised my whole face.

The pictures have been winging their way around the world, via e- and snail mail. All comments so far have agreed that LO looks **beautiful**. What's really reassuring is that they also say how well I look. Two peas in a pod. And I think that's down – in no small measure – to Green People products.