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**Article:**

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- 1 **Abbreviations**
- 2 CEBQ, Child Eating Behaviour Questionnaire
- 3 BEBQ, Baby Eating Behaviour Questionnaire
- 4 FR, Food Responsiveness
- 5 EF, Enjoyment of Food
- 6 EOE, Emotional Overeating
- 7 DD, Desire to Drink
- 8 SR, Satiety Responsiveness
- 9 SE, Slowness in Eating
- 10 EUE, Emotional Undereating
- 11 FF, Food Fussiness
- 12 GA, General Appetite
- 13 BMI, Body mass index
- 14 BST, Behavioural Susceptibility Theory
- 15 DEBQ, Dutch Eating Behaviour Questionnaire
- 16 TFEQ, Three Factor Eating Questionnaire
- 17 AEBQ, Adult Eating Behaviour Questionnaire

18 **Abstract**

19

20 This meta-analysis aimed to quantify associations between Child - (CEBQ) and Baby (BEBQ) -  
21 Eating Behaviour Questionnaire appetitive traits (food approach: Food Responsiveness [FR],  
22 Enjoyment of Food [EF], Emotional Overeating [EOE], Desire to Drink [DD]); food avoidant:  
23 Satiety Responsiveness [SR], Slowness in Eating [SE], Emotional Undereating [EUE], Food  
24 Fussiness [FF]) with child adiposity. Searches of six databases up to February 2019 identified  
25 72 studies (CEBQ, n=67; BEBQ, n=5), 27 met meta-analysis criteria. For cross-sectional studies  
26 reporting unadjusted correlations with BMIz (n=19), all traits were associated with BMIz in  
27 expected directions (positive: FR, EF, EOE, DD; negative: SR, SE, EUE, FF). Pooled estimates  
28 ranged from  $r=0.22$  (FR) to  $r=-0.21$  (SR). For cross-sectional studies reporting regression  
29 coefficients (n=10), three food approach traits (FR, EF, EOE) associated positively, and three  
30 food avoidant traits (SR, SE, EUE) negatively, with BMIz ( $\beta=-0.31$  [SR] to  $\beta=0.22$  [FR]). Eleven  
31 studies reported prospective relationships from appetite to adiposity for six scales (positive: FR,  
32 EF, EOE, DD; negative: SR, SE). Five studies reported relationships from adiposity to appetite  
33 for five traits (positive: FR, EF, EOE; negative: SR). All five BEBQ traits were consistently cross-  
34 sectionally associated with adiposity. Overall, CEBQ/BEBQ-assessed appetitive traits show  
35 consistent cross-sectional relationships with child adiposity.

36

## 37 INTRODUCTION

38 Behavioural susceptibility theory (BST) was developed to explain how the food environment  
39 interacts with genetic susceptibility to influence weight<sup>1,2</sup>. BST proposes that differences in  
40 appetite determine why some people over- or under-eat, and others do not, in response to  
41 environmental opportunity<sup>3</sup>. Those who inherit genes promoting an avid appetite are vulnerable  
42 to overeating and developing obesity, while those who are genetically predisposed to have a  
43 smaller appetite and low interest in food are protected, or even at risk of underweight. By  
44 identifying these traits and their early precursors we may be able to prevent unhealthy weight  
45 trajectories. Twin studies demonstrate that, like body weight<sup>4,5</sup>, appetitive traits have a strong  
46 genetic basis<sup>6-8</sup>, and studies using measured genetic obesity risk indicate that appetite  
47 mediates the association between obesity-associated genetic variants and adiposity<sup>9,10</sup>. The  
48 parent-report Child Eating Behaviour Questionnaire (CEBQ),<sup>11</sup> which captures eight appetitive  
49 traits, was developed to test BST nearly twenty years ago. The corresponding infant version, the  
50 Baby Eating Behaviour Questionnaire (BEBQ) assesses four appetitive traits and captures the  
51 first six months of life<sup>12</sup>.

52  
53 Many studies have examined associations between appetitive traits assessed with the BEBQ  
54 and CEBQ, and adiposity in infancy and childhood. The present inquiry is the first to  
55 systematically review and meta-analyse these studies, with the goal of strengthening the  
56 evidence base for the relationship between appetite and weight in childhood and thus informing  
57 prevention and treatment of overweight and underweight/weight-related disorders. While other  
58 measures have been applied to study relationships between appetite and weight (e.g. Dutch  
59 Eating Behaviour Questionnaire [DEBQ])<sup>13</sup>, the CEBQ and BEBQ were specifically developed  
60 for pediatric use and to assess a broader range of traits implicated in development of both  
61 overweight and underweight, and are thus the focus of this review.

62  
63 The primary objectives of this study were to: (i) conduct a systematic review to assess how  
64 CEBQ- and BEBQ-assessed appetitive traits relate to adiposity and prospective weight gain  
65 from birth to 18 years; and (ii) establish the size of the associations using meta-analysis.

66 **METHODS**

67 The systematic review and meta-analysis followed the PRISMA reporting guidelines and was  
68 registered on PROSPERO (Registration Number: CRD42017081218.).

69

70 ***Search strategy and selection criteria***

71 A systematic search of the following six electronic databases was conducted: Medline, EBSCO  
72 CINAHL, Cochrane Library, EMBASE, Web of Science and PsycInfo until February 2019.

73 Search terms were developed using combinations of relevant keywords and MESH terms and  
74 were searched for within relevant titles and abstracts. The search strategy is outlined in **Table**  
75 **S1**. The reference list for relevant papers was also hand searched to capture any additional  
76 studies that were not identified in the search.

77

78 Studies were included if they were observational and reported at least one CEBQ- or BEBQ-  
79 measured trait. The CEBQ includes eight scales. Four assess 'food approach' traits: Enjoyment  
80 of Food (4 items; EF; e.g. 'My child loves food'), Food Responsiveness (5 items; FR; e.g. 'Given  
81 the choice, my child would eat most of the time'), Emotional Overeating (4 items; EOE; e.g. 'My  
82 child eats more when worried'), Desire to Drink (3 items; DD; e.g. 'My child is always asking for  
83 a drink'). Four assess 'food avoidant' traits: Food Fussiness (6 items; FF; e.g. 'My child refuses  
84 new foods at first'), Emotional Undereating (4 items; EUE; e.g. 'My child eats less when he/she  
85 is tired'), Slowness in Eating (4 items; SE; e.g. 'My child eats slowly'), Satiety Responsiveness  
86 (5 items; SR; e.g. 'My child gets full up easily'). The BEBQ assesses FR (5 items; e.g., 'My baby  
87 was always demanding a feed'), EF (4 items; e.g. 'My baby loved milk'), SE (4 items; e.g. 'My  
88 baby fed slowly'), SR (5 items; 'My baby got full up easily') and a single item which correlates  
89 with all four scales, 'General appetite' (GA; e.g. 'My baby has a big appetite'). Each item is  
90 scored using a 5-point Likert scale (1=never, 2=seldom, 3=sometimes, 4=often, 5=always).  
91 Scale scores are means of all scale items. Higher scores indicate more frequent demonstrations  
92 of behaviours characterizing the trait. Further details of questionnaire development are  
93 published elsewhere<sup>11,12</sup>.

94 The population of interest was children aged <18 years. Meta-analysis was planned for all  
95 articles with sufficient data on the relationship between any scale (CEBQ or BEBQ) and any  
96 measure of adiposity (e.g. BMI z-score, BMI percentile, waist circumference or any measure of  
97 body composition). Papers not eligible for quantitative analysis were reviewed narratively,  
98 including studies providing quantitative estimates of differences in mean CEBQ or BEBQ scale  
99 scores across weight categories (e.g. underweight, healthy weight, overweight and obesity).  
100 Studies were excluded from the review if CEBQ/BEBQ scales had been modified from the  
101 original format (e.g. reorganizing scales into new dimensions such as 'Appetite Restraint' and  
102 'Appetite Disinhibition'), or they were not published in English and no translation was available  
103 (n = 8). Eighteen studies incorporated modifications to one or more scales. As multiple studies  
104 (n=6) combined SR and SE into one composite scale these observations were retained in the  
105 narrative review. Study eligibility was assessed independently by two reviewers (AS and AK),  
106 and disagreements discussed until consensus was reached. See **Tables 1-5** for a summary of  
107 the study characteristics.

108

#### 109 ***Data extraction and quality assessment of included studies***

110 Descriptive data on the study characteristics, appetitive traits measured, adiposity measure  
111 used, and effect estimates of the relationship between appetitive traits and adiposity were  
112 extracted by two reviewers (AK and AS). Degree of adjustment for the reported effect estimates  
113 varied across studies. Both crude and the maximally adjusted values were extracted (i.e. the  
114 reported effect estimates within the individual study adjusted for the most covariates). For  
115 duplicate cohorts, the most complete study was taken forward (based on the greatest number of  
116 appetitive scales reported or highest n). Where necessary, authors were contacted to request  
117 additional information (n= 45, e.g. authors provided specific correlation or regression  
118 coefficients for individual subscales when not specifically reported in the main manuscript).

119

120 An overall risk of bias score was obtained using the semi-quantitative Newcastle Ottawa Scale  
121 (NOS). The NOS assesses three main areas of study quality, namely 1) the selection of the  
122 cohort, 2) the comparability of study analysis, and 3) the ascertainment of the outcome. The

123 NOS tool was adapted as necessary to assess the quality of the included study designs. A  
124 NOS score  $\geq 7/10$  was considered indicative of high study quality (see **Table S2**<sup>14</sup>).

125

### 126 ***Data synthesis for meta-analysis***

127 Studies were classified based on whether effect estimates of associations between appetitive  
128 traits and adiposity measures were reported as correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) and/or standardized  
129 regression coefficients ( $\beta$ ). These measures were selected because they were most commonly  
130 reported. In order to utilise adiposity measures, a minimum of three studies was needed to pool  
131 effect estimates<sup>15</sup>. Therefore, only BMI z-scores (BMIz) were used in the meta-analytical models  
132 as insufficient data existed for other outcomes (e.g. body composition ( $n=3$ ), weight-for-age  
133 ( $n=1$ ))<sup>16</sup>.

134

135 There were insufficient data to meta-analyse prospective studies, due to high heterogeneity in  
136 outcome measures and follow-up time (see **Table 3**), or studies using the BEBQ, due to  
137 variation in reported weight outcomes (see **Table 5**).

138

### 139 ***Statistical analysis for meta-analysis***

140 Random effects meta-analysis using data from eligible studies was performed to approximate  
141 an overall pooled weighted mean effect estimate<sup>15</sup>. The random effects model was used to  
142 account for anticipated inter-study variance.

143

144 Meta-analytic models for unadjusted correlation coefficient effect estimates with BMIz were  
145 conducted. In addition, analyses stratified by level of adjustment were undertaken to assess  
146 whether the pooled effect size was sensitive to adjustment strategy.

147

148 Assessment of between-study heterogeneity was judged by the p-value for heterogeneity and  
149 calculation of the  $I^2$  values. Moderate between-study heterogeneity was considered  $>50\%$  for  $I^2$   
150 with levels of  $75\%$  deemed indicative of high inconsistency in approximation of the summarised  
151 effect size<sup>17</sup>. Subgroup analyses explored potential heterogeneity by age of participant or year

152 of publication. Publication bias was assessed by funnel plot and Egger's test; a p value of <.01  
153 was considered sufficient evidence of no publication bias<sup>18</sup>. Statistical analyses were performed  
154 using Stata v15 with a p-value of <.05 considered significant.

155

## 156 **RESULTS**

### 157 ***Literature search***

158 A total of 2416 papers were retrieved; 1338 remained after duplicate removal. 72 independent  
159 studies were eligible for inclusion in the final review (See **Figure 1**). 67 studies explored  
160 relationships between CEBQ scales and adiposity (n=54 cross-sectional, n=12 prospective) and  
161 five relationships between BEBQ scales and adiposity (n=1 cross-sectional, n=4 prospective).  
162 Five CEBQ prospective studies also examined cross-sectional relationships between appetitive  
163 traits and adiposity; these results are discussed separately.

164

### 165 **Characteristics of included studies**

#### 166 ***CEBQ studies (n=67)***

167 Study descriptives are in **Tables 1-3**. Sample sizes ranged from n=37<sup>19</sup> to n=10,364<sup>6</sup>. All  
168 samples were mixed sex, with ages from 1 month<sup>20</sup> to 13 years<sup>21,22</sup>. Most studies used the  
169 English language version of the CEBQ (n=40). Seventeen studies provided data on all 8 CEBQ  
170 scales, while the remaining studies reported on a reduced subset of the scales (n=50). Various  
171 measures of adiposity were reported including BMI z-scores (n=45), BMI percentile (n=5), BMI  
172 (n=3), weight (n=1), body fat percentage (n=1), and weight-for-age z-scores (n=2), and two  
173 studies used multiple measures of adiposity (body fat percentage, muscle mass, and BMI z-  
174 score)<sup>23,24</sup>. Study quality was inconsistent; 23 were rated as poor on the NOS scale, and among  
175 these, two included separate ratings for sub cohort data which were deemed of higher  
176 quality<sup>25,26</sup> (**Table S2**)

177

#### 178 ***BEBQ studies (n=5)***

179 Five studies reported BEBQ data. Samples varied from n=31<sup>27</sup> to n=4804<sup>28</sup>. The BEBQ is  
180 designed for use with infants, explaining the younger age range observed (0 - 24 months of

181 age). All studies used the English version of the BEBQ, with most studies reported for all four  
182 BEBQ scales (n=4). Four studies elicited parent-reports of current appetitive traits, whilst one  
183 study used a combination of current and retrospective reports for the first 3 months of life<sup>29</sup>. With  
184 respect to outcome measures, three studies reported BMI and two BMI z-scores. Four studies  
185 were rated high quality based on the NOS criteria (see **Table S2**), with only one study rated  
186 lower quality<sup>27</sup>.

187

### 188 **Meta-analyses of cross-sectional CEBQ studies (n=27)**

189 In a random effects meta-analysis model, mean bivariate correlation coefficients for  
190 associations between the eight CEBQ scales and BMIz were combined (n=19 maximum). All  
191 estimates were significant and in expected directions; food approach scales (FR, EF, EOE, DD)  
192 were correlated positively, and food avoidant scales (SR, SE, FF, EUE) were negatively, with  
193 BMIz. All associations were small in size<sup>30</sup>. The largest associations were observed between FR  
194 and BMIz  $r=0.22$  (95% CI: 0.16, 0.29;  $I^2=88.0\%$ ;  $n=9463$ ), and between SR and BMIz  $r= -0.21$   
195 (95% CI: -0.24, -0.17;  $I^2=56.7\%$ ;  $n=9854$ ). Detailed summaries of the pooled effect estimates  
196 and their 95% CIs, for each CEBQ scale, are shown in **Table 6** and **Figure 2**.

197

198 In an overall random effects model pooling data from all eligible studies presenting regression  
199 coefficients between CEBQ scales and BMIz (n=13), the maximally adjusted standardized effect  
200 estimates ( $\beta$ ) were prioritised. If unavailable, the crude estimates (i.e. equivalent to a Pearson's  
201 correlation coefficient) were taken forward. Six out of eight scales were significantly associated  
202 with BMIz in the adjusted estimates in expected directions. Strongest associations were  
203 observed for SR  $\beta=-0.31$  (95% CI: -0.40, -0.23;  $I^2=94.0\%$ ;  $n=9800$ ) and FR  $\beta=0.22$  (95% CI:  
204 0.11, 0.34;  $I^2=93.2\%$ ;  $n=5707$ ) with BMIz. FF and DD were not significantly associated with  
205 BMIz. Full results for the overall pooled models, as well as the adjusted only and crude only  
206 meta-analyses are shown in **Table 7** and **Figure 3**.

207

### 208 **Narrative Review of CEBQ studies**

209 *Cross-sectional CEBQ studies*

210 In the 54 studies reporting on cross-sectional associations between the CEBQ and measures of  
211 adiposity, five appetitive traits were consistently associated with child adiposity in expected  
212 directions. Positive associations were reported for FR (24/29 studies), EF (21/28) and EOE  
213 (12/22), and negative associations for SR (22/25), SE (12/19) and SR/SE combined (2/2). Null  
214 associations were reported for EUE (10/17), FF (12/19) and DD (15/22). Descriptive summaries  
215 of these relationships are presented in **Table S3**.

216  
217 Nineteen cross-sectional studies reported data on differences in mean CEBQ scale scores by  
218 weight categories. There was substantial variability in number of categories (ranging from 2 to  
219 5), and the adiposity thresholds and reference data used to define them (see Table 2). Just over  
220 half (11/19) of studies tested for trends of linearity in scale scores across adiposity categories.  
221 Positive linear trends were observed for FR (10/10), EF (9/10), EOE (8/8) and DD (6/7), and  
222 negative linear trends for SR (7/7), SE (4/4), FF (4/7), and SR/SE (3/3). No association was  
223 observed for EUE (5/6). Findings are summarised in see **Table S4**.

224

#### 225 *Prospective CEBQ studies*

226 Only 11 studies explored prospective associations between the CEBQ and adiposity, all  
227 adjusting for baseline adiposity<sup>23–25,31–38</sup>. Most studies used BMIz (n=9), but BMI percentile  
228 (n=1), and multiple other indicators (n=1) were also reported. Six appetitive traits were  
229 consistently associated with child adiposity in expected directions, with positive associations for  
230 FR (6/8 studies), EF (5/7), EOE (5/5) and DD (3/3), and negative associations for SR (5/7) and  
231 SE (3/5). Null associations were reported for FF (4/5) and EUE (2/2). Studies reporting the  
232 opposite direction of influence (n=5), showed consistent positive associations between adiposity  
233 and later FR (4/5), EF (2/3) and EOE (2/3), and negative associations for SR (4/5). Of these,  
234 five studies also reported on the reverse relationships, from baseline CEBQ scores to later  
235 adiposity<sup>20,23,39–41</sup>. Only one study explored prospective relationships from adiposity to later  
236 appetitive traits, but did not examine bidirectionality<sup>42</sup>. Results are summarised in **Table S3**.

237

#### 238 ***BEBQ studies (n=5)***

239 Four of five identified studies explored prospective relationships between BEBQ scales and  
240 adiposity (Patel et al., 2017). Only two studies reported cross-sectional associations (Patel  
241 2018; Quah 2015), so meta-analysis for the BEBQ estimates was not undertaken. Positive  
242 associations with adiposity were reported for FR (3/5), EF (4/5) and GA (3/3), and negative  
243 associations for SR (2/4) and SE (3/3). A descriptive summary of the direction of the observed  
244 relationships in these papers is presented in **Table S3**.

245

## 246 **DISCUSSION**

247 The CEBQ and BEBQ were designed to capture individual differences in appetitive traits  
248 hypothesised to contribute to the development of overweight and underweight. These  
249 questionnaires have been used extensively since their inception, but this is the first systematic  
250 examination of relationships between appetitive traits, and measures of adiposity across  
251 childhood.

252

253 Pooled estimates based on 27 eligible studies for inclusion in the meta-analysis demonstrated  
254 that six CEBQ scales were associated with BMI z-scores in hypothesised directions. Three food  
255 approach scales (FR, EF, EOE) were consistently positively associated with adiposity, with the  
256 largest association observed for FR ( $r=.22$ ,  $\beta=.21$ ). Three food avoidant scales (SR, SE, EUE)  
257 were consistently negatively associated with adiposity, with the largest association observed for  
258 SR ( $r=-.21$ ,  $\beta=-.33$ ). In contrast, associations of DD and FF with BMI-z scores were mixed, with  
259 only studies reporting correlations yielding significant pooled estimates. Findings were broadly  
260 consistent across relationships evaluated in the narrative review and for the fewer BEBQ  
261 studies. For studies examining linearity of associations across weight categories, results were  
262 graded in the expected direction for all CEBQ scales except EUE, which was unrelated to  
263 weight status. The small number of studies reporting prospective relationships between appetite  
264 and adiposity suggested bidirectional associations.

265

266 Together these findings support the central hypothesis of behavioural susceptibility theory – that  
267 appetitive traits are a key behavioural mechanism that help to explain an individual's

268 susceptibility to gain excess weight (or not) in response to the obesogenic environment.  
269 However, findings also indicate that adiposity itself may lead to changes in appetite over time,  
270 such that children of higher adiposity develop increasingly avid appetites. Although future  
271 prospective studies are needed to reveal the direction of influence, this impact of weight on  
272 appetite is potentially problematic for weight loss interventions targeting eating behaviour and  
273 highlights the importance of obesity prevention and management of appetite from infancy.

274

275 The CEBQ was originally developed as a multi-dimensional measure of the appetitive traits  
276 implicated in the development of body weight in children. Most traits captured by the CEBQ  
277 were conceptualised based on existing literature examining dimensions of eating behaviour<sup>43</sup>.  
278 For example, FR and SR were developed from experimental laboratory studies which identified  
279 clusters of behaviours (e.g. eating without hunger, palatability responsiveness) linked to  
280 increased obesity risk<sup>43-45</sup>. Early work revealed differences in these traits, with greater  
281 responsiveness to food cues, and lower responsiveness to internal cues of satiety, observed in  
282 individuals with obesity, compared to those with a healthy weight<sup>43,45-47</sup>. However, two traits,  
283 EUE and DD, were added following open-ended parent interviews and these scales showed  
284 less clear adiposity relationships, possibly due to ambiguity in what they assess. For example,  
285 DD assesses general wanting for drinks, without specifying beverage types. Distinguishing  
286 between the preference for water versus a caloric beverage (e.g. sugar-sweetened drinks or  
287 milk) may be necessary to clarify associations with energy intake and therefore weight<sup>48</sup>. There  
288 were also inconsistencies in the EUE-adiposity relationship. EUE was commonly excluded from  
289 studies, resulting in a smaller analysis sample, so the inconsistency may have resulted from  
290 lower statistical power. Additionally, EUE scores may partly capture occurrence of a 'state', i.e.  
291 how often a child gets upset around mealtimes. For example, parents who pressure their  
292 children to eat may trigger a state of food anxiety, resulting in the expression of EUE behaviours  
293 regardless of their appetitive trait<sup>49,50</sup>.

294

295 The unclear relationship between FF and adiposity revealed is unsurprising. Food fussiness  
296 characterises two aspects: eating a limited range of foods, and refusal of unfamiliar foods ('food

297 neophobia'). Both behaviours contribute to lower dietary variety, which is associated with poorer  
298 diet quality. Parents worry about fussy eating because it could lead to a child eating too little, or  
299 consuming insufficient variety for optimal development<sup>51</sup>. FF *has* been associated with under-  
300 eating and failure to thrive in children<sup>52</sup> but also with overconsumption of energy dense foods<sup>53-</sup>  
301 <sup>55</sup>. FF may not confer risk of underweight if adequate quantities of food are consumed, even if  
302 diet quality remains poor.

303

304 The small number of studies (n=11) reporting prospective relationships between appetite and  
305 adiposity, limits our ability to draw conclusions regarding the likely direction of influence  
306 between appetitive traits and weight development. Even fewer studies (n=5) examined  
307 bidirectional relationships, but all were supportive of bidirectional associations. While tentative  
308 evidence supports the hypothesis that an avid appetite predisposes to weight gain, it is possible  
309 the influence of appetite on weight development is greater during infancy, with adiposity level  
310 becomes more important in shaping appetite later in childhood. The bidirectional studies  
311 identified vary widely in period of follow-up, age-range, and frequency of assessment. Further  
312 analysis of prospective data from birth are needed to understand dynamic changes in direction  
313 and strength of the appetite-adiposity relationship across childhood. Future studies should also  
314 consider methods for disentangling between-person from within-person effects and discounting  
315 effects of all time-invariant confounders (e.g. sex or ethnicity), thereby separating the within-  
316 person level from confounding group-level association and moving closer to true causation of  
317 the appetite-adiposity relationship<sup>56</sup>.

318

### 319 **Limitations**

320 Heterogeneity in reporting and in adiposity measures (e.g. BMI z-score versus BMI percentiles)  
321 prevented the inclusion of more studies in the meta-analytic model, and meta-analysis of  
322 prospective effect estimates. Additionally, we were unable to include several studies that  
323 modified the CEBQ from its original, validated form (n=18) – e.g. studies that dropped items  
324 from scales, moved items into other scales, split scales, or created new scores for scales.

325

326 Studies examining appetite in relation to weight status primarily focused on differences between  
327 children with healthy weight and overweight, rather than relationships between appetitive traits  
328 across the weight spectrum. Research in children with underweight is necessary to uncover how  
329 appetitive traits influence under-eating and the development of disordered eating behaviours, for  
330 example, to identify the age at which children might start to express active food restriction or  
331 excess consumption.

332

333 Only CEBQ and BEBQ-measured appetitive traits were included in this review. Other existing  
334 validated psychometric measures such as the DEBQ and Three Factor Eating Behaviour  
335 Questionnaire (TFEQ)<sup>47</sup> were not specifically developed for children, and capture a narrower  
336 range of appetitive traits. Confining our analysis to the CEBQ and BEBQ facilitates future  
337 comparisons across the life course via the Adult Eating Behaviour Questionnaire (AEBQ), which  
338 matches the appetitive trait factor structure of the CEBQ<sup>57</sup>.

339

340 Notwithstanding these limitations, our findings suggest interventions targeting appetitive traits  
341 may provide a novel opportunity in obesity prevention or treatment. Tailoring interventions to  
342 individuals' problematic appetitive traits may encourage behaviour change, influencing efficacy  
343 of lifestyle interventions (e.g. reducing emotional eating as a stress coping mechanism)<sup>58</sup>. E-  
344 health interventions show small positive effects of tailoring based on factors such as dietary  
345 intake, on weight loss success<sup>59,60</sup>. Preliminary research tailoring treatment targeting food-cue  
346 reactivity and satiety responsiveness in adults with binge eating demonstrated clear reductions  
347 in episodes of overeating, and BMI over a 4 month treatment period, with results maintained at  
348 3-month follow-up<sup>61</sup>. Future work aims to apply this approach to children<sup>62</sup>. Establishing optimal  
349 BEBQ or CEBQ scale cut-off values for prediction of the development of overweight would  
350 support this work by helping to identify children at risk, informing algorithms to support clinical  
351 decision-making, and highlighting the most effective appetitive traits to target to support healthy  
352 weight management.

353

354 **CONCLUSION**

355 The studies reviewed provide preliminary support for the hypothesis that a more avid appetite –  
356 higher scores on CEBQ and BEBQ food approach traits and lower scores on food avoidant  
357 traits – predisposes to excess weight gain and increased risk of overweight during childhood.  
358 However, evidence remains weak; most studies were cross-sectional, precluding conclusions  
359 about causal directions, and there were too few bidirectional prospective studies to detect  
360 effects reliably. More research is needed to establish the bidirectional relationship between  
361 appetite and adiposity at different developmental stages. Nevertheless, this is the most  
362 comprehensive synthesis of published evidence on the relationship between appetitive traits  
363 and adiposity in childhood to date. Results provide a foundation for future prospective research  
364 to understand how appetitive traits mediate the influence of the obesogenic environment on  
365 body weight trajectories.

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## Figure Legends

**Figure 1.** PRISMA flow diagram describing identification of literature for inclusion in this systematic review and meta-analysis

**Figure 2. Part A-H.** Pooled effect estimates for unadjusted correlation coefficients with BMI z-scores, by CEBQ scale.

**Figure 3. Part A-H.** Pooled effect estimates for regression coefficients with BMI z-scores, by CEBQ subscales.

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**Table 1.** Summary characteristics for cross-sectional CEBQ studies (n=43) included in narrative review.

Author, date	Country	Participants			CEBQ measure		Outcome: weight	CEBQ traits associated with weight		
		Cohort	N, gender %	Age range/ mean (SD±)	Sub-scales	Language	Measure (reference data)	Positive	Negative	None
<b>Carnell &amp; Wardle, 2008<sup>a</sup></b>	UK	TEDS & Community sample	10364, 51.5% F; 572, 46.9% F	8-11 (9.9 ±0.86), 3-5 (4.4±0.62)	EF, SR/SE (combined) <sup>g</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	EF	SR/SE	-
<b>Cao, 2012</b>	China	Community sample	219, 47.9% F	12-18m	EOE, DD <sup>h</sup>	Chinese (Mandarin) <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (Chinese ref data)	-	-	EOE, DD
<b>Bergmeier, 2014</b>	Australia	Community sample	201, 57.7% F	2-5y (2.92 ±0.75)	FF, EF	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	EF	-	FF
<b>Boswell, 2018<sup>a</sup></b>	Australia	Community sample	977, 50.6% F	2-4.9y (3.4 y)	FR, EF, SR, SE, FF	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR, FF	SE
<b>Braden, 2014<sup>b</sup></b>	USA	Community sample	106, 54.7% F	8-12 (10.34 ±1.31)	EOE	English	BMI percentile (CDC)	-	-	EOE
<b>Brown, 2012</b>	Wales	Community sample	298, NP	18-24m	FR, SR	English	Weight	-	-	FR, SR
<b>Cross, 2014<sup>a, b</sup></b>	USA	Community sample	299, 50.3% F	4-5 y	FR, EF, SR	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR	
<b>Demir, 2017</b>	Turkey	Primary school children	1201, (NP)	6-14 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Turkish <sup>3</sup>	BMI (WHO)	FR, EOE, EF	SR, FF	DD, EUE, SE
<b>Domoff, 2015<sup>a, b</sup></b>	USA	Appetite, Behavior, and Cortisol [ABC] Cohort + "Growing Healthy" cohort	1002, 50.7% F	4.05 y (0.53±)	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF, EOE	SR, SE, EUE, FF	DD
<b>Emond, 2017<sup>a, b</sup></b>	USA	Community sample	178, 51.1% F	9-10 y	FR, EF, SR	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	EF, FR	SR	-
<b>Escobar, 2014<sup>a, b, d</sup></b>	Canada	MAVAN	340, 50% F	48-72m	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI z-scores	FR, EF, DD, EOE	SR, FF, EUE	SE

Author, date	Country	Participants			CEBQ measure		Outcome: weight	CEBQ traits associated with weight		
		Cohort	N, gender %	Age range/ mean (SD±)	Sub-scales	Language	Measure (reference data)	Positive	Negative	None
Frankel, 2014 <sup>a</sup>	USA	Head Start Cohort	296, 51% F	4.42 (±0.71)	SR, FR, EF	English + Spanish) <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR	
Fuemmeler, 2013 <sup>a, b</sup>	USA	AMP Too for Twos	213, 44% F	2.1 (±0.11)	FR, EF, DD, SR/SE <sup>g</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF, DD	SR/SE	-
Gregory, 2010 <sup>a</sup>	Australia	The Child & Family Health Study		2-4 y; 3.3 (±0.8)	FR <sup>i</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR	-	-
Hankey, 2016 <sup>a</sup>	USA	Community sample	104, 51% F	3-5 y	SR, FR, EF, EOE	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR	EOE
Hardman, 2016 <sup>a, b</sup>	UK	Community sample	77, 51% F	3-12 y	EOE	English	BMI z-score (WHO)	EOE	-	-
Haycraft, 2011 <sup>a, b</sup>	UK	Community sample	241, 45% F	3-8 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI z-scores (CGF)	FR, EOE, DD	SE	SR, EUE, FF, EF
Hayes, 2016 <sup>a</sup>	USA	Family-based behavioural treatment	170, 61.2% F	7-11 y (9.41 ±1.23)	FF	English	BMI z-scores (CDC 2000)	-	-	FF
Jansen, 2012 <sup>a</sup>	Netherlands	Generation R cohort	4987, 49.9% F	4 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, FF, EUE	Dutch <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (Dutch national data)	FR, EF	EUE, SR, FF	EOE, DD
Koch, 2014 <sup>a</sup>	Germany	PIER cohort	1657, 52.1% F	6-11 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD	German	BMI z-scores (German national data)	FR, EOE, DD, EF	-	-
Larsen, 2017 <sup>a</sup>	Netherlands	School-based sample	206, 50.5% F	7-12 y (9.5 ±1.4)	FR	Dutch <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-score (Dutch national data)	FR	-	-
Lipowska, 2018	Poland	Community sample	387, 55.1% F	5 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Polish	BF%	Girls: FR (BF%) Boys: EOE (BF%)	Girls: SR (BF%) Boys: EUE (BF%)	-
Loh, 2013 <sup>a</sup>	Malaysia	Community sample	646, 73.2% F	13 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, EUE, SE <sup>j</sup>	Malay <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	-	-	EF, EOE, FR, DD, EUE, SE

Author, date	Country	Participants			CEBQ measure		Outcome: weight	CEBQ traits associated with weight		
		Cohort	N, gender %	Age range/ mean (SD±)	Sub-scales	Language	Measure (reference data)	Positive	Negative	None
<b>Lora, 2016<sup>b</sup></b>	USA	Community sample	110, 53.6% F	2-5 y	FR, EF, DD	English + Spanish	BMI percentile (CDC)	-	-	FR, EF, DD
<b>Mallan, 2013<sup>e</sup></b>	Australia	NOURISH cohort	244, 52% F	24 m (1±)	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	Weight-for-age z-scores (WHO)	-	SR, SE	FF, EUE, FR, EF, DD, EOE
<b>McPhie, 2011<sup>a</sup></b>	Australia	Community sample	175, 53.7% F	2-5 y (2.83 ±0.72)	FF	English	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	-	-	FF
<b>Parkinson, 2010</b>	UK	Gateshead Millennium Study	492 (T1), 583 (T2), 50% F	5-8 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI	FR, EF	SR, SE, EUE	DD, EOE, FF
<b>Pesch, 2018</b>	USA	Community sample	223, 47.5% F	4-8y	FR, EF, SR <sup>k</sup>	English	BMI z-scores	FR, EF	SR	
<b>Quah, 2017<sup>a, b</sup></b>	Singapore	GUSTO	636, 47.8% F	3.06 (±0.1)	SR, SE, DD, EUE, FF <sup>l</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (WHO 2006)	-	SR, SE, EUE	DD, FF
<b>Roach, 2017</b>	USA	The Healthy Family Study	64, 44.3% F	3-6 y	FR, EF, EOE, SR.	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EOE, EF	SR	-
<b>Rudy, 2016<sup>a</sup></b>	USA	Pre-school sample	181, 48.1% F	4-5 y	FR, SR, EF	English + Spanish <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR	-
<b>Sanchez, 2016<sup>a, b</sup></b>	Chile	GOCS cohort	1058, 51% F	7-10 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Chilean-Spanish <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (WHO)	EF, EOE, FR, DD	SR, SE, FF	EUE
<b>Silva Garcia, 2016<sup>a, b</sup></b>	USA	Community sample	186, 47.6% F	4-5 y (4.34 ±0.48)	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English & Spanish	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR, SE	EOE, DD, FF, EUE
<b>Sleddens, 2008<sup>a</sup></b>	Netherlands	School-based sample	135, 49.6% F	6-7 y	EF, SR, SE, FF <sup>m</sup>	Dutch <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (Dutch national data)	EF	SR, SE	DD, EUE
<b>Somaraki, 2018</b>	Sweden	Swedish Population Registry Community sample Childhood obesity RCT	Cohort 1: 876, Cohort 2: 353, Cohort 3: 147,	3-8 yrs 3-8 yrs 3-8 yrs	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Swedish	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	Results stratified by country of origin (n = 74). See original paper for full details.		

Author, date	Country	Participants			CEBQ measure		Outcome: weight	CEBQ traits associated with weight		
		Cohort	N, gender %	Age range/ mean (SD±)	Sub-scales	Language	Measure (reference data)	Positive	Negative	None
<b>Soussigan, 2012</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	France	Community sample	40, 45% F	6-11 y	FR, EOE, DD, SR, SE	French	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	FR, DD	SR, SE	EOE
<b>Svensson, 2011</b>	Sweden	Early STOPP cohort	174, 50% F	1-6 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Swedish <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (French ref data)	-	-	FR, EF, EOE, DD, EUE, FF, SE, SR
<b>Tay, 2016</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	Malaysia	SEANUTS	1782, 51.4% F	7-12 y	DD, EUE, FF, SE, SR <sup>n</sup>	Malaysian <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (WHO)	DD	SR, SE, FF, EUE	
<b>Viana, 2008</b> <sup>a</sup>	UK	Convenience sample	240, 52% F	3-13 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Portuguese <sup>f</sup>	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF, EOE	SE, SR, EUE	DD, FF
<b>Vollmer, 2015</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	USA	Preschool children	150, 45% F	3-5 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EOE	SR	EF, DD, SE, EUE, FF
<b>Webber, 2009</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	UK	PEACHES	270, 49% F	7-9 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR/SE, FF, EUE <sup>g</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	FR, EOE, EF, DD	SR/SE, FF	EUE
<b>McCarthy, 2015</b> <sup>b, c</sup>	Ireland	The Cork BASELINE birth cohort	1189, 50% F	2 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI percentiles (WHO)			
<b>Sanlier, 2016</b> <sup>c</sup>	Turkey	Community sample	520, 49% F	2-12 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Turkish	BMI z-scores (WHO)			

**Abbreviations:** N = Population; SD = Standard Deviation; BMI = Body Mass Index; F = female; FR = Food responsiveness; SR = Satiety responsiveness; EOE = Emotional over-eating; DD = desire to drink; EF = Enjoyment of food; EUE = Emotional under-eating; SE = Slowness in eating; FF = Food fussiness; CDC = Centre for Disease Control; WHO = World Health Organisation; IOTF = International Obesity Task Force; CGF = Child Growth Foundation Reference curves 1996; NP = Not provided; N = Number; y = years. **Cohort acronyms:** Generation R = A population-based birth cohort in the Netherlands followed prospectively; PEACHES = Physical Exercise and Appetite in Children Study; TEDS = Twins Early Development Study; FBBT = Family Based Behavioural Treatment; NOURISH = Intervention/ Randomised Controlled Trial designed to educate paternal feeding practices and promote healthier food intake; The Cork BASELINE Birth Cohort Study = Babies After SCOPE: Evaluating the Longitudinal Impact on Neurological and Nutritional Endpoints Birth Cohort Study; GMS = Gateshead Millennium Study; GOCS = Growth and Obesity Chilean Cohort Study; TESS = Trondheim Early Secure Study; Healthy You! University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital Pediatric Weight Management Clinic; ABCD = Amsterdam Born Children and their Development cohort.

<sup>a</sup> Indicates studies included in the meta-analysis

<sup>b</sup> Indicates studies for which authors provided additional data.

<sup>c</sup> Indicates studies where data were analysed using logistic regression, and the results were presented as odds ratios.

[Sanlier et al (2018) used multiple logistic regression models for the association between CEBQ scales and BMI z-scores, stratified by weight status: FF was significant negatively associated in the overweight ( $B = -.54$ ,  $p=.01$ ) and obese weight category ( $B = -.058$ ,  $p<.01$ ). EF was significantly positively associated ( $B = .65$ ,  $p=.04$ ) in the normal weight category. All other traits were null associations. McCartney et al. (2015) reported odds ratio (OR) for overweight/obesity by CEBQ traits; EF (OR =1.90, 95% confidence interval (CI)=1.46–2.48), FR (OR=1.73, 95% CI=1.47–2.03; all  $p<0.001$ ), SR (OR=0.56, 95% CI = 0.43-0.73;  $p<.001$ ), SE (OR = 0.57, 95% CI = 0.45, 0.73;  $p<.001$ ), FF (OR = 0.70, 95% CI = 0.56-0.88;  $p=0.002$ ). EUE, EOE, DD not significant.]

<sup>d</sup> Escobar et al (2014) data presented in the table are for baseline results at 48 months.

<sup>e</sup> Data reported in Mallan et al (2014) were taken from both the intervention and control groups of NOURISH. The intervention group received education sessions aimed to improve parental feeding practices and influence infants' food intake and eating habits. It is therefore important to note that the results presented could be influenced by the effect of intervention.

<sup>f</sup> Denotes validated translated versions of the CEBQ.

**Modifications to CEBQ subscales (\*\*scales that were modified from original format were excluded from review)**

<sup>g</sup> SR + SE combined

<sup>h</sup> FR split into two scales. One SE item dropped. 3 FF items dropped. SR dropped.

<sup>i</sup> FF scale split into two

<sup>j</sup> FF split in two, with 2 SR items added in FF1

<sup>k</sup> SR reverse scored

<sup>l</sup> FR, EOE and EF subscales changed.

<sup>m</sup> EOE+FR combined to new EOE scale

<sup>n</sup> 1 item dropped from EOE & items moved from EOE, EF into FR

**Table 2.** Summary characteristics for cross-sectional studies comparing mean CEBQ scale scores across weight categories and testing for linearity of trends (n=19)

Author, date	Country	Participants			CEBQ measure		Outcome: weight	
		Cohort	N, Gender % F	Age range/ mean (SD±)	Sub-scales	Language	Measure (reference data)	Weight categories used
<b>Carnell &amp; Wardle, 2008</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	UK	TEDS & Community sample	10364, 51.5% F; 572, 46.9% F	8-11 (9.9 ±0.86), 3-5 (4.4 ±0.62)	EF, SR/SE (combined) <sup>e</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	Low-normal, mid-norm, high, very high
<b>Boswell, 2018</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	Australia	Community sample	977, 50.6% F	2-4.9y (3.4 y)	FR, EF, SR, SE, FF	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	UW, NW, OW, OB
<b>Crocker, 2011</b>	UK	PEACHES & TEDS; FBBT sample	406, 54% F; 66, 68% F	7-12 y; 8-13 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR/SE, FF, EUE <sup>e</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	UW, NW, OW, OB, Clinically OB
<b>de Groot, 2017</b>	Netherlands	Community sample	44, 50%	12-16y	FR, SR, EF, EOE, DD	Dutch	BMI SDS (NP)	NW, OW
<b>dos Passos, 2015</b>	Brazil	Community sample	335, 51.3% F	6-10 y (7.33 ±0.87)	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, EUE, FF	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)	NW, OW, OB, Severe OB
<b>Gardner, 2015</b>	USA	Community sample	64, 49.4% F	5-6 y	FR, EF, SR	English	BMI-for-age percentile (CDC 2000)	NW, OB
<b>Ho-Urriola, 2014</b>	Chile	Community sample	377, 51.3% F	6-12 y (10.1 ±2)	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, EUE, FF	Chilean	BMI percentiles (CDC 2000)	NW, OB
<b>Jahnke, 2008</b>	Germany	Community sample	142, 36% F	3-6 y (4.2 ±1)	FR	German	BMI z-scores (German national data)	UW, NW, OW, OB
<b>McCarthy, 2015</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	Ireland	The Cork BASELINE birth cohort	1189, 50% F	2 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI percentiles (WHO)	UW, NW, OW/OB
<b>Mosli, 2015</b>	USA	Community sample	274, 49.3% F	4-8 y	SR, SE, FF	English	BMI percentiles (CDC 2000)	NW (<85th), OW/OB (85th>)

<b>Obregon, 2017</b>	Chile	Community sample	258, 44% F	8-14 y (11.4 ±1.6)	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, EUE, FF	Chilean	BMI percentiles (CDC 2000 + WHO 2006)	NW, OW, OB
<b>Parkinson, 2010</b> <sup>a, b, c</sup>	UK	Gateshead Millennium Study	492 (T1), 583 (T2), 50% F	5-8 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI	BMI centile lowest, middle, highest
<b>Powers, 2016</b>	USA	Community sample	296, 48% F	2-5y	FR <sup>f</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	UW, NW, at-risk for OW, OW
<b>Sanchez, 2016</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	Chile	GOCS cohort	1058, 51% F	7-10 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Chilean-Spanish <sup>d</sup>	BMI z-scores (WHO)	NW, OW, OB
<b>Soussigan, 2012</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	France	Community sample	40, 45% F	6-11 y	FR, EOE, DD, SR, SE	French	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	NW, OW
<b>Spence, 2011</b>	Canada	Community sample	1730, 48.9% F	4-5 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI (CDC + IOTF classification)	UW, NW, at-risk for OW, OW
<b>Webber, 2009</b> <sup>a, b</sup>	UK	PEACHES	270, 49% F	7-9 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR/SE, FF, EUE <sup>e</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	Thinness grade 1/2, low NW 50th centile or less, mid normal weight >50th but not OW, OW/OB
<b>Sandvik, 2018</b>	Sweden	Swedish Registry sample	1272, 47% F	3.3-7.9y (4.9 ±0.8)	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Swedish	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	Thinness (BMI <18.5kg/m <sup>2</sup> ), NW, OW, OB
<b>Sanlier, 2016</b> <sup>c</sup>	Turkey	Community sample	520, 49% F	2-12 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Turkish	BMI z-score (WHO)	UW, NW, OW, OB

<sup>a</sup> Indicates studies also reporting continuous associations between CEBQ and adiposity; these are included in this section of the narrative review.

<sup>b</sup> Indicates studies included in the meta-analysis.

<sup>c</sup> Indicates the study also reporting prospective association between CEBQ and adiposity.

<sup>d</sup> Denotes validated translated versions of the CEBQ.

<sup>e</sup> SR + SE combined

**Modifications to CEBQ subscales (\*\*scales that were modified from original format were excluded from review)**

<sup>f</sup> DD item dropped

**Abbreviations:** N = Population; SD = Standard Deviation; BMI = Body Mass Index; F = female; FR = Food responsiveness; SR = Satiety responsiveness; EOE = Emotional over-eating; DD = desire to drink; EF = Enjoyment of food; EUE = Emotional under-eating; SE = Slowness in eating; FF = Food fussiness; CDC = Centre for Disease Control; WHO = World Health Organisation; IOTF = International Obesity Task Force; NP = Not provided; y = years;

**Cohort acronyms:** TEDS = Twins Early Development Study; GOCS = Growth and Obesity Chilean Cohort Study; PEACHES = Physical Exercise and Appetite in Children Study; FBBT = Family Based Behavioural Treatment

**Table 3.** Summary characteristics for prospective studies examining associations between CEBQ scales at baseline and later adiposity (n=11)

Author, date	Country	Participants			CEBQ measure		Outcome weight Measure (reference data)	Associations between CEBQ scales and later adiposity (CEBQ → BMI z- score)		
		Cohort	N, gender %	Age range/ mean (SD±)	Sub-scales	Language		Significant Positive	Significant Negative	Null
<b>Mallan, 2016<sup>a</sup></b>	Australia	NOURISH	340, F 53.5%	14m - 3.7y	FF	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)		FF	
<b>Mallan, 2014<sup>a</sup></b>	Australia	NOURISH	37 <sup>i</sup> (Control n=20, Intervention n =17), 57% F	2-4 y	FR, EF, SR, SE	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)		SR	FR, EF, SE
<b>McPhie, 2012<sup>b</sup></b>	Australia	Community sample	117, F 53.8%	2-5 y	FF <sup>i</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)			FF
<b>Quah, 2015<sup>c</sup></b>	Malaysia	GUSTO	210 (T2 = 205, T3 = 162, T4 = 179), F 49.5%	12-24m	SR, SE <sup>j</sup>	Malaysian <sup>h</sup>	BMI z-scores (WHO)			SR, SE
<b>Steinsbekk, 2015</b>	Norway	TESS	996 (T1=4y) 658 (T2=6y) 675 (T3=8y)	4-8 y	FR, EF, EOE, SR, SE	Norwegian <sup>h</sup>	BMI z-scores	FR, EF, EOE		SR, SE
<b>Derks, 2018<sup>d</sup></b>	Netherlan ds	Generation R	3514, (T1- 4y) 3097, (T2- 6y) 3331, (T3- 9.8y), F 51.3%	4-10 y	FR, EOE, EF, SR/SE <sup>k</sup>	Dutch <sup>h</sup>	BMI z-scores, FMI, FFMI (Dutch growth reference curves)	EOE		FR, EF, SR
<b>Steinsbekk, 2017<sup>d, e</sup></b>	Norway	TESS	807, F 50.2%	6-10 y	FR, SR	Norwegian <sup>h</sup>	BF%, MM%	FR (BF%)		SR (BF%)
<b>Bjorklund, 2018<sup>e</sup></b>	Norway	TESS	797 (T1 - 6.7y) 699 (T2 - 8.8y) 702 (T4 - 10.5y), F 50.2%	6-10 y	FR	Norwegian <sup>h</sup>	BMI z-scores	FR		
<b>Bergmeier, 2014</b>	Australia	Community sample	201, F 56.7%	2-5 y	FF, EF	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)			FF, EF
<b>Escobar, 2014<sup>e, f, g</sup></b>	Canada	MAVAN	340 (48m), 278 (60m), 221	48-72m	FR, EOE, DD, EF, EUE, SE, SR, FF	English	BMI z-scores	FR, EF, DD, EOE	SR, SE	FF, EUE

			(72m), F 54.1%								
<b>Parkinson, 2010</b>	UK	GMS	492 (5-6y) 583 (6-8y)	6-8 y	FR, EOE, DD, EF, EUE, SE, SR, FF	English	BMI percentiles (Cohort mean)	FR, EOE, EF, DD	SR, SE	EUE, FF	

**Abbreviations:** N = Population; SD = Standard Deviation; BMI = Body Mass Index; F = female; FR = Food responsiveness; SR = Satiety responsiveness; EOE = Emotional over-eating; DD = desire to drink; EF = Enjoyment of food; EUE = Emotional under-eating; SE = Slowness in eating; FF = Food fussiness; CDC = Centre for Disease Control; WHO = World Health Organisation; IOTF = International Obesity Task Force; NP = Not provided; y = years; FMI = Fat Mass Index, FFMI = Fat Free Mass Index.

**Cohort acronyms:** Generation R = A population-based birth cohort in the Netherlands followed prospectively; NOURISH = Intervention/ Randomised Controlled Trial designed to educate paternal feeding practices and promote healthier food intake GMS = Gateshead Millennium Study; TESS = Trondheim Early Secure study; ABCD = Amsterdam Born Children and their Development cohort

<sup>a</sup> Data for Mallan et al (2014, 2016) were taken from both the intervention and control groups of NOURISH. The intervention group received education sessions aimed to improve parental feeding practices and influence infants' food intake and eating habits. It is therefore important to note that the results presented could be influenced by the effect of intervention.

<sup>b</sup> EF subscale result reported in paper, but subscale coding was modified in McPhie et al (2012). Results for EF have been excluded. Association between FF and BMI z-score in this study are based on change in FF with change in BMI z-score.

<sup>c</sup> Quah et al (2015) merged the FR & EF subscales, these observations have been excluded from the table above.

<sup>d</sup> Indicates studies that reported on the bidirectional relationship between appetite and adiposity.

<sup>e</sup> When multiple time waves of data are presented at the individual study level, the longest time period is summarised in the table above.

<sup>f</sup> Authors provided additional data.

<sup>g</sup> Prospective associations presented for the MAVAN cohort (Escobar et al, 2014) are based on additional data obtained from the study authors for all CEBQ subscales (results presented are for BMI z-score at 48m to CEBQ measured at 72 m).

<sup>h</sup> Denotes validated translated versions of the CEBQ.

**Modifications to CEBQ subscales (\*\*scales that were modified from original format were excluded from review)**

<sup>i</sup> EF item dropped from scale

<sup>j</sup> FR and EF subscales adapted

<sup>k</sup> SR/SE combined

**Table 4.** Summary characteristics for CEBQ prospective studies (n=5) reporting on relationship between adiposity and later appetite

Author, date	Country	Direction	Participants			CEBQ measure		Outcome weight Measure (reference data)	Adiposity associated with CEBQ		
			Cohort	N, gender %	Age range	Sub-scales	Language		Positive	Negative	None
Steinsbekk, 2015	Norway	BMI → CEBQ	TESS	996 (T1=4y) 658 (T2=6y) 675 (T3=8y)	4-8 y	FR, EF, EOE, SR, SE	Norwegian <sup>c</sup>	BMI z-score	FR	SR	EF, SE, EOE
Steinsbekk, 2016	Norway	BMI → CEBQ	TESS	797 <sup>k</sup> , 50.2% F	6-8 y	FR, EF, EOE, SR, SE	Norwegian <sup>c</sup>	BMI z-scores	FR	SR	EF, SE, EOE
Derks, 2018 <sup>d</sup>	Netherlands	BMI → CEBQ	Generation R	3514, (T1- 4y) 3097, (T2- 6y) 3331, (T3- 9.8y), F 51.3%	4-10 y	FR, EOE, EF, SR/SE <sup>f</sup>	Dutch <sup>c</sup>	BMI z-scores, FMI, FFMI (Dutch growth reference curves)	FR, EOE, EF	SR	
Steinsbekk, 2017 <sup>d</sup>	Norway	BF% → CEBQ	TESS	807, F 50.2%	6-10 y	FR, SR	Norwegian <sup>c</sup>	BF%, MM%	FR (BF%)	SR (BF%)	
van Deutekom, 2016 <sup>a, b</sup>	Netherlands	Δweight-for-age z-score → CEBQ	ABCD	2227, F 48.7%	0-5 y	SR	Dutch <sup>c</sup>	Weight-for-age z-scores (Study population)		SR 0-1m, 1-3m, 3-6m, 6-12m, 12-5 y.	Birth weight

**Abbreviations:** N = Population; BMI = Body Mass Index; F = female; FR = Food responsiveness; SR = Satiety responsiveness; EOE = Emotional over-eating; DD = desire to drink; EF = Enjoyment of food; EUE = Emotional under-eating; SE = Slowness in eating; FF = Food fussiness; y = years; FMI = Fat Mass Index, FFMI = Fat Free Mass Index.

**Cohort acronyms:** Generation R = A population-based birth cohort in the Netherlands followed prospectively; TESS = Trondheim Early Secure study; ABCD = Amsterdam Born Children and their Development cohort

<sup>a</sup> van Deutekom et al (2016) reported on the relationship of conditional weight gain to SR.

<sup>b</sup> Authors provided additional data.

<sup>c</sup> Denotes validated translated versions of the CEBQ.

<sup>d</sup> Indicates studies that reported on the bidirectional relationship between adiposity and appetite.

<sup>f</sup> SR/SE combined

**Table 5.** Summary characteristics for BEBQ cross-sectional and prospective studies (n = 5) included in the narrative review.

Author, date	Country	Design	Participants			BEBQ measure		Outcome: weight Measure (reference data)	BEBQ traits associated with weight		
			Cohort	N, gender %	Age range/mean (SD±)	Sub-scales	Language		Positive	Negative	None
<b>Mallan, 2014</b>	Australia	Prospective	New Beginnings: Healthy Mothers and Babies Study	467, F 50%	4 m (±0.6)	FR, EF, SE, SR	English	BMI, Weight-for -age z-score (WHO)	EF	SR, SE	FR
<b>Quah, 2015</b>	Singapore	Prospective	GUSTO	210, F 50.5%	0-24 m	EF, FR, SE/SR <sup>a</sup>	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)	FR	SE/SR	EF
<b>Shepard, 2015</b>	USA	Prospective	Community	31, F 39%	0.5-5 m	EF, FR, SE, SR, GA	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)	EF, FR, GA	SE	SR
<b>van Jaarsveld, 2011</b>	UK	Prospective	Gemini	4804, F 50.3%	3-15 m/8.2 m (±2.2)	EF, FR, SE, SR, GA	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	EF, FR, GA	SR, SE	
<b>Patel, 2018</b>	UK	Cross-sectional	UPBEAT	353	6 m	SE, FR, EF, GA	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)	GA		SE, FR, EF

**Abbreviations:** N = Population; SD = Standard Deviation; BMI = Body Mass Index; F = female; FR = Food responsiveness; SR = Satiety responsiveness; EF = Enjoyment of food; SE = Slowness in eating; GA = General Appetite; WHO = World Health Organisation; m = months

**Cohort acronyms:** GUSTO = Growing Up in Singapore Toward healthy Outcomes, UPBEAT = UK Pregnancies Better Eating and Activity Trial.

<sup>a</sup> SR + SE combined

**Table 6.** Results from random effects meta-analysis of studies examining correlation of CEBQ scales with BMI z-scores (only unadjusted correlation coefficients<sup>a</sup>)

CEBQ scale	r	95 % CI	I <sup>2</sup> (%)	P-value for heterogeneity	Sub-cohorts (n)	n
FR	0.22	(0.16, 0.29)	88.0	0.00	19	9463
EF	0.17	(0.14, 0.20)	49.4	0.00	19	20416
EOE	0.15	(0.08, 0.22)	82.9	0.00	11	7038
DD	0.10	(0.04, 0.15)	82.9	0.00	10	9219
SR	-0.21	(-0.24, -0.17)	56.7	0.00	17	9854
SE	-0.15	(-0.21, -0.10)	64.8	0.00	8	5192
FF	-0.08	(-0.10, -0.06)	0.00	0.99	11	8855
EUE	-0.09	(-0.11, -0.06)	8.00	0.37	7	7330

<sup>a</sup>Data for Haycraft et al (2011) were reported as adjusted in the original study. Authors provided raw data to calculate the unadjusted correlation coefficients, and these were subsequently were pooled in the model presented above.

**Table 7.** Results from random effects meta-analysis of studies examining regression of BMI z-scores on CEBQ scales, stratified by level of adjustment

CEBQ scale	β	95 % CI	I <sup>2</sup> (%)	P-value for heterogeneity	Sub-cohorts (n)	n
<b>Overall</b>						
FR	<b>0.21</b>	(0.13, 0.28)	89.9	0.00	13	8284
EF	<b>0.20</b>	(0.12, 0.27)	90.9	0.00	15	8715
EOE	<b>0.22</b>	(0.13, 0.31)	87.2	0.00	12	4149
DD	0.03	(-0.03, 0.08)	73.4	0.00	11	6020
SR	<b>-0.33</b>	(-0.40, -0.23)	94.0	0.00	14	9800
SE	<b>-0.19</b>	(-0.25, -0.12)	85.6	0.00	12	6889
FF	-0.04	(-0.08, 0.01)	76.0	0.00	15	10053
EUE	<b>-0.04</b>	(-0.08, -0.01)	48.0	0.03	13	9339
<b>Crude-only</b>						
FR	<b>0.19</b>	(0.11, 0.27)	83.4	0.00	7	5734
EF	<b>0.20</b>	(0.12, 0.28)	86.8	0.00	8	6030
EOE	<b>0.20</b>	(0.08, 0.32)	88.9	0.00	6	4621
DD	-0.07	(-0.28, 0.14)	96.8	0.00	5	4653
SR	<b>-0.30</b>	(-0.42, -0.17)	94.5	0.00	7	5817
SE	<b>-0.13</b>	(-0.20, -0.06)	51.0	0.00	4	2260
FF	-0.04	(-0.10, 0.02)	67.1	0.01	6	5630
EUE	<b>-0.05</b>	(-0.12, 0.03)	68.9	0.02	4	4440
<b>Adjusted-only</b>						
FR	<b>0.22</b>	(0.11, 0.34)	93.2	0.00	7	5707
EF	<b>0.18</b>	(0.07, 0.30)	93.1	0.00	8	5842
EOE	<b>0.20</b>	(0.09, 0.32)	88.1	0.00	7	2685
DD	0.04	(-0.03, 0.11)	78.1	0.00	7	4524
SR	<b>-0.31</b>	(-0.41, -0.22)	93.3	0.00	8	7140
SE	<b>-0.21</b>	(-0.31, -0.11)	89.5	0.00	8	4629
FF	-0.05	(-0.11, 0.01)	79.6	0.00	10	7580
EUE	<b>-0.05</b>	(-0.09, -0.02)	45.7	0.06	10	8056

Pooled effect estimates are presented by level of study adjustment reported at the individual study level.

The 'Overall' pooled model exclusively includes observations from the maximum number of studies, primarily including adjusted estimates for studies that provided such data. If not available, then unadjusted data were included.

The 'Crude-only' model exclusively includes observations from any study that provided unadjusted data.

The 'Adjusted-only' model exclusively includes observations from any study that provided unadjusted data.

Statistically significant estimates have been bolded.