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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^{1,2}. BST proposes that differences in
40 appetite determine why some people over- or under-eat, and others do not, in response to
41 environmental opportunity³. 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^{4,5}, appetitive traits have a strong
46 genetic basis⁶⁻⁸, and studies using measured genetic obesity risk indicate that appetite
47 mediates the association between obesity-associated genetic variants and adiposity^{9,10}. The
48 parent-report Child Eating Behaviour Questionnaire (CEBQ),¹¹ 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 life¹².

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])¹³, 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^{11,12}.

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**¹⁴).

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 (β). 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 estimates¹⁵. 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 ($n=1$))¹⁶.

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 estimate¹⁵. 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 size¹⁷. 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 bias¹⁸. 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=37¹⁹ to n=10,364⁶. All
168 samples were mixed sex, with ages from 1 month²⁰ to 13 years^{21,22}. 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)^{23,24}. 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^{25,26} (**Table S2**)

177

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

179 Five studies reported BEBQ data. Samples varied from n=31²⁷ to n=4804²⁸. 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 life²⁹. 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 quality²⁷.

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 size³⁰. 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 (β) 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^{23–25,31–38}. 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^{20,23,39–41}. Only one study explored prospective relationships from adiposity to later
236 appetitive traits, but did not examine bidirectionality⁴². 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 behaviour⁴³.
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 risk⁴³⁻⁴⁵. 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^{43,45-47}. 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 weight⁴⁸. 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^{49,50}.

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 development⁵¹. FF *has* been associated with under-
300 eating and failure to thrive in children⁵² but also with overconsumption of energy dense foods⁵³⁻
301 ⁵⁵. 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 relationship⁵⁶.

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)⁴⁷ 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 CEBQ⁵⁷.

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)⁵⁸. E-
344 health interventions show small positive effects of tailoring based on factors such as dietary
345 intake, on weight loss success^{59,60}. 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-up⁶¹. Future work aims to apply this approach to children⁶². 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
Carnell & Wardle, 2008^a	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) ^g	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	EF	SR/SE	-
Cao, 2012	China	Community sample	219, 47.9% F	12-18m	EOE, DD ^h	Chinese (Mandarin) ^f	BMI z-scores (Chinese ref data)	-	-	EOE, DD
Bergmeier, 2014	Australia	Community sample	201, 57.7% F	2-5y (2.92 ±0.75)	FF, EF	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	EF	-	FF
Boswell, 2018^a	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
Braden, 2014^b	USA	Community sample	106, 54.7% F	8-12 (10.34 ±1.31)	EOE	English	BMI percentile (CDC)	-	-	EOE
Brown, 2012	Wales	Community sample	298, NP	18-24m	FR, SR	English	Weight	-	-	FR, SR
Cross, 2014^{a, b}	USA	Community sample	299, 50.3% F	4-5 y	FR, EF, SR	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR	
Demir, 2017	Turkey	Primary school children	1201, (NP)	6-14 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Turkish ³	BMI (WHO)	FR, EOE, EF	SR, FF	DD, EUE, SE
Domoff, 2015^{a, 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
Emond, 2017^{a, b}	USA	Community sample	178, 51.1% F	9-10 y	FR, EF, SR	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	EF, FR	SR	-
Escobar, 2014^{a, b, d}	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 ^a	USA	Head Start Cohort	296, 51% F	4.42 (±0.71)	SR, FR, EF	English + Spanish) ^f	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR	
Fuemmeler, 2013 ^{a, b}	USA	AMP Too for Twos	213, 44% F	2.1 (±0.11)	FR, EF, DD, SR/SE ^g	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF, DD	SR/SE	-
Gregory, 2010 ^a	Australia	The Child & Family Health Study		2-4 y; 3.3 (±0.8)	FR ⁱ	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR	-	-
Hankey, 2016 ^a	USA	Community sample	104, 51% F	3-5 y	SR, FR, EF, EOE	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR	EOE
Hardman, 2016 ^{a, b}	UK	Community sample	77, 51% F	3-12 y	EOE	English	BMI z-score (WHO)	EOE	-	-
Haycraft, 2011 ^{a, b}	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 ^a	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 ^a	Netherlands	Generation R cohort	4987, 49.9% F	4 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, FF, EUE	Dutch ^f	BMI z-scores (Dutch national data)	FR, EF	EUE, SR, FF	EOE, DD
Koch, 2014 ^a	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 ^a	Netherlands	School-based sample	206, 50.5% F	7-12 y (9.5 ±1.4)	FR	Dutch ^f	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 ^a	Malaysia	Community sample	646, 73.2% F	13 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, EUE, SE ^j	Malay ^f	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
Lora, 2016^b	USA	Community sample	110, 53.6% F	2-5 y	FR, EF, DD	English + Spanish	BMI percentile (CDC)	-	-	FR, EF, DD
Mallan, 2013^e	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
McPhie, 2011^a	Australia	Community sample	175, 53.7% F	2-5 y (2.83 ±0.72)	FF	English	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	-	-	FF
Parkinson, 2010	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
Pesch, 2018	USA	Community sample	223, 47.5% F	4-8y	FR, EF, SR ^k	English	BMI z-scores	FR, EF	SR	
Quah, 2017^{a, b}	Singapore	GUSTO	636, 47.8% F	3.06 (±0.1)	SR, SE, DD, EUE, FF ^l	English	BMI z-scores (WHO 2006)	-	SR, SE, EUE	DD, FF
Roach, 2017	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	-
Rudy, 2016^a	USA	Pre-school sample	181, 48.1% F	4-5 y	FR, SR, EF	English + Spanish ^f	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF	SR	-
Sanchez, 2016^{a, b}	Chile	GOCS cohort	1058, 51% F	7-10 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Chilean-Spanish ^f	BMI z-scores (WHO)	EF, EOE, FR, DD	SR, SE, FF	EUE
Silva Garcia, 2016^{a, 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
Sleddens, 2008^a	Netherlands	School-based sample	135, 49.6% F	6-7 y	EF, SR, SE, FF ^m	Dutch ^f	BMI z-scores (Dutch national data)	EF	SR, SE	DD, EUE
Somaraki, 2018	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
Soussigan, 2012 ^{a, b}	France	Community sample	40, 45% F	6-11 y	FR, EOE, DD, SR, SE	French	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	FR, DD	SR, SE	EOE
Svensson, 2011	Sweden	Early STOPP cohort	174, 50% F	1-6 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Swedish ^f	BMI z-scores (French ref data)	-	-	FR, EF, EOE, DD, EUE, FF, SE, SR
Tay, 2016 ^{a, b}	Malaysia	SEANUTS	1782, 51.4% F	7-12 y	DD, EUE, FF, SE, SR ⁿ	Malaysian ^f	BMI z-scores (WHO)	DD	SR, SE, FF, EUE	
Viana, 2008 ^a	UK	Convenience sample	240, 52% F	3-13 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Portuguese ^f	BMI z-scores (CDC)	FR, EF, EOE	SE, SR, EUE	DD, FF
Vollmer, 2015 ^{a, b}	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
Webber, 2009 ^{a, b}	UK	PEACHES	270, 49% F	7-9 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR/SE, FF, EUE ^g	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	FR, EOE, EF, DD	SR/SE, FF	EUE
McCarthy, 2015 ^{b, c}	Ireland	The Cork BASELINE birth cohort	1189, 50% F	2 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	English	BMI percentiles (WHO)			
Sanlier, 2016 ^c	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.

^a Indicates studies included in the meta-analysis

^b Indicates studies for which authors provided additional data.

^c 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.]

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

^e 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.

^f Denotes validated translated versions of the CEBQ.

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

^g SR + SE combined

^h FR split into two scales. One SE item dropped. 3 FF items dropped. SR dropped.

ⁱ FF scale split into two

^j FF split in two, with 2 SR items added in FF1

^k SR reverse scored

^l FR, EOE and EF subscales changed.

^m EOE+FR combined to new EOE scale

ⁿ 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
Carnell & Wardle, 2008 ^{a, 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) ^e	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	Low-normal, mid-norm, high, very high
Boswell, 2018 ^{a, b}	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
Croker, 2011	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 ^e	English	BMI z-scores (UK 1990 data)	UW, NW, OW, OB, Clinically OB
de Groot, 2017	Netherlands	Community sample	44, 50%	12-16y	FR, SR, EF, EOE, DD	Dutch	BMI SDS (NP)	NW, OW
dos Passos, 2015	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
Gardner, 2015	USA	Community sample	64, 49.4% F	5-6 y	FR, EF, SR	English	BMI-for-age percentile (CDC 2000)	NW, OB
Ho-Urriola, 2014	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
Jahnke, 2008	Germany	Community sample	142, 36% F	3-6 y (4.2 ±1)	FR	German	BMI z-scores (German national data)	UW, NW, OW, OB
McCarthy, 2015 ^{a, b}	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
Mosli, 2015	USA	Community sample	274, 49.3% F	4-8 y	SR, SE, FF	English	BMI percentiles (CDC 2000)	NW (<85th), OW/OB (85th>)

Obregon, 2017	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
Parkinson, 2010 ^{a, b, c}	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
Powers, 2016	USA	Community sample	296, 48% F	2-5y	FR ^f	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)	UW, NW, at-risk for OW, OW
Sanchez, 2016 ^{a, b}	Chile	GOCS cohort	1058, 51% F	7-10 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR, SE, FF, EUE	Chilean-Spanish ^d	BMI z-scores (WHO)	NW, OW, OB
Soussigan, 2012 ^{a, b}	France	Community sample	40, 45% F	6-11 y	FR, EOE, DD, SR, SE	French	BMI z-scores (IOTF)	NW, OW
Spence, 2011	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
Webber, 2009 ^{a, b}	UK	PEACHES	270, 49% F	7-9 y	FR, EF, EOE, DD, SR/SE, FF, EUE ^e	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
Sandvik, 2018	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 ²), NW, OW, OB
Sanlier, 2016 ^c	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

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

^b Indicates studies included in the meta-analysis.

^c Indicates the study also reporting prospective association between CEBQ and adiposity.

^d Denotes validated translated versions of the CEBQ.

^e SR + SE combined

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

^f 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
Mallan, 2016^a	Australia	NOURISH	340, F 53.5%	14m - 3.7y	FF	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)		FF	
Mallan, 2014^a	Australia	NOURISH	37 ⁱ (Control n=20, Intervention n =17), 57% F	2-4 y	FR, EF, SR, SE	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)		SR	FR, EF, SE
McPhie, 2012^b	Australia	Community sample	117, F 53.8%	2-5 y	FF ⁱ	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)			FF
Quah, 2015^c	Malaysia	GUSTO	210 (T2 = 205, T3 = 162, T4 = 179), F 49.5%	12-24m	SR, SE ^j	Malaysian ^h	BMI z-scores (WHO)			SR, SE
Steinsbekk, 2015	Norway	TESS	996 (T1=4y) 658 (T2=6y) 675 (T3=8y)	4-8 y	FR, EF, EOE, SR, SE	Norwegian ^h	BMI z-scores	FR, EF, EOE		SR, SE
Derks, 2018^d	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 ^k	Dutch ^h	BMI z-scores, FMI, FFMI (Dutch growth reference curves)	EOE		FR, EF, SR
Steinsbekk, 2017^{d, e}	Norway	TESS	807, F 50.2%	6-10 y	FR, SR	Norwegian ^h	BF%, MM%	FR (BF%)		SR (BF%)
Bjorklund, 2018^e	Norway	TESS	797 (T1 - 6.7y) 699 (T2 - 8.8y) 702 (T4 - 10.5y), F 50.2%	6-10 y	FR	Norwegian ^h	BMI z-scores	FR		
Bergmeier, 2014	Australia	Community sample	201, F 56.7%	2-5 y	FF, EF	English	BMI z-scores (CDC)			FF, EF
Escobar, 2014^{e, f, g}	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%								
Parkinson, 2010	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

^a 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.

^b 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.

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

^d Indicates studies that reported on the bidirectional relationship between appetite and adiposity.

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

^f Authors provided additional data.

^g 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).

^h Denotes validated translated versions of the CEBQ.

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

ⁱ EF item dropped from scale

^j FR and EF subscales adapted

^k 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 ^c	BMI z-score	FR	SR	EF, SE, EOE
Steinsbekk, 2016	Norway	BMI → CEBQ	TESS	797 ^k , 50.2% F	6-8 y	FR, EF, EOE, SR, SE	Norwegian ^c	BMI z-scores	FR	SR	EF, SE, EOE
Derks, 2018 ^d	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 ^f	Dutch ^c	BMI z-scores, FMI, FFMI (Dutch growth reference curves)	FR, EOE, EF	SR	
Steinsbekk, 2017 ^d	Norway	BF% → CEBQ	TESS	807, F 50.2%	6-10 y	FR, SR	Norwegian ^c	BF%, MM%	FR (BF%)	SR (BF%)	
van Deutekom, 2016 ^{a, b}	Netherlands	Δweight-for-age z-score → CEBQ	ABCD	2227, F 48.7%	0-5 y	SR	Dutch ^c	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

^a van Deutekom et al (2016) reported on the relationship of conditional weight gain to SR.

^b Authors provided additional data.

^c Denotes validated translated versions of the CEBQ.

^d Indicates studies that reported on the bidirectional relationship between adiposity and appetite.

^f 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
Mallan, 2014	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
Quah, 2015	Singapore	Prospective	GUSTO	210, F 50.5%	0-24 m	EF, FR, SE/SR ^a	English	BMI z-scores (WHO)	FR	SE/SR	EF
Shepard, 2015	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
van Jaarsveld, 2011	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	
Patel, 2018	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.

^a 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^a)

CEBQ scale	r	95 % CI	I ² (%)	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

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