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### ► To cite this version:

Claire Guivarch, Marie-Aline Charles, Anne Forhan, Barbara Heude, Blandine de Lauzon-Guillain. Associations between maternal eating behaviors and feeding practices in toddlerhood. *Appetite*, 2022, 174, pp.106016. 10.1016/j.appet.2022.106016 . hal-03694308

**HAL Id: hal-03694308**

**<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-03694308>**

Submitted on 13 Jun 2022

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**TITLE**

Associations between maternal eating behaviors and feeding practices in toddlerhood

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**RUNNING TITLE**

Maternal eating behaviors and feeding practices

**ABBREVIATIONS**

CFPQ: Comprehensive Feeding Practices Questionnaire

TFEQ: Three-Factor Eating Questionnaire

## ABSTRACT

Few studies have examined the associations between parents' own eating behaviors and their feeding practices. We aimed to study the associations between maternal eating behaviors and feeding practices in toddlerhood. In this cross-sectional analysis, maternal eating behaviors and feeding practices were assessed at 2-year follow-up by using the Three-Factor Eating Questionnaire (TFEQ-R21) and the Comprehensive Feeding Practices Questionnaire (CFPQ), respectively, among mothers of 1322 children from the EDEN mother-child cohort. Depending on their distributions, scores from the two questionnaires were considered continuous or binary variables, according to the median. Linear or logistic regression models were used as appropriate to assess the associations between maternal eating behaviors, considered simultaneously in a combined model, and their feeding practices. Maternal cognitive restraint was positively associated with maternal restriction for health and restriction for weight. Maternal uncontrolled eating was positively associated with pressure to eat and use of food to regulate the child's emotions. Maternal uncontrolled eating was also negatively associated with restriction for weight, but only among boys. This study supports that mothers' own eating behaviors are associated with their feeding practices in toddlerhood. Further studies are needed to understand the role of parental feeding practices in the familial transmission of eating behavior.

## KEYWORDS

Eating behaviors, feeding practices, birth cohort, toddlerhood, coercive practices

## 1 INTRODUCTION

According to the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease concept, early life is an opportunity window (1), notably characterized by the establishment of early eating behaviors and parental feeding practices that predict later eating behaviors in childhood and adolescence (2, 3). Parents play a key role in the establishment of eating behaviors of their children, especially in toddlerhood. Indeed, they decide the feeding time, the food offered to the child and the portion sizes (2). Parents also play a model role in eating (4, 5). Previous studies documented a familial transmission of eating behaviors, with similarities between maternal and children's eating behaviors (6-10). Maternal emotional eating (i.e., eating in response to emotional cues) or uncontrolled eating (i.e., the tendency to overeat when feeling hungry or when exposed to external stimuli) were found positively associated with children's emotional eating in childhood (8-10), with some differences by child's sex (9). Moreover, mother's own cognitive restraint (i.e., conscious restriction of food intake to control body weight or to promote weight loss) was found associated with a daughter's poor self-regulation of energy intake (11).

Parental feeding practices are defined as the strategies (actions or behaviors) parents use to try to influence their child's food intake or eating behavior (2, 12). Some parental feeding practices have been found to be associated with children's eating behaviors (13-16) (e.g., parental pressure to eat may increase food dislikes). Some determinants of feeding practices, such as parental education level or cultural background, have been examined (17), but more behavioral characteristics need to be further explored. In particular, to understand the role of parental feeding practices in the familial transmission of eating behavior, few studies have assessed the associations between mothers' own eating behavior and their feeding practices (7, 10, 18-22). A recent study notably found that the positive association between maternal and child's emotional overeating was partially mediated by both maternal

use of food as a reward and overt restriction, considered simultaneously in the same model (10). Similar mediation pathway was found for the positive association between maternal and child's food responsiveness (10). Nevertheless, these studies are characterized by a relative low sample size (7, 10, 18-22), which highlights the need for studies with larger samples. Moreover, some studies focused on only a unique dimension of maternal eating behavior: maternal restraint (18, 19) or maternal emotional eating (21), but these dimensions are not independent. Then, it would be of great interest to consider simultaneously the different dimensions of maternal eating behavior when examining the association with their feeding practices. A better understanding of the complex associations between maternal eating behaviors, feeding practices and children's characteristics (eating behaviors and weight status) could inform the development of appropriate child feeding or obesity-prevention interventions.

In this context, our objective was to study, with a cross-sectional design, the associations between different dimensions of mothers' own eating behavior and their feeding practices in toddlerhood, in a large sample of the EDEN mother-child cohort. From previous literature, we hypothesized that: 1) maternal cognitive restraint is positively associated with maternal coercive practices (i.e., restrictive feeding practices and pressure to eat) and that 2) maternal emotional eating is positively associated with maternal use of food for non-nutritional purposes (i.e., using food as a reward or to regulate the child's emotions) and with maternal restrictive feeding practices.

## **2 MATERIAL AND METHODS**

### **2.1 Study population**

The EDEN mother-child study is a prospective cohort that investigates the prenatal and postnatal determinants of child growth, development and health (23). Briefly, 2002 pregnant

women were recruited before a gestational age of 24 weeks in two French university hospitals (Nancy and Poitiers) from 2003 to 2006. Exclusion criteria were multiple pregnancies (i.e., mothers who were expecting twins, triplets or more children), known diabetes before pregnancy, illiteracy and planning to move outside the region in the next 3 years. The study was approved by the ethics committee of the university hospital of Kremlin- Bicêtre (ID 0270 of 12 December 2002) and data files were declared to the National Committee for Processed Data and Freedom (CNIL, ID 902267 of 12 December 2002). Written consent was obtained from both parents.

The present analyses are mainly based on data collected at the 2-year follow-up (i.e., at age 2 of the child).

## **2.2 Maternal eating behaviors**

Maternal eating behaviors were assessed at 2-year follow-up with the French translation (24) of the 21-item revised version of the Three-Factor Eating Questionnaire (TFEQ-R21) (25). This questionnaire assesses 3 dimensions of eating behavior: cognitive restraint (6 items; in the EDEN cohort, Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.82$ ); uncontrolled eating (9 items; Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.85$ ); and emotional eating (6 items; Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.93$ ). Responses to each of the 21 items are scored from 1 (definitely false or never) to 4 (definitely true or almost always). Item scores are summed within each subscale and transformed to a scale of 0 to 100 with the following equation:  $[100 * (\text{raw score} - \text{lowest possible raw score}) / \text{possible raw score range}]$  (24, 26). Each maternal eating behavior score was considered as continuous variable.

## **2.3 Maternal feeding practices**

Maternal feeding practices were also assessed at 2-year follow-up with the French version (27) of the Comprehensive Feeding Practices Questionnaire (CFPQ) (28). Three scales of the CFPQ were considered to characterize maternal coercive feeding practices: restriction for health (4 items; in the EDEN cohort, Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.79$ ), restriction for weight (4 items;

Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.69$ ) and pressure to eat (3 items; Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.55$ ). Two other scales of the CFPQ were considered to characterize maternal use of food for non-nutritional purposes: using food as a reward (Rewards, 3 items; Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.47$ ) and using food to regulate the child's emotions (Emotion regulation, 3 items; Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.68$ ). Each item is scored from 1 (disagree or never) to 5 (agree or always). Item scores are averaged within each subscale. Coercive maternal feeding practices (i.e., restriction for health, restriction for weight and pressure to eat) were considered continuous variables. Because of the skewed distribution of their scores, maternal use of food as a reward and to regulate the child's emotions were considered binary variables, according to the median in our sample. "Low use" of a specific maternal feeding practice was defined by a score below the median and "high use" by a score equal to or above the median.

Regarding the low Cronbach's  $\alpha$  for food as reward in the EDEN mother-child cohort, we decided to present all results based on this score in supplementary material.

## 2.4 Other variables

Maternal characteristics were collected at inclusion or at delivery: maternal age at delivery (years), primiparity (yes/no), maternal education level (< high school diploma, high school diploma, and 2-year and 5-year university degree) and household income ( $\leq$  €1,500/month, €1,501 to €2,300/month, €2,301 to €3,000/month and  $>$ 3000€/month).

Moreover, mothers self-reported their weight at 2-year follow up. At 1-year and 3-year follow-up, maternal weight was measured to the nearest 0.1 kg by using electronic scales (Terraillon SL-351, Hanson Ltd, Hemel Hempstead, UK) (29). Maternal height was measured to the nearest 0.2 cm by using a wall-mounted stadiometer (Seca-206, Seca, Hamburg, Germany) (29). As in a previous study (29), to limit missing data and because eating behavior was assessed at 2-year follow-up, we used (in the following order) 2-year self-reported weight

(56%), the mean of 1-year and 3-year measured weights (15%), or 1-year measured weight (29%). Maternal body mass index (BMI) was classified into 4 categories (underweight:  $<18.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, reference BMI:  $\geq 18.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> to  $<25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, overweight:  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> to  $<30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> and obese:  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>).

Child's sex was also considered in the analyses. Because height and weight were collected in the child's health booklet, these data vary among children in number and timing and then are difficult to analyze directly (30). Then, Jenss-Bayley growth curve modeling was used to obtain individual growth curves and to derive height and weight at a given age for all children (23, 31). From these data, we calculated the WHO BMI-for-age z-score at 2 years, used as a covariate in sensitivity analyses.

## 2.5 Sample selection

Of the 2002 recruited women, 76 women were excluded because they left the study before or at the time of delivery; 24 because of miscarriages, intrauterine death, or discontinuation of pregnancy for medical reasons; and 9 because they delivered outside the study hospitals. Data on birthweight were available for 1899 newborns. Individuals with missing data for at least one maternal feeding practice (n=492), maternal eating behaviors (n=3) and potential confounders (n=82) were then excluded (Figure 1). These exclusions led to a sample of 1322 individuals for complete-case analysis of the association between mothers' own eating behaviors and their feeding practices.

As compared with excluded children (n=680), included children (n=1322) were more likely to be born to mothers who were older (mean age 30 vs 29 years,  $p<0.0001$ ), employed (79% vs. 65%,  $p<0.0001$ ), primiparous (47% vs. 38%,  $p=0.0002$ ), with higher education level (36% vs. 23% with at least a 5-year university degree,  $p<0.0001$ ), higher household income (30% vs. 21% with  $> \text{€}3,000$  per month,  $p<0.0001$ ), and lower maternal BMI (mean 24.0 vs. 25.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>,  $p=0.0004$ ).



## 2.6 Statistical analyses

Comparisons between included and excluded populations were assessed by chi-square and Student *t* tests. Pearson correlation analyses were used to study the correlations between maternal eating behaviors. Univariable analyses between mothers' own eating behaviors and their feeding practices involved unadjusted linear and logistic regression models (one model per maternal eating behavior).

Associations between maternal own eating behaviors and feeding practices (one combined model including all studied maternal eating behaviors) were tested with linear regression models for coercive maternal feeding practices and with logistic regression models for maternal use of food for non-nutritional purposes. Analyses were run separately for each of the 5 outcomes.

For adjusted analyses, potential confounders were identified from the literature and selected by using the Directed Acyclic Graphs method (32). Models were adjusted for study center, maternal characteristics (age at delivery, primiparity, education level, employment status, household income, BMI) and child's sex. To deal with the problem of multiple comparisons when studying large numbers of biological factors, we used the false discovery rate (FDR) procedure with the Benjamini and Hochberg method (SAS, PROC Multtest, FDR option) (33) with a q-value cut-off of 0.10 (34).

Because previous literature suggested that parental feeding practices may differ by child's sex (35, 36) and that associations between maternal and child's eating behavior may also differ by child's sex (9), we tested the interaction between maternal eating behavior and child's sex for each maternal feeding practice, and analyses were stratified when relevant.

Because mothers could use different feeding practices depending on their perception of their child's weight status (37), a sensitivity analysis further adjusted for child's WHO BMI z-score at 2 years was performed. We first conducted analyses on complete cases. Then,

multiple imputations were used to deal with missing data on potential confounders. The number of missing data ranged from 0% to 5.0% per variable (Supplemental table 1). Data were assumed to be missing at random, and 5 independent datasets were generated with the fully conditional specification method (MI procedure, FCS statement, NIMPUTE option), then pooled effect estimates were calculated (SAS MIANALYSE procedure). Continuous variables were imputed with predictive mean matching, and logistic regressions were used for categorical variables. To generate significance testing of categorical variables, the median of the p-values from the imputed data analyses in each dataset was used, as proposed by Eekhout et al. (38).

Analyses were conducted with SAS v9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

### 3 RESULTS

The characteristics of the study population, maternal eating behaviors and maternal feeding practices are in Table 1. Maternal eating behaviors were significantly positively correlated. The strongest correlation was between maternal uncontrolled eating and emotional eating ( $r=0.66$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ). The correlation coefficients between maternal cognitive restraint and uncontrolled eating and between maternal cognitive restraint and emotional eating were respectively of  $r=0.24$ ,  $p<0.0001$  and  $r=0.32$ ,  $p<0.0001$ .

#### 3.1 Maternal eating behaviors and maternal feeding practices at 2 years

On univariable analyses, all 3 eating behaviors were positively related to almost all feeding practices (Tables 2 and 3, Supplemental table 2).

##### 3.1.1 Coercive feeding practices

When maternal eating behaviors were considered simultaneously in the same model (Table 2), maternal cognitive restraint was positively associated with restrictive feeding practices

(restriction for health and restriction for weight), whereas maternal uncontrolled eating was positively associated with pressure to eat. The negative association between maternal uncontrolled eating and restriction for weight was found for boys but not girls (boys:  $\beta$  [95% CI] = -0.04 [-0.08; -0.01], girls:  $\beta$  [95% CI] = -0.01 [-0.04; 0.02];  $p_{\text{interaction}}=0.04$ ). No other modulating effect of child's sex was found for the association between maternal eating behavior and maternal coercive practices (all  $p_{\text{interaction}} > 0.05$ ). Maternal emotional eating was not related to coercive feeding practices in this model.

### 3.1.2 *Use of food for non-nutritional purposes*

When maternal eating behaviors were considered simultaneously in the same model, maternal cognitive restraint was positively associated with high use of food as a reward (Supplemental table 2), whereas maternal uncontrolled eating was positively associated with high use of food both as a reward and to regulate the child's emotions (Table 3 and Supplemental table 2). Maternal emotional eating was not related to the use of food for non-nutritional purposes in this model. No modulating effect of child's sex was highlighted for the association between maternal eating behavior and maternal use of food for non-nutritional purposes (all  $p_{\text{interaction}} > 0.05$ ).

Similar results were highlighted after further adjustment for child's WHO BMI z-score at 2 years (Supplemental tables 3 and 4), when missing data were accounted for with the multiple imputation method (Supplemental tables 3 and 4), or after the correction of multiple comparisons (Tables 2, 3 and Supplemental table 2).

## 4 DISCUSSION

In the EDEN mother-child cohort, maternal cognitive restraint was positively associated with maternal restrictive feeding practices and maternal use of food as a reward in toddlerhood. Moreover, maternal uncontrolled eating was positively related to maternal pressure to eat and

use of food for non-nutritional purposes (as a reward or to regulate the child's emotions), and negatively associated with restriction for weight among boys only. Maternal emotional eating was not related to maternal feeding practices.

As in previous literature, maternal cognitive restraint was found to be positively associated with restrictive feeding practices (18-20). Maternal use of restrictive feeding practices seems to be influenced by the mother's personal struggles with weight and eating (19), which suggests that mothers who have trouble controlling their food intake, and feel the need to restrict themselves, assume that their children have the same trouble (18). In previous literature, notably cross-sectional studies, parental restrictive practices were often found positively associated with child's weight status (39, 40). However, results of longitudinal studies are more inconsistent, and some studies have shown that parents may adopt such feeding practices in response to their child's high appetite (41, 42) or weight status (43-46). The inconsistent findings on the associations between parental restrictive feeding practices and child's weight status may be explained in part by the nature of the control used by parents. Indeed, a previous study found that maternal overt control (perceived by the child) was negatively associated with the child's later BMI, with no prospective association found for maternal covert control (not perceived by the child) (47). However, these results may need to be confirmed in further studies. In adults, restriction was found to be a moderating factor between genetic susceptibility to obesity and adult BMI (29). Then, contrary to results from some cross-sectional studies, restrictive feeding practices may be a teaching action from parents to offspring to manage weight gain. This hypothesis is also supported by previous studies suggesting that restrictive feeding practices could be associated with a lower risk of excessive weight in preschool children (48). However, in our study, maternal cognitive restraint was also positively associated with maternal use of food as a reward, which could have a counterproductive effect because this feeding practice may impair children's self-

regulation of energy intake (49). A potential explanation of the positive association between maternal cognitive restraint and maternal use of food as a reward could be that mothers with high cognitive restraint pay particular attention and importance to food and might tend to be more likely to use food as a reward for their child. This explanation is only speculative and further studies are required to confirm this result.

Previous studies highlighted that mothers who struggle to resist tempting food have children with similar eating behaviors (8). This finding could be explained in part by the feeding practices used by the mother. Indeed, in the EDEN mother-child cohort, maternal uncontrolled eating was found positively associated with maternal use of food for non-nutritional purposes, as in the literature (20), and with maternal pressure to eat. Moreover, according to our results, a recent study found a positive association between maternal food responsiveness and maternal use of food as a reward (10). Previous studies found positive associations between parental use of food for non-nutritional purposes or pressure to eat and child's obesogenic eating behaviors, such as emotional eating and overeating (14). In another study, parental pressure to eat was associated with a lower intake of healthy foods by children (15). Moreover, in the present study, maternal uncontrolled eating was negatively associated with restriction for weight, but among boys only. This result was not found in a previous study where maternal food responsiveness was positively associated with maternal overt restriction (10). It may be due to differences in studied subscales or sample sizes. This result, found among boys only, may be explained by the differential perception of ideal body weight according to the child's sex: mothers tend to be less concerned with boys' weight status or rapid weight gain as compared with girls. Indeed, a previous study found a positive association between weight gain and parental use of restrictive feeding practices among girls only (35). The authors suggested that this association may be a sign of a sensitivity to societal expectations: girls should be slim while boys could have social and physical advantages of

being larger (35). This literature supports the result that mothers with uncontrolled eating use less restriction for weight for boys than girls.

Maternal emotional eating was previously found related to maternal use of food for non-nutritional purposes: as a reward (10, 20, 21) and to regulate the child's emotions (7, 20). In our study, this association was found only when maternal eating behaviors were considered in separate models (data not shown), probably because of the strong correlation between maternal uncontrolled eating and maternal emotional eating. These associations must also be examined in light of the mediating effect of emotional or uncontrolled eating in the association between genetic susceptibility to obesity and BMI in adults (29), which supports the hypothesis of a role of maternal feeding practices in the familial transmission of eating behaviors (10, 22). Because feeding practices are modifiable factors, they could be targeted during toddlerhood to prevent the establishment of obesogenic eating behaviors. Moreover, this study highlights the need to consider maternal eating behavior as a potential modifiable factor associated with maternal feeding practices, children's eating behavior and weight status. Prevention of childhood obesity and public health policies should advise parents to recognize and learn to limit the eating behaviors and parental feeding practices that have been shown to be associated with adverse outcomes in children.

In the present study, both maternal eating behavior and feeding practices were assessed by using validated questionnaires (25, 28) found applicable in a French sample (24, 27). The internal consistency of the different scales was satisfactory, except for maternal use of food as a reward, which had a lower Cronbach's  $\alpha$ , which could limit the interpretation of the results. Nevertheless, our results for this scale are consistent with previous findings (7, 10, 20), which suggests the reliability of our results. Because previous literature suggested that mothers could differ in their use of feeding practices by their perceptions of their child's weight status (37), a supplemental adjustment on child's WHO BMI z-score at 2 years was

performed. Results after this further adjustment were very similar to results of the adjusted models. Nevertheless, because mothers could have inaccurate perceptions of their child's weight status, further studies should assess the associations between maternal eating behaviors and feeding practices, accounting for maternal concerns about child's weight. Moreover, given the cross-sectional design of the analysis, further longitudinal studies are needed to confirm our results. Another limitation of the current study is the self-reported data concerning maternal eating behaviors and feeding practices. Thus, the present results may be subject to bias to social desirability or a lack of awareness of feeding practices (50).

The mothers of the EDEN mother-child cohort have higher socio-economic position than the French population (23), so further studies are needed to assess the replicability of our findings among lower socio-economic populations. Moreover, maternal feeding practices and maternal eating behaviors may differ among cultures (17, 51), notably based on different societal expectations dealing with child's weight status, so our findings may not be generalizable to other high-income settings in other cultures.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

This study supports that mothers' own eating behaviors are associated with their feeding practices. Future longitudinal studies are warranted to confirm these associations or identify other relevant factors associated with specific parental feeding practices. This would help assess the role of parental feeding practices in the familial transmission of eating behaviors and include them as a key target in childhood obesity prevention strategies.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank the EDEN mother-child cohort study group, whose members are I. Annesi-Maesano, J.Y. Bernard, M.A. Charles, P. Dargent-Molina, B. de Lauzon-Guillain, P. Ducimetière, M. de Agostini, B. Foliguet, A. Forhan, X. Fritel, A. Germa, V. Goua, R. Hankard, B. Heude, M. Kaminski, B. Larroque, N. Lelong, J. Lepeule, G. Magnin, L. Marchand, C. Nabet, F. Pierre, R. Slama, M.J. Saurel-Cubizolles, M. Schweitzer, and O. Thiebaugeorges.

## AUTHORSHIP

CG and BLG designed the research, analysed the data and wrote the manuscript. BH, AF and MAC oversaw the EDEN study. BH and MAC were responsible for data collection in EDEN. BLG had full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis. All authors reviewed drafts, provided critical feedback, read and approved the final manuscript, were responsible for the final content of the paper and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

## COMPETING INTEREST STATEMENT

None of the authors have any financial relationships or conflict of interest to disclose.

## SOURCES OF SUPPORT

The EDEN study is supported by Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FRM), French Ministry of Research: Federative Research Institutes and Cohort Program, INSERM Human Nutrition National Research Program, and Diabetes National Research Program (through a collaboration with the French Association of Diabetic Patients [AFD]), French Ministry of Health, French Agency for Environment Security (AFSSET), French National Institute for Population Health Surveillance (InVS), Paris- Sud University, French National Institute for



351 Health Education (INPES), Nestlé, Mutuelle Générale de l'Education Nationale (MGEN),  
352 French-speaking Association for the Study of Diabetes and Metabolism (ALFEDIAM),  
353 National Agency for Research (ANR non- thematic programme), and National Institute for  
354 Research in Public Health (IRESP: TGIR 2008 cohort in health programme).

#### 355 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

356 The data underlying the findings cannot be made freely available for ethical and legal  
357 restrictions imposed because this study includes a substantial number of variables that  
358 together could be used to re-identify the participants based on a few key characteristics and  
359 then used to access other personal data. Therefore, the French ethics authority strictly forbids  
360 making these data freely available. However, they can be obtained upon request from the  
361 EDEN principal investigator. Readers may contact [barbara.heude@inserm.fr](mailto:barbara.heude@inserm.fr) to request the  
362 data. The code book and analytic code will be made available upon request pending  
363 application and approval.

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502 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

503 **Figure 1. Flow of participants in the study**

## TABLES

**Table 1. Characteristics of the study population (n=1322)**

	% (n) or Mean (SD) or Median (Q1-Q3)
<b>Parental characteristics</b>	
Center	
Poitiers	47.4% (627)
Nancy	52.6% (695)
Maternal education level	
< High school diploma	22.9% (303)
High school diploma	17.9% (237)
2 years university degree	23.4% (309)
5 years university degree	35.8% (473)
Employed mothers	79.0% (1045)
Household income (€/month)	
≤ 1500	12.3% (162)
1501-2300	29.3% (387)
2301-3000	28.7% (379)
>3000	29.8% (394)
Maternal age at delivery (years)	29.9 (4.7)
Primiparous	47.4% (626)
Maternal BMI at 2-year follow-up (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	
<18.5	5.8% (77)
18.5 to <25	61.0% (806)
25 to <30	22.1% (292)
≥ 30	11.1% (147)
<b>Maternal eating behaviors (0-100 scores)</b>	
Cognitive restraint	33.2 (21.4)
Uncontrolled eating	23.8 (17.9)
Emotional eating	34.8 (27.5)
<b>Maternal feeding practices (1-5 scores)</b>	
Restriction for health	3.4 (1.0)
Restriction for weight	1.7 (0.6)
Pressure to eat	2.3 (0.8)
Food as a reward	1.3 (1.0 - 1.7)
Emotional feeding	1.3 (1.0 - 1.7)
<b>Child characteristics</b>	
Boys	52.0% (688)
BMI at 2 years (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	16.2 (1.1)
WHO BMI z-score at 2 years	0.2 (0.9)

**Table 2. Associations between maternal eating behaviors and maternal coercive feeding practices**

	Restriction for health		Restriction for weight		Pressure to eat	
	$\beta$ [95% CI]	P	$\beta$ [95% CI]	P	$\beta$ [95% CI]	P
<b>Univariable analyses (n=1322)</b>						
Cognitive restraint	0.07 [0.05; 0.10]	<0.0001	0.07 [0.06; 0.09]	<0.0001	0.02 [0.00; 0.04]	0.07
Uncontrolled eating	0.06 [0.03; 0.09]	0.0001	0.01 [0.00; 0.03]	0.1	0.04 [0.01; 0.06]	0.003
Emotional eating	0.04 [0.02; 0.06]	0.0005	0.02 [0.01; 0.04]	0.0001	0.01 [-0.01; 0.02]	0.5
<b>Adjusted analyses (n=1322)</b>						
Eating behaviors considered simultaneously						
Cognitive restraint	0.07 [0.04; 0.10]	<0.0001 ***	0.07 [0.06; 0.09]	<0.0001 ***	0.02 [0.00; 0.04]	0.08
Uncontrolled eating	0.04 [0.00; 0.08]	0.05	-0.02 [-0.05; 0.00] ¥	0.06	0.06 [0.03; 0.09]	0.0007 **
Emotional eating	0.01 [-0.02; 0.03]	0.6	0.02 [0.00; 0.03]	0.06	-0.02 [-0.04; 0.00]	0.08

Linear regression models adjusted for: study center, maternal age at delivery, primiparity, maternal education level, maternal employment status, household income, child's sex and maternal BMI at 2-year follow-up. Estimations are given per 10 points of maternal eating behavior scores.

¥: Significant modulating effect of child's sex.

After the correction of multiple comparisons using the false discovery rate (FDR) procedure: \*  $q < 0.1$ , \*\*  $q < 0.01$ , and \*\*\*  $q < 0.0001$

**Table 3. Associations between maternal eating behaviors and maternal feeding practice of using food to regulate child's emotions**

	High use of food to regulate child's emotions (Ref=Low)	
	OR [95% CI]	P
<b>Univariable analyses</b> (n=1322)		
Cognitive restraint	1.06 [1.01; 1.12]	0.02
Uncontrolled eating	1.27 [1.19; 1.36]	<0.0001
Emotional eating	1.12 [1.07; 1.16]	<0.0001
<b>Adjusted analyses</b> (n=1322)		
Eating behaviors considered simultaneously		
Cognitive restraint	1.01 [0.95; 1.07]	0.7
Uncontrolled eating	1.26 [1.15; 1.38]	<0.0001 ***
Emotional eating	1.02 [0.96; 1.08]	0.5

Logistic regression models adjusted for: study center, maternal age at delivery, primiparity, maternal education level, maternal employment status, household income, child's sex and maternal BMI at 2-year follow-up. Estimations are given per 10 points of maternal eating behavior scores.

After the correction of multiple comparisons using the false discovery rate (FDR) procedure: \*  $q < 0.1$ , \*\*  $q < 0.01$ , and \*\*\*  $q < 0.0001$



504 **SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES**

505 **File name:** Supplemental Tables\_Appetite\_R3

506 **File format:** Word file (.docx)

507 **Text summary:** Supplemental table 1. Details regarding multiple imputations (N=1404)

508 Supplemental table 2. Association between maternal eating behaviors and maternal feeding  
509 practice of using of food as a reward

510 Supplemental table 3. Sensitivity analyses: Associations between maternal eating behaviors  
511 and maternal coercive feeding practices

512 Supplemental table 4. Sensitivity analyses: Associations between maternal eating behaviors  
513 and maternal feeding practices of using foods for non-nutritional purposes