

**From: Helen Coulthard**

**To: SACN**

**Subject: Feeding in the first year of life: comment**

To whom it may concern

We would like to draw to the attention of the committee some evidence that we feel was missing from your report on 'Feeding in the first year of life'

Our response refers to Chapter 8 of the report, which relates to 'Eating and feeding of solid foods'.

The report mentions the feeding strategies that parents adopt and how they may influence acceptance. However we feel the report would benefit from including a recent study that examined early acceptance of solids in infants. There is evidence that the inherent characteristics of the child may influence acceptance, and this may vary with the age of the child (Coulthard, Harris & Fogel, 2016). The quality of this paper meets the criteria for this review as, although it is a cross sectional study published in 2016, it does add unique and critical evidence to the data. It was found that infants who were weaned at the later age and had high sensory (tactile) sensitivity ate less of the carrot test food ( $p < 0.001$ ). Infants who were weaned early within the 4-6 month period ate similar amounts of the new taste food regardless of tactile responsivity. This finding suggests that there might be a sensitive period for the introduction of complementary foods for some infants who are highly reactive to sensory stimuli.

Coulthard, H. & Harris, G. & Fogel A (2016) "Tactile over-responsivity and early vegetable consumption; moderating effect of age of introduction to solid foods" Maternal and Child Nutrition. DOI: 10.1111/mcn.12228

Yours faithfully

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