

## WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES, INCLUDING NEUROCOGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT?: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW PROTOCOL

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This document describes the protocol to answer the following question: What is the relationship between complementary feeding and developmental milestones, including neurocognitive development?

The 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, Birth to 24 Months Subcommittee, will be answering this question using two existing systematic reviews developed with support from the Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR).

NESR methodology for answering a systematic review question involves:

- searching for and selecting articles,
- extracting data and assessing the risk of bias of results from each included article,
- synthesizing the evidence,
- developing a conclusion statement,
- grading the evidence underlying the conclusion statement, and
- recommending future research.

More information about NESR's systematic review methodology for the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee is available on the NESR website:

- <https://nesr.usda.gov/2020-dietary-guidelines-advisory-committee-systematic-reviews>.

The existing NESR systematic reviews were conducted during the Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months Project, and captured evidence published from January 1980 to July 2016. The Complementary Feeding Technical Expert Collaborative conducted the systematic reviews in collaboration with staff from USDA's Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review. Complete documentation of the two existing systematic reviews and the related publications in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* is available on the NESR website:

- <https://nesr.usda.gov/what-relationship-between-timing-introduction-complementary-foods-and-beverages-and-developmental#full-review>
- <https://nesr.usda.gov/what-relationship-between-types-and-amounts-complementary-foods-and-beverages-consumed-and-0#full-review>

In addition, more information about the systematic review methodology used during the Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months Project is available on the NESR website:

- <https://nesr.usda.gov/pregnancy-and-birth-24-months-project-nutrition-evidence-systematic-review-methodology>

This protocol is up-to-date as of: 01/10/2020.