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Anxious parents 'raise fussy eaters';   
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Children whose parents are anxious or depressed are more likely to become fussy eaters, according to a study.

Researchers discovered a clear link between the mental wellbeing of mothers and fathers and the attitudes of young children to food. Three- and four-year-olds were at greater risk of becoming fussy eaters if their parents suffered **anxiety** during pregnancy or in the first couple of years of their**child's** life, they found.

The study was led by a team of researchers based at the Erasmus MC University Medical Centre, Rotterdam, who examined the **eating** habits of more than 4,700 children born in the Netherlands between 2002 and 2006.

Parents completed questionnaires to assess their levels of **anxiety** and **depression** during mid-pregnancy and again when their **child** was three years old. They also reported on their children's**eating** patterns: about 30 per cent were classified as fussy eaters by the age of three.

The study was published in the Archives of Disease in Childhood.

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH