

Table 1. Summary of the terminology used in the paper with applications to the empirical example.

<i>Outcome</i>	Any developmental construct measured at one or more time points including at a final outcome time point
<i>Exposure</i>	Exposure or experience that constitutes the causal event of interest and is measured at at least two time points, with at least one time point occurring prior to the outcome
<i>Exposure Time Points</i>	Time points in development when the exposure was measured at which balancing formulas will be created
<i>Exposure Epochs</i>	(optional) Further delineation of exposure time points into meaningful units of developmental time, each of which could encompass multiple exposure time points, that together constitute exposure main effects in the outcome model and exposure histories
<i>Exposure Histories</i>	Sequences of relatively high (“ <i>h</i> ”) or low (“ <i>l</i> ”) levels of exposure at each exposure time point or exposure epoch
<i>Exposure Dosage</i>	Total cumulative exposure epochs during which an individual experienced high (or low) levels of exposure across an entire exposure history
<i>Backdoor Path</i>	Any alternative, non-causal way (other than the direct causal effects from exposure to outcome) that the exposure at a given time point associates with the outcome within a causal diagram, often via confounders
Confounder	Pre-exposure variable that represents a common <i>cause</i> of exposure at a given time point and outcome; adjusting for all of which successfully blocks all backdoor paths
Time-varying confounder	A confounder measured at one or more time points prior to the exposure time point which reflects a construct that varies in time (exposure and outcome variables).
Time invariant confounder	A confounder measured at a single time point prior to the exposure time point which reflects a construct that is stable over time.
<i>Collider</i>	A variable that represents a common <i>effect</i> of exposure at a given time point and outcome; adjusting for which opens a backdoor path