

S2 Table. Characteristics of participants and dropouts at baseline survey

		Participants N=5,676 n (%)	Dropouts ^a N=1,035 n (%)	p-value ^b
Demographic factors				
Age (years)				<0.001
	1	3,788 (67)	266 (26)	
	2	683 (12)	248 (24)	
	3	596 (11)	256 (25)	
	4	609 (11)	265 (26)	
Sex				0.321
	Female	2,733 (48)	481 (46)	
	Male	2,943 (52)	554 (54)	
Ethnicity				<0.001
	Whites	4,333 (76)	606 (59)	
	South Asian	1,343 (24)	429 (41)	
Breastfeeding				
	Never	2,284 (40)	470 (45)	0.002
	0-3 months	1,610 (28)	310 (30)	
	4-6 months	705 (12)	111 (11)	
	>6 months	1,077 (19)	144 (14)	
Socioeconomic status				
Townsend deprivation index ^c				<0.001
	Deprived (Index>0)	2,617 (46)	602 (58)	
Family education ^d				0.035
	High	2,426 (43)	397 (38)	
Environmental exposures				
Day care attendance		2,330 (41)	615 (59)	<0.001
Number of older siblings				0.282
	0	2,347 (41)	409 (40)	
	1 or 2	2,895 (51)	511 (49)	
	>=3	424 (7)	112 (11)	
Mother smoked during pregnancy		865 (15)	199 (19)	0.001
Mother smokes currently		1,115 (20)	220 (21)	0.232
Pet (dog/cat/bird) ownership		2,174 (38)	333 (32)	<0.001
Parental history of atopy (asthma, eczema, or hay fever)				
Maternal atopy		2,519 (44)	431 (42)	0.103
Paternal atopy		2,108 (37)	363 (35)	0.205
Parental history of eczema				
Maternal eczema		1,270 (22)	227 (22)	0.753
Paternal eczema		707 (12)	121 (12)	0.491

^a Children who participated at the baseline survey in 1998 and had information on breastfeeding, but did not answer to eczema question in any survey.

^b P-value of Chi-square test, to evaluate the differences between participants and dropouts.

^c An area-based deprivation score; higher values indicate greater deprivation.

^d Parents (either father or mother) who completed their full-time education older than age of 16.