

**Supplementary Table 1.** Food fussiness subscale from the Children's Eating Behaviour

Questionnaire used to assess 'food selectivity' in the current study

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#	Item
1	My child refuses new foods at first
2	My child enjoys tasting new foods*
3	My child enjoys a wide variety of foods*
4	My child is difficult to please with meals
5	My child is interested in tasting food s/he hasn't tasted before*
6	My child decides that s/he doesn't like a food, even without tasting it

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\*Indicates reverse-scored items; items are scored on a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (*Never*) to 5 (*Always*)

**Supplementary Table 2.** Non-imputed population characteristics<sup>1</sup>

<b>Child</b>		<i>N</i>
Sex, % boys	2027 (49.4)	4092
Birthweight, g	3445.2 ± 570.2	4088
Ethnicity, % Dutch	2824 (69.2)	4082
BMIz <sup>2</sup> , 6 y	0.2 ± 0.8	3713
Age at diet quality assessment, y	8.1 ± 0.2	4085
Energy intake <sup>3</sup> , kcal/d	1483.8 ± 371.5	4092
<b>Mother</b>		<i>N</i>
Age at inclusion, y	31.8 ± 4.4	4092
Educational level <sup>4</sup>		3948
High	1376 (34.9)	
Mid- high	1042 (26.4)	
Mid- low	1043 (26.4)	
Low	487 (12.3)	

<sup>1</sup>Values are mean ± SD or frequency (percent); <sup>2</sup>Sex- and age-adjusted Body Mass Index (BMIz) standard deviation score calculated using Dutch Reference growth curves (30); <sup>3</sup>Derived from Food Frequency Questionnaire at 8 y; <sup>4</sup>Education levels include: low (<3 years of secondary school), mid-low (>3 years of secondary school; intermediate vocational training; first year of higher vocational training), mid-high (higher vocational training; Bachelor's degree) and high (university level).

**Supplementary Table 3.** Bivariate Pearson's correlations coefficients (*r*) for main study variables<sup>1</sup>

	Autistic traits <sup>2</sup> – 3 y	Autistic traits <sup>2</sup> – 6 y	Autistic traits <sup>3</sup> – 6 y	Food selectivity <sup>4</sup> – 4 y	Diet quality score <sup>5</sup> – 8 y
Autistic traits <sup>2</sup> – 1.5 y	0.43	0.31	0.30	0.10	-0.08
Autistic traits <sup>2</sup> – 3 y	-	0.49	0.38	0.14	-0.06
Autistic traits <sup>2</sup> – 6 y	-	-	0.59	0.13	-0.06
Autistic traits <sup>3</sup> – 6 y	-	-	-	0.09	-0.08
Food selectivity <sup>4</sup> – 4 y	-	-	-	-	-0.19

<sup>1</sup> $P < 0.001$  for all coefficients; *n* ranges from 3281-3691; <sup>2</sup>Pervasive Developmental Problems subscale from the Child Behavior

Checklist/1.5-5 (20); <sup>3</sup>Social Responsiveness Scale (22); <sup>4</sup>Food fussiness subscale of the Children's Eating Behaviour Questionnaire

(29); <sup>5</sup>Developed by van der Velde et al.(28)

**Supplementary Table 4.** Multiple Linear Regressions showing associations between autistic traits at various child ages and food component scores<sup>1</sup>

Food component score <sup>2</sup>	Autistic traits <sup>3</sup>			Autistic trait trajectory <sup>4</sup>
	1.5 y n=3629	3 y n=3679	6 y n=3898	Low and stable (referent group) vs. High and increasing
	$\beta$ (95%CI)	$\beta$ (95%CI)	$\beta$ (95%CI)	$\beta$ (95%CI)
Fruit	-0.02 (-0.03, -0.01)	-0.01 (-0.02, -0.004)	-0.01 (-0.02, -0.004)	-0.04 (-0.08, -0.01)
Vegetables	-0.02 (-0.03, -0.01)	-0.02 (-0.03, -0.01)	-0.02 (-0.02, -0.01)	-0.05 (-0.08, -0.01)
Whole grains	-0.02 (-0.02, -0.01)	-0.01 (-0.02, -0.01)	-0.01 (-0.02, -0.00002)	-0.03 (-0.07, 0.01)
Fish	-0.01 (-0.02, 0.01)	-0.02 (-0.03, -0.003)	-0.03 (-0.04, -0.01)	-0.09 (-0.15, -0.03)
Legumes	0.00 (-0.02, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.02, 0.01)	-0.01 (-0.06, -0.05)
Nuts	-0.01 (-0.02, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.05, 0.05)
Dairy	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.02, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.06, 0.05)
Oils	-0.01 (-0.02, -0.004)	-0.01 (-0.02, 0.003)	-0.01 (-0.02, 0.001)	-0.04 (-0.08, 0.002)
Sugary drinks	-0.002 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.01, 0.003)	-0.01 (-0.04, 0.03)
Processed meat	-0.001 (-0.01, 0.01)	0.01 (-0.002, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.005, 0.01)	0.00 (-0.03, 0.03)

<sup>1</sup>Values are pooled standardized regression coefficients (95% Confidence Intervals). All models adjust for the child energy intake, sex, age, ethnicity, birth weight, BMIz score (6 y), maternal age at recruitment and education. <sup>2</sup>Derived from van der Velde et al.(28).

<sup>3</sup>Measured using the Child Behavior Checklist/1.5-5 (20). <sup>4</sup>Latent Class Growth Analysis categories: Low and stable ( $n=3885$ , 95%) and High and increasing ( $n=207$ , 5%)

**Supplementary Table 5.** Multiple Linear Regressions showing associations between food selectivity at child age 4 y and food component scores at 8 y<sup>1</sup>

Food component score <sup>2</sup>	Food selectivity <sup>3</sup>
	$\beta$ (95% CI)
Fruit	-0.03 (-0.04, -0.03)
Vegetables	-0.05 (-0.06, -0.04)
Whole grains	0.00 (-0.01, 0.004)
Fish	-0.07 (-0.08, -0.05)
Legumes	-0.05 (-0.07, -0.04)
Nuts	-0.02 (-0.03, -0.01)
Dairy	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)
Oils and soft margarines	-0.01 (-0.02, 0.003)
Sugar containing beverages	0.00 (-0.003, 0.01)
High-fat and processed meat	0.00 (-0.01, 0.002)

<sup>1</sup>Values are pooled standardized regression coefficients (95% Confidence Intervals),  $n=3360$ . All models adjust for child energy intake, sex, age, ethnicity, birth weight, BMIz score (6 y), maternal age at recruitment and education. <sup>2</sup>Derived from van der Velde et al.(28). <sup>3</sup>Food fussiness subscale from the Children's Eating Behaviour Questionnaire (29)

**Supplementary Table 6.** Direct and indirect effects of the associations between autistic traits at 1.5 y and food component scores at 8 y through food selectivity at 4 y<sup>1</sup> (*n*=3360)

Mediation model	$\beta$ (95% CI)
Fruit score <sup>2</sup>	
Autistic traits <sup>3</sup> (direct effect)	-0.07 (-0.11, -0.04)
Food selectivity <sup>4</sup> (indirect effect)	-0.01 (-0.02, -0.01)
Vegetables score <sup>2</sup>	
Autistic traits <sup>3</sup> (direct effect)	-0.06 (-0.09, -0.03)
Food selectivity <sup>4</sup> (indirect effect)	-0.02 (-0.02, -0.01)

<sup>1</sup>Values are standardized regression coefficients (95% Confidence Intervals). Models adjust for the child energy intake, sex, age, ethnicity, birth weight, BMI<sub>z</sub> score (6 y), maternal age at recruitment and education. <sup>2</sup>Derived from van der Velde et al.(28). <sup>3</sup>Measured using the Pervasive Developmental Problems subscale from the Child Behavior Checklist/1.5-5 (20).

<sup>4</sup>Food fussiness subscale from the Children's Eating Behaviour Questionnaire (29)

## Supplementary Figure 1. Study participant flow chart

