

Appendix A: Search Protocol

Databases to be searched

- PubMed
- MEDLINE
- CINAHL
- PsychINFO
- Google Scholar

Search terms

A modified version of a PICO search strategy was used

Child	AND	Blended diet	AND	Gastrostomy
OR young people		OR Blend*		OR enteral
OR teenage		OR homemade		OR tube*
OR young adult*		OR pureed food		
OR adolescen*				
OR 12-25				
OR adult (added)				

Inclusion criteria:

- Studies needed to be published in English due to the time-constraints of the review.
- Studies had to explore a blended diet as a real alternative to commercial formula feeds.
- Studies that examined blended diets and gastrostomy care for adults were included if findings were easily transferable to children and young people with gastrostomies.
- To be included, studies needed to focus on enteral feeding and consider blended diets as a type of feed. This is important because although there are few studies specifically exploring blended diets, there are studies which consider a blended diet while examining commercial formulas.

- Studies that considered blended diets as an alternative to commercial formula feeds they were also included.

Studies which did not focus on original research (e.g. literature reviews) were excluded as were articles which were solely theoretical in nature.