

Table 1: Summary of the data presented in the selected papers

Author (Date)	Location	Study Method	Sample Size	Factors influencing weaning - less than 4 months	Factors influencing weaning 4-6 months	Age weaning commenced
White (2009)	Scotland	Questionnaire	114	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mothers on low incomes. Lone mothers. Mothers who have never breastfed. The time that weaning advice is given to mothers. By 4 months 57% of infants weaned and of these 40% were weaned by 13 weeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The time that weaning advice is given to mothers 	By 4 months 57% of infants weaned and of these 40% were weaned by 13 weeks.
Wright et al (2004)	Gateshead	Questionnaire & weaning diary	707	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid weight gain in the first 6 weeks. Formula feeding. Mothers' perception that the infant is hungry. Lower socio-economic status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breastfeeding 	21% of infants weaned before 3 months and 6% after 4 months.
Arden (2010)	UK	Questionnaire	105	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs from the infant that they are ready to be weaned such as hungry and waking more often. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Later weaning was associated with a focus on the WHO recommendation. Health visitor advice and support was poor. 	29% of infants weaned before 6 months and 26.7% weaned at 6 months.
Alder et al (2004)	Scotland	Interview Questionnaire	286	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in a deprived area. Influence of maternal grandmother. Not agree with WHO recommendation of weaning age. Being in receipt of free samples of manufactured food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 12 weeks, no specific reasons given 	40% of infants weaned by 12 weeks, 87% weaned by 16 weeks and 95% weaned by 20 weeks
Moore et al	UK	Questionnaire	3607	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor understanding of weaning guidelines. Young maternal age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the internet for advice on weaning. Good understanding of the weaning guidelines. Following the baby led weaning approach to wean 	13% of infants were weaned before 17 weeks, 37% between 18-23 weeks, 25% between 24-25 weeks and 25% at 26 weeks.
Moore et al (2012)	UK	Questionnaire	1348	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young mothers. Lower educational attainment. Baby waking at night. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the internet for advice on weaning. Knowledge of weaning guidelines. Infant's age 	43% of babies weaned before 24 weeks
Spellman, (2012)	Plymouth	Questionnaire	104	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single mothers Unemployed Without further education Never breastfed Receiving advice from family and friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married or living with partner Mothers with further education 	20% of infants weaned before 4 months. 60% infants weaned between 4 and 6 months and 4.3% weaned after 6 months.
McAndrew et al (2012)	UK	Questionnaire	10768	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young mothers. Socio-economic Status. Minority ethnic backgrounds. The timing of mother returning to work. Infant no longer satisfied with milk feeds. Infant waking at night. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infant able to sit up and hold food in their hand. Formal information from either health professionals or written information 	25% of infants weaned by 3-4 months. 30% of infants weaned by 4 months. 69% of babies weaned after 4 months.
Tarrant et al (2010)	Dublin	Questionnaire	539	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower educational attainment. Mothers less than 24 years old. Formula fed. Advice from maternal grandmother. Infant showing signs of hunger To help the infant to sleep. Mother's antenatal understanding that weaning should commence before 12 week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice from health professional. Mother's antenatal understanding of when weaning should commence 	75% of infants weaned by 17 weeks. 5.9% after 20 weeks