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Almost all parents bought snacks for their child in the six months to March 2015. Also reflective of the ingrained nature of kids' snacking is that three quarters of children snack at least once a day.

### This report looks at the following areas:

- Unrefined sugar sources offer route for operators to address health concerns
- Free school meal scheme poses a threat to kids' snacking
- Interest in kids' snacks with added protein presents NPD opportunity

The government's introduction of universal infant free school meals to reception-age children and those in Years 1 and 2 from September 2014 saw an extra 1.3 million children eating a hot school meal at lunch according to official governmental figures. In total 1.6 million children, equivalent to 85% of all infants, opt for a school meal at lunchtime. Given that snacks are often included in packed lunches, this has curbed demand for these products.

However the forecast growth in the number of children aged 10-14 between 2014 and 2019 is good news for the kids' snacking market and should support demand for these products.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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Growth in the	number of 10-14-year-olds good news for kids' snacking

Children's intake of fruit/vegetables is on the decline

#### Market Drivers

Changes to school lunches represent a threat to kids' snacking

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Growth in number of children good news for the market

Figure 6: Trends in the age structure of the UK population, 2009-14 and 2014-19

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Fewer than one in five children reach 5-a-day fruit and vegetables target

Figure 7: Trends in the prevalence of eating five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day, by sex, 2001-13

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On-the-go children's snacks attract launches in 2014

Kerry Foods launch innovative yogurt snack

Kinder tops advertising expenditure

Mondelez's Barny cakes focus on 'kitchen cupboard' ingredients

Launch Activity and Innovation

#### NPD in kids' snacking drops in 2014

Figure 8: Index of new product launches in kids' snacking market in the UK, 2010-14

Fruit snacks mimic sugar confectionery to boost appeal with children

Yogurt explores different designs to boost the fun factor

Kid versions of regular snacks

Minority think kids' snacks are more suitable than adults' snacks

On-the-go children's snacks attract launches in 2014

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#### Kinder tops advertising expenditure

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Babybel introduces Babybel Buddies characters

Barny cakes focus on kitchen cupboard ingredients

Haribo second largest spender with the launch of two new TV adverts

Petits Filous Magic Squares backed by marketing push

#### The Consumer – What You Need To Know

Nine in ten parents buy sweet snacks

Snack brands linked to a wider healthy lifestyle appeal

Openness among parents to 'light' snack products for children

Kids' snacks with added protein appeal to one in four parents

Taste most important to children

#### Snacks Bought by Parents

#### Nine in 10 parents buy sweet snacks

Figure 11: Snacks bought by parents, by category, March 2015

Figure 12: Snacks bought by parents, March 2015

#### Fresh fruit most popular snack bought by parents

One in three parents buy breakfast biscuits

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#### Attitudes towards Kids' Snacking

Three in four parents agree unhealthy snacks are OK in small portions Figure 13: Attitudes towards kids' snacking, March 2015

Minority think kids' snacks are more suitable than adults' snacks

Homemade snacks preferred by half of parents

'Light' snacks widely accepted by parents

Product Enticements for Kids' Snacks

Healthier versions of kids' favourite treats gain the most interest among parents Figure 14: Interest in selected product concepts, March 2015

Kids' snacks with reduced sugar appeal

Alternatives to white sugar appeal to one in four

Plant-derived sweeteners deemed more acceptable

Snacks with benefits

Kids' snacks with added protein attract interest from one in four parents

Wholegrain kids' snacks appeal to one in three parents

#### Kids' Usage of Snacks

#### Three in four children snack at least once a day

Figure 15: Frequency of kids' snacking, March 2015

Figure 16: Time of day when snacks are eaten by children, March 2015

#### Four in 10 children eat snacks as part of a lunchbox

Figure 17: Kids' snacking occasions, March 2015

Taste is rated as the most important factor by three in four children Figure 18: Most important choice factors for children when buying snacks, March 2015

#### Half of children buy snacks because they are fun to eat

Snacks that are filling important to one in three children

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