World Nutrition Journal | eISSN 2580-7013

SUPPLEMENT

Received 19 September 2025 Accepted 22 September 2025 Published 29 September 2025

Link to DOI: 10.25220/WNJ.V09.S1.0025

Citation: Hidayatulloh A, Fahmida U, Kolopaking R, Harjatmo T P, Pritasari. The association between animal source food intake and growth among preschool children in Jakarta. World Nutrition Journal.2025 September 29, 9(51): 30.



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The association between animal source food intake and growth among preschool children in Jakarta

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Abstract

Background: Animal-source foods (ASF) are a source of high-quality protein and bioavailable micronutrients such as iron and zinc, which are important for the growth of preschool children. However, despite high ASF intake, malnutrition in Jakarta is above the national prevalence. The types of ASF consumed may have contributed to this.

Objective: This study aims to investigate the association between ASF intake and height-for-age Z-scores (HAZ) among preschool children aged 4–6 years in Jakarta.

Methods: This study used a cross-sectional design involving 189 pairs of parents and their children aged 4–6 years, recruited purposively in 27 daycares and early childhood education centres in Jakarta. Sociodemographic data were collected using a structured questionnaire. The ASF intake was collected using a past-week FFQ and the multi-pass 24-hour dietary recall to estimate the frequency and intake of different ASFs, including eggs, milk, and flesh foods (i.e., meat, poultry, fish, and organ meat). Height was measured by a trained enumerator and converted to HAZ using WHO Anthro-Plus. Data analysis was performed using Spearman's correlation test.

Results: HAZ was positively associated with intakes of protein (r=0.196, p=0.008), protein from ASF (r=0.185, p=0.012), milk (r=268, p<0.001), and flesh foods (r=0.448, p<0.001). Egg intake was not significantly associated with HAZ. **Conclusion:** ASF, particularly in the form of flesh foods, is important for the optimal growth of preschool children and should therefore be promoted to ensure their intake is sufficient.

Keywords: animal-source foods intake, growth, HAZ, preschool children

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