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The influence of parent's body mass index on peer selection: An experimental approach using virtual reality

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15	
16	Abstract
17	Relatively little is known about the influence of psychosocial factors, such as familial role
18	modelling and social network on the development and maintenance of childhood obesity.
19	We investigated peer selection using an immersive virtual reality environment. In a virtual
20	schoolyard, children were confronted with normal weight and overweight avatars either
21	eating or playing. Fifty-seven children aged 7 to 13 participated. Interpersonal distance to the
22	avatars, child's BMI, self-perception, eating behavior and parental BMI were assessed.
23	Parental BMI was the strongest predictor for the children's minimal distance to the avatars.

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