Reviewer's report

Title: Interactive Programs with Preschool Children Bring Smiles and Conversation to Older Adults: Time-Sampling Study

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Reviewer: Jill Chonody

Reviewer's report:

Overall, this manuscript is well written and makes a contribution to the field. My main comments cover two aspects of the paper: organization and further development.

Discretionary Revisions

1. The introduction could use a bit more development regarding the studies that have been completed on intergenerational programs and make a more convincing argument why those types of programs may be essential (which is done more so in the discussion instead).

2. While the methods are appropriately described, rationale for the choice of methodology and operationalization would have strengthened this section. Perhaps some of the information in the discussion section could be moved here (re: types of smiles)

3. In the analyses section, it isn't clear why 2 reviewers were used instead of all 3. Further information regarding this decision should be added.

4. The last statement of the second paragraph in the discussion should be moved to the introduction as this wasn't measured in your study and seems somewhat misplaced.

5. The limitations section needs significant development. No limitations are outlined. Also some note on how data triangulation can be utilized to improve limitations in other methods may be better point to make then to say that reliability and validity of surveys cannot be achieved.

6. The discussion regarding implications needs further development. For example, what might it mean that you found differences in facial expressions? With further research, could this information be used in some way in the development of intergenerational programs? What would you like the reader to take away from your findings?

Thank you for allowing me to read and review this interesting manuscript based on an important topic. With a little additional literature and a bit of reorganization, I think this manuscript will be very useful for readers.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
No