Reviewer's report

Title: Externalizing behavior in early childhood and body mass index from age 2 to 12 years: longitudinal analyses of a prospective cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 25 May 2010

Reviewer: Simon Rueckinger

Reviewer's report:

I agree with the authors argumentation that given the already existing association between externalizing behaviour and BMI at age 24 months, assessment of the direction of the association is difficult. However, this could have been addressed by e.g. confining the analysis to children with BMI in normal range at age 24 months. I still think that the analysis could have been conducted in a more interesting way. Apart from that, this is a well written and scientifically sound paper.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests