Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of Effectiveness of Early Intervention on Children with Intellectual Disability

Version: 2 Date: 1 February 2014

Reviewer: Steven Lamm

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Present a graph showing each pair of measurements. If emphasis is to be on the distinction between low maternal education families and others, then either present on separate graphs or demonstrate with different bars (dotted vs. thin solid, etc.).
2. Demonstrate that the significant metric is age at testing rather than time interval between tests.
3. Include gender as a variable.
4. Distinguish between verbal and performance scores.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. IQ scores in abstract are reversed.
2. Present analytic results in the text and the tables in the same order.
3. Add a vertical line in Table 1 to separate the results of the analyses of the means from the results of the analyses in the changes in the IQ scores.
4. Demonstrate more clearly to what the Table 1 p-values apply.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. Tighten and focus the discussion.

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'