Reviewer’s report

Title: Parent and child physical activity and sedentary time: Do active parents foster active children?

Version: 1 Date: 5 December 2009

Reviewer: Susan B Sisson

Reviewer’s report:

Comments to author:

Thank you for your time doing this study and preparing this manuscript. This is an interesting and timely study that examines the influence of parental PA and screen behavior on their children. This is a very well-done study and nicely written manuscript. All comments are in the category "minor essential revisions".

Abstract:
“computer console time” – do you mean video games? Maybe add for clarity

2 hour AAP – This is a little confusing and tricky since AAP recommends no more than 1-2 hr/day and your cut points were 1-2 or 2-3, so those kids or parents that select 1-2 could be at the 2 hr which is exceeding the recommendation. Just to be careful in phrasing and make explanation and categorization.

Background:
1st sentence: specify children or adults

“lower levels of childhood obesity” – that is confusing. To me this sentence reads that tv is associated with lower obesity, which is not the case in the majority of studies.

Methods:
Adjusting for daylight – unique and interesting. You may be starting a trend. Can you provide in results if this was significant.

Good defense of cutpoints selected.

Analysis:
Were there any data on neighborhood safety? That might explain some variance since kids, girls particularly, have shown higher tv with unsafe or perceived unsafe neighborhood.

Discussion:
You will need to include that during this age (10-11 yo) kids are becoming more
autonomous and maybe less influenced by parents. Parental behavior may have
greater influence on younger children.

Need to explain why you think parental sedentary time is only associated with
girls sed time rather than boys and girls?

Can you explain why sedentary counts were predicted more variance than
sedentary minutes. Could this be a function of the difference in epoch length?
Please comment.

You could remove all non-mother parents and see if results are strengthened.
This would be an interesting side analysis in the results and discussion.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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