Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 24 December 2009

Reviewer: Alison Field

Reviewer's report:

The authors have focused on an important, yet understudied, topic of the association between parent and child activity and sedentary activity patterns.

1. Major compulsory revisions

The analysis is overly simplistic, thus it is unclear whether there is a stronger association among certain high risk subsets.

* It would be helpful to see whether the associations varied by caregiver’s BMI. Are the associations stronger among overweight and obese parents?

* Is the association stronger among very sedentary or very active parents? Using a linear model makes a strong assumption. At a minimum, it should be explored whether the association increases in a linear manner vs. a threshold effect. It is likely that the association might be stronger among those with higher values (in either being sedentary or active).

* A logistic model isn't appropriate for an outcome with an approximately 50% prevalence. It may make sense to either predict a higher threshold or to use prevalence ratios.

Minor Essential Revisions

* the differences between those and included and those retained is somewhat troubling. It would be good to discuss the possibility that the observed associations might be stronger in less affluent populations, who tend to be at higher risk of obesity.

* were Spearman correlations used or Pearsons? The former would be more appropriate.

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