Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of bullying and victimization among children in early elementary school: do family and neighborhood socioeconomic status matter?

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Patel,

Please find enclosed our manuscript “Prevalence of bullying and victimization among children in early elementary school: do family and neighbourhood socioeconomic status matter?”. We appreciate it if you would consider publishing this manuscript as an original article in the *BMC Public Health*.

In a population-based study of nearly 6,400 5-year old children, we showed that physical, verbal and relational bullying and victimization are common behaviours in early elementary school. About one-third of the children were already involved in bullying behaviour with boys being involved more often than girls. We found large socioeconomic inequalities in bullying behaviour: both low family level socioeconomic background and poor neighborhood socioeconomic status of schools were associated with bullying and victimization. The effect of school neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage was, however, explained by family level SES. Currently, bullying interventions and preventions are implemented in the higher grades of elementary school, but our findings suggest that such programs should start much earlier.

The manuscript represents original material, has not been published previously and is not under concurrent consideration elsewhere. All authors approve this submission. There are no conflicts of interest.

We hope you will consider this paper to be of interest to the readers of the *BMC Public Health* and look forward to your evaluation.

Yours Sincerely,
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