Reviewer’s report

Title: Development and psychometric properties of the Y-PASS questionnaire to assess correlates of lunchtime and after-school physical activity in children

Version: 2 Date: 10 April 2014

Reviewer: Faryle Nothwehr

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. Overall, the manuscript is well written and organized. The investigators appear to have followed commonly recommended procedures for the development and testing of this new instrument, and have documented the results very well. They have also made a good case for the need for the instrument.

Discretionary revisions:

1. There are just a few concerns and clarifications. It would help readers if the authors provided a definition for, and defend their use of, the term “correlates”. They could more clearly explain that early testing of measures may only examine whether particular factors are correlated cross-sectionally with physical activity (PA), but the ultimate test of the usefulness of the measures is whether they prove to be predictive of PA when manipulated in an experimental situation. The items and scales in the Y-PASS may or may not prove useful for intervention design, since only a portion have actually been examined for their actual correlation to PA in other studies, and fewer (any?) have been shown to predict PA in experimental studies. Some may also be very difficult to change.

2. There are also a few places in the manuscript and tables where the term “predictor items” is used instead of correlates, and it is not clear why.

3. In the first paragraph of the Background, the last sentence is confusing and redundant. The authors could delete the words “and the correlates of physical activity”… or clarify this entire paragraph to address the points above.

4. The conclusions should also include mention of the need to test the measures as predictors, not just correlates.

5. On page 9, please define “h-index”.

6. In the data collection section it would be helpful to know how long it took the children to complete the survey.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.