Author's response to reviews

Title: Neurobehavioral effects of transportation noise in primary school children: A cross-sectional study.

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Sir, dear Madam,

Further to your letter of 9th March 2010, please find enclosed a new revised version of the manuscript for resubmission to Environmental Health. The manuscript has been revised to take into account the comments of the Environmental Health Editorial Team. Each of the comments is addressed in below. We hope that you will reconsider our manuscript for publication.

The title should preferably not be phrased as a question, and there should be a colon between children and A cross-sectional (please correct the title also on the server).

We have changed the title into the following: Neurobehavioral effects of transportation noise in primary school children: A cross-sectional study.

The page numbers and italics throughout the text should be removed.

This is done as requested.

Please reread through the manuscript as there are some typos, e.g. page 8, paper-and-pencil as well as some English language constructions that are awkward e.g. page 3 at the beginning of the Conclusions of the Abstract, "On the base of this study" should be changed to "Based on."

We have again checked our manuscript on typos and language constructions, and we hope that this has improved the readability of our manuscript.

Subheadings should be removed, except for the Methods section.

We have removed subheadings.

When there are multiple references they should either read [8, 10, 14] or when sequential [8-10, 14]. Please do not include "and" in the references e.g. page 4 [7, 12 and 33].
Where required, we removed and in the references.

After the Conclusions section please include a list of Abbreviations listing the pairs in sentence format and separating them with semi-colons.

We have included a list of abbreviations:

“Abbreviations

Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; CITO Readability Index for Elementary and Special Education: CRIE; Digit Memory Span Test: DMST; Hand-Eye Coordination Test: HECT; Equivalent sound level from 7:00 to 23:00 hours: LAeq7-23hrs; Neurobehavioral Evaluation System: NES; Road Traffic and Aircraft Noise Exposure and Children’s Cognition and Health: Exposure-Effect Relationships and Combined Effects: RANCH; Switching Attention Test: SAT; Symbol-Digit Substitution Test: SDST; Simple Reaction Time Test: SRTT.”

At the end of the Authors' contributions include the sentence "All authors have read and given final approval of the version to be published."

This is done as requested.

The references should be in numerical order. On page 4 they jump from 23 to 33 and on page 11 there is reference 42 and then on page 17, 44 skipping 43. Please remove any references not cited in the manuscript. Issue numbers should be removed from reference entries and the page numbers should list the full page citation e.g. 1942-1949.

We have adjusted our list of references in accordance with your requirements.

All horizontal lines should be made visible in the tables and try to fit all tables on one portrait page whenever possible. Tables in landscape format can be uploaded as additional files and will not be included in the final article.

We made all horizontal lines visible. Although we have tried, it appeared that not all tables fitted on one portrait page. We will upload tables in landscape format (Tables 1 and 5) as additional files.

With kind regards,

Elise van Kempen, PhD
Researcher