Title: Towards Onset Prevention of COGnitive decline in adults with down syndrome (the TOP-COG study): study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews:

Editorial requests:
1. Please include the date your study was registered with your trial registration number at the end of your Abstract.

We have added the date the study was registered at the end of the abstract.

2. Please include a Discussion section after your Methods. This can include discussion of any practical or operational issues involved in performing the study, and any other issues linked to the study that do not fall within the previous two headings.

We have added a discussion section after the methods in both the full body of the study and in the abstract. As this took the abstract over the 350 words permitted, we have also made minor changes to reduce the length of the background and methods section of the abstract in order to bring it within the word count.

Reviewer's report:

There should be more details on how informed consent was established. E.g. have the authors used easy to read information for participants? Or did they inform only orally? How was decision-making capacity assessed? Were neuropsychological tests involved in this assessment?

We have described the consent procedures, and added information on how decision-making capacity to consent was assessed. Neuropsychological tests
were not used in this assessment, as they were conducted only after individual consent had been gained. Additionally, ability to consent has to be assessed in relationship to the decision that is to be taken, so is specific to the study in question e.g. understanding what the study involves, that there is a free choice whether or not to participate, and that there are no personal benefits as taking part in research is altruistic.