Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of physical activity on energy balance, food intake and choice in normal weight and obese children in the setting of acute social stress: A randomized controlled trial

Version: 4 Date: 13 January 2015

Reviewer: Jillon S Vander Wal

Reviewer’s report:

General Comments

This is the third review of this manuscript. This reviewer’s major compulsory revisions have been satisfactorily addressed. There’s one minor essential revision which will be left to the discretion of the editor. This reviewer apologizes for the number of minor issues. The intention is that the authors’ work be presented well.

Minor essential revision (left to the discretion of the editor):

Discussion, second to last paragraph (limitations), seventh sentence: The power was only sufficient to detect main effects, not interactions. Therefore, it would be more accurate to state, “Power calculations showed that the sample size was sufficient to detect main effects, but not interactions” or something along these lines rather than “Although power calculations showed that the sample size was sufficient to detect differences, more participants would have been desirable.”

Minor issues, not for publication

Abstract, method, first sentence: Please change “7 to 11-year-old” to “7- to 11-year old.”

Introduction, fifth paragraph: Consider using a phrase other than “middle childhood.”

Introduction, last line before methods: Please delete “on.”

Methods, second sentence: Recommend deleting “at the Hospital” as this has already been stated in this sentence.

Study design, second paragraph, third sentence: Please change “Children’s heart rate was” to “Children’s heart rates were.”

Study design, second paragraph, third to last sentence: I think there’s a word missing.

Data analysis, fifth sentence: This sentence is very long (about 62 words) and a bit confusing toward the end. Please clarify/simplify.

Discussion, second paragraph, fifth sentence: Please change “provides” to provide.”
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.