Reviewer’s report

Title: Effects of breast-feeding duration, bottle-feeding duration and non-nutritive sucking habits on the occlusal characteristics of primary dentition

Version: 3 Date: 28 January 2015

Reviewer: Cristina Mei

Reviewer’s report:

The following minor revisions are suggested.

1. Page 4 line 120: it is mentioned that the sample population was increased from 516 to 737. This is a 42.8% increase rather than the stated 30%.

2. Page 5 line 140: can you elaborate on what “adequately filled out questionnaire” means. Does this mean that no items were missing?

3. Page 8 line 224: who completed the remaining (6.8%) questionnaires?

4. Page 11 line 330: suggest changing “early weaning” to “weaned early”

5. Page 12 line 355: the citation “warrant and Bishara” should be changed to “Warren et al.” to match the reference list.

6. The citation for reference 22 in reference list needs to be amended so that the name of the authors aren’t written in full. The in-text citation also needs to be amended (ie. change “Ana Carla et al.” to “Nahas-Scocate et al.”) Please also check that the other references are written correctly (e.g. there are no page numbers written for reference 38).

7. Page 5 line 150: it might be helpful to change “a calibrated dentist” to “a single examiner, a calibrated dentist,” so that it is clear that when you refer to the single examiner on page 6 this means the calibrated dentist.

8. In the discussion (page 10 line 285), the authors mention that a posterior crossbite had harmful effects on mastication but they do not report data to support this statement. It is suggested that this statement be removed if the authors have no data to support this or another option would be to cite any studies that have reported this finding.

9. Page 13 line 389: Suggest adding “where possible” after “breast-fed for longer than 6 months” for cases where breastfeeding might not be possible. Are the authors referring to exclusive breast-feeding here? Can the authors discuss how this fits in with the WHO recommendation of breastfeeding exclusively for 6 months?

10. A typographical error appears on page 13 line 390. “Furture” should be replaced with “future”

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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