Reviewer’s report

Title: Nuancing the Role of Social Skills: A Longitudinal Study of Early Maternal Psychological Distress and Adolescent Depressive Symptoms

Version: 0 Date: 11 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Priya Wickramaratne

Reviewer's report:

This study examined the longitudinal interplay between maternal reported psychological distress in early childhood and offspring reports on social skill and depressive symptoms in early and middle adolescence. This is a well written manuscript which adds to the literature on the role of social skills for adolescent depressive symptoms. However, one aspect of the study that concerned me was the large number of families lost to follow up after the first wave, and also the fact that the sample consists of very few families belonging to low socio economic classes, which raises questions about the generalizability of the findings. Although the authors have discussed these limitations in their discussion section the fact remains that almost 50% of the sample is lost to follow up. Bearing this limitation in mind the conclusions for the most part are appropriate and the statistical analyses also appear to be appropriate. Fig 1. seems to suggest that for adolescents exposed to low maternal distress in early adolescence higher social skills were protective against depressive symptoms for girls but had little effect for boys.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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