Reviewer's report

Title: Increasing children’s physical activity through a teaching-assistant led extracurricular intervention: Process evaluation of the Action 3:30 randomised feasibility trial

Version: 3
Date: 16 September 2014

Reviewer: Mona Bjelland

Reviewer's report:

This article report the process evaluation results from the cluster randomised intervention Action 30:3, which was effective in boys but not girls.

- Major Compulsory Revisions: None
- Minor Essential Revisions:
  1. Due to the results of the intervention, illustrating higher levels of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity among boys but not girls, it would have been nice to have the quantitative findings from the process evaluation presented by gender (Table 1, the Supplemental Table, Figure 1 and 2) – if possible. Analyses by gender could potentially shed some light on why no intervention effects were found for girls.
  2. How was it decided which 13 reasons to include for non-attendance?
  3. Regarding reasons for non-attendance: The mean value for “The activities were too easy” was 2.7. This finding could be highlighted in the paragraph at page 9 (line 224-233), as it correspond well with the findings that the activities was most appropriate for the children in year 5 (page 17) and the children wanted more challenging activities (page 20). This illustrates how the quantitative and qualitative findings confirm each other.
  4. How was the gender distribution of the TAs in the intervention schools participating in the semi-structured interview?
  5. Page 18, line 456: There is no Table 4 in the manuscript. Do the authors mean Table 3?
  6. Table 1: What is meant by the foot note “Any organized youth group including Brownies and Cubs”?
  7. The Supplemental Table may be easier to interpret for the reader if the answer categories are merged into three, as in Figure 2.
- Discretionary Revisions:
  1. Line 191 page 7: “The focus group participants were purposively sampled to recruit a boy and girl based on thirds of attendance per school”. This sentence was difficult to understand, please clarify.
  2. Line 199-200 page 8: “All transcripts were read and re-read by multiple members of the research team and an initial coding frame constructed by
others”. This sentence was not easy to understand; is a word missing?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.