Reviewer's report

Title: Virtual Field Trips as physically active lessons for children: A pilot study

Version: 2 Date: 2 January 2015

Reviewer: James JD Dunn

Reviewer's report:

This is a very sound paper reporting the findings of a pilot study of the impacts on physical activity of a school-based 'virtual field trip' intervention. My only methodological concern about the paper is the sample size - was the study sufficiently powered to detect a meaningful difference in the primary outcomes?

Apart from that, while the use of technology for a virtual field trip is certainly interesting, the intervention seems to not be very potent. I'm a little surprised that a VFT which is simply exploratory would be presumed to motivate much physical activity change. I would have thought some sort of gamification, like a quest game or some competitive aspect at various venues would be needed to effect much change.

To that end, another thing that is missing from the manuscript is a description of the authors theory of change for the intervention. What behavioural mechanisms did they think the intervention would trigger to effect change in physical activity?

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