Reviewer’s report

Title: Preschool children's preferences for sedentary activity relates to parent's restrictive rules around active outdoor play

Version: 0 Date: 29 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Peter Stoepker

Reviewer's report:

General Comments
- This is an interesting and relevant topic. There may likely be several legitimate reasons how parents influence child PA and PA opportunities. This study adds to the literature in reference to these issues.

- Overall, more detail is needed in regards to methods (procedures and data collection). In addition, multiple claims are made in regards to recent findings but only one reference usually supports the claim. It would be helpful to try and synthesize the significant findings to support your claims (especially in the discussion, or methods in regards to frequency of use of the validated instruments used)

Introduction
- Very solid introduction. Would like to see here some more supporting evidence, the authors bring to light safety and introduce a systematic review, more supporting/relevant references that support this notion of safety playing a significant impact on PA

Methods
- In the final version, the authors should be sure to give information on dates of data collection (urban/rural).

- Just a little confused in the methods section in regards to the child interviews. Lines 139-140 you state that child interview were conducted and last between 5-10 minutes. Was this beyond the questionnaire? If so, much more detail is needed in regards to your interview methods, example. Who conducted the interviews? Did a single researcher/assistant conduct them all? In addition, who did the analysis? This information is necessary to understand any potential bias or perspective from those eliciting and analyzing the data. Or was the questionnaire consider the interview? Methods here need more clarity (e.g.,details on the photographs used), in the abstract it says child and parent questionnaires.

- It would be helpful to see the questions/prompts as supplemental material if possible of questionnaire questions as well as interview questions or Ipad activities

- More detail is needed in section

Results
- Displayed well, organized and easy to read

- Unless interviews were conducted much more information is needed in results section

Discussion
- Would like to see more connections to relevant literature

**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.

No

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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