Reviewer’s report

Title: Promoting parenting strategies to improve tooth brushing in children. Design of a non-randomised cluster-controlled trial

Version: 5 Date: 06 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Peter Milgrom

Reviewer's report:

The revised paper is acceptable to me with the following changes:

1. Page 8, line 17. Spell out the name of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

2. Page 10, power calculation. Provide the mean dxfs from the Dutch population, ref 26.

3. Page 15, line 24. Clarify how the 25% reduction is related to the power calculation on page 10. I suggest deleting the second paragraph. The primary outcome measure has been clarified in the paragraph before this and in the abstract.

4. In the references:
   a. Ref 1 add a space between the last name and first initial of the first author.
   b. Refs 18, 30, 31 and others citing books. Adopt a single style for the location of the publisher and publisher name.
   c. Ref 20 replace the comma after BF with a period.
   d. Update all the references to websites to be sure they are active. Consider using WebCite (https://www.webcitation.org/) or similar free service to archive the content.

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?
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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