Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Temporary exclusion of ill children from child care centers in Switzerland: practice, problems and potential solutions

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 27 Jun 2017

**Reviewer:** Gregory Stevens

**Reviewer's report:**

Overall, this is a unique study presenting some unique evidence about child care centers' approaches to child exclusion due to illness. This is a complicated issue and the results are interesting. I have a few suggestions that may help primarily in communication about the methods and generalizability of the study:

1. It would help to better explain in the introduction the rationale to use the AAP guidelines as a tool. Is AAP the only organization to develop such guidelines? It is clear that no standards have been adopted in Zurich, but are there no similar recommendations across Europe? Or is perhaps the AAP recommendation the gold standard?

2. The study mailed questionnaires to 488 CCC in Zurich, but is that the complete list of all CCCs? I suspect that it is, but a description of the proportion of all CCCs that are represented by this initial list would be helpful.

3. The authors mention some potential selection bias. But is there no way to compare the sites that participated to those that did not, especially in things such as public vs. private operation, geography, etc. Anything that could give us a sense of whether the sites that participated were similar to the sites that did not participate, would be helpful.

4. In the methods, the only measures that are described are the "ambiguities", but it would be helpful to talk about what other things were measured and how, including whether the sites had standard operating procedures, the rating scale that was asked of the CCC directors, etc.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**

If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**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

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