Reviewer's report

Title: Individual and Organizational Factors that Affect Implementation of Evidence-based Practices for Children with Autism in Public Schools: A Cross-Sectional Observational Study

Version: 0 Date: 22 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Marita Lynagh

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting area of investigation but overall I found the structure of the manuscript difficult to follow with a number of 'gaps' noted, making it difficult for the reader to fully understand the objectives and type of study that was conducted.

Background - I would suggest this be completely re-structured as it makes many assumptions about reader's existing knowledge. I recommend that this should begin with setting the scene/context of the research much earlier. This could be done by moving the paragraph on page 7 commencing at line 12 with the sentence "Schools are the primary setting....." to the beginning of the Background section, making sure to define ASD. After the definition of EBPS (currently on page 5 - line 14), there should be a brief explanation of types or examples of these in relation to ASD. Page 5 - Line 24 - the closing bracket is missing after "system"??

Participants - replace single numerals 9 and 1 with written numerals ie. "nine" and "one'.

Procedure - what study design was employed? My initial read of the manuscript to this point suggested a cross-sectional study but later references to "months 5 - 9" - suggested otherwise. Is this an intervention trial? If so, the exact study design employed needs to be spelled out. If it is an intervention trial, what about a control group?? More details are required about the total number of schools approached and consent rates. Page 9 - line 14 - "Ongoing training provided to teachers" -- also suggests an intervention trial. More information is required - Who provided the training? For how long? Intensity, duration, frequency etc?? What was the time period or timeframe between "training" and conducting the surveys?

Measures - Page 10. Line 29. Please insert a statement after listing EBPAS, ILS, ICS - that these will be explained in the section below.

Presentation of the study findings and discussion of results and limitations all seems reasonable and appropriate.
**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**
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Acceptable

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