Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations between social isolation, pro-social behaviour and emotional development in pre-school aged children: a population based survey of kindergarten staff.

Version: 2 Date: 3 May 2014

Reviewer: Yannis Tountas

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting article with a large sample of subjects.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
- The definition/approach of Social Isolation in early childhood followed here needs further literature support.
- Please change the word IMPACT (ie. to explore the impact of social isolation...) at the end of the INTRODUCTION section. This study explores ASSOCIATIONS and not impact. Please make this change throughout the manuscript.
- Please briefly describe and provide the references of the prior (observational or peer nomination) studies mentioned exploring the same issue.
- Please make the case why and how the SDQ subscales are indicators of Social Isolation.
- Since the Area Deprovation Index is the second main measure in the study please present it also in the INTRODUCTION section as a related factor.
- Please keep and discuss only the results of the multivariate analysis in the DISCUSSION section.
- It would be nice to see at the end some suggestions related to interventions since the article refers also to the significance of the childcare environment.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests