Reviewer's report

Title: Skipping breakfast among 8-9 year old children is associated with teacher-reported but not objectively measured academic performance two years later

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Reviewer: Alison Yaxley

Reviewer's report:
This manuscript describes a study investigating associations between skipping breakfast and academic performance, longitudinally, in 8-9 year old children.

Overall the manuscript is well written and presented.

The background is succinct providing some rationale for conduct of the study however there is no justification for the selection of this particular age group of children, or was it convenience? For the other literature presented in this section there is no indication of age for many of the studies. Does the age at which the children are investigated impact on the outcomes?

Noted in the methods, a comment on how breakfast skippers were defined. Please provide rationale for the assumption that skipping on one day is indicative of usual pattern or breakfast? It seems a long bow to draw especially when you also comment that so few children skipped on more than one day.

Paragraph at bottom of page 10 indicates that children were allowed to be included if they were missing one diary but figure 1 indicates that a large number of children were excluded because they had missing data for one or more breakfast occasion. Is this referring to the same thing? If so, please clarify. Further to that point, Supplemental Table 1 indicates that 1927 children have data regarding breakfast status which is not clear in the figure and again appears to contradict the comment about inclusion if missing one diary. I may have this wrong but I believe this needs more clarity.
Table 1 reports n=250 skipped but Supplemental Table 1 indicates n=69 skipped. Further, the text indicates 2.9% skipped which is not consistent with n=250. Please clarify.

Table 4 - appears that the result for numeracy was significant in the fully adjusted model (P=0.037). Please comment.

Given the definition of breakfast skipping the results may be overstated. Please consider moderating the message in the discussion.

Page 13 - paragraph on limitations. You comment that children who skip breakfast on one in three days may be going to school without breakfast one or two days each week. Equally they could only skip once a month or that could be the only skip in their entire school life. I don't believe that you can make such comments without some evidence to back them up, or at least consider the alternatives.

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.
No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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