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

Version: 1 Date: 01 May 2017

Reviewer: Lucy Bell

Reviewer’s report:
Comments to the author:

The authors have addressed the reviewer comments sufficiently. I only have a few outstanding minor comments for the authors.

Abstract:
- Results: add in age of participants at baseline and 2 years later.
- Conclusion: indicate what interventions you are referring to - those to improve breakfast consumption?

Background:
- Page 6, lines 37-45 - I suggest revising to the present tense.
  ○ Using data from a national study of Australian children, this study examined if skipping breakfast at age 8-9 years predicted poorer academic performance and classroom behavior two years later. We hypothesized that breakfast skippers would have poorer school performance and classroom behavior than those who ate breakfast.

Methods:
- Page 9, lines 44-52 - I suggest some minor revision as per below.
  ○ Covariates considered for inclusion in the adjusted models included sociodemographic variables associated with skipping breakfast (described below) and the other outcome variables (behavior, teacher-reported performance and the standardized tests; for example the
behavior variables were considered as covariates in the analysis examining the association between skipping breakfast and academic performance).

- Page 10, lines 29-34- I suggest some minor revision as per below.
  ○ Ethnicity was considered as a potential confounder in the analysis, but was not included in any of the final models as it did not change the coefficient of breakfast skipping by at least 10% (our criterion for including a potential confounder [18]) when included in the model.

Results:
- No comments

Discussion:
- The discussion has been strengthened by the changes made.

Conclusion:
- Page 14, line 25- 27 "Our results may not be generalizable to populations where children regularly go without breakfast" Please justify/reference this with an explanation for your hypothesis. This relates to the last sentence of the conclusion where 'poverty' is first mentioned - this should be discussed earlier if stated in the conclusion. Further explanation of this is required.

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.
No

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 recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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