Reviewer’s report

Title: A novel cognitive behavioural intervention with Theory of Mind (ToM) training for children with epilepsy: protocol for a case series feasibility study

Version: 0 Date: 06 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Daniel Gow

Reviewer's report:

Overall, I have no major concerns with this manuscript. The background concepts and study methodology are thoroughly and clearly explained in great detail and appear sound. There's a wealth of information regarding the study design, and although in some places certain points are reiterated, it did not feel needlessly repetitive at those points. I did not find any inconsistencies that need clarification. There was one question I was left with regarding a potential limitation, noted below. All of the other comments represent suggestions for minor grammatical changes to improve the readability of the manuscript and a few possible typographic errors.

Page 28, line 684 and page 42, limitations of the study: it's stated that children are being recruited from a pool of participants for a previous ToM study. Is it a limitation of the current study that the participants (and their parents) are potentially already familiar with some of the content, methodology, and skills involved in this study's intervention? Would that potentially bias the results of Phase II to show that the intervention is more acceptable and feasible as compared to participants not as familiar with the concepts? It's not clear what was involved in the previous study that they participated in, and whether this would be a concern.

Page 4, line 82: unnecessary comma between "in adults, and have"

Page 4, line 96: comma needed at "(cognitive ToM), and to identify"

Page 5, line 111: unnecessary comma between "groups, in order"

Page 5, line 117: unnecessary comma between "programs, and"

Page 6, line 130: unnecessary comma after "peer review, "

Page 6, line 136: unnecessary comma before ", and core components"

Page 6, line 138: unnecessary comma before ", and will"

Page 6, line 148: "interventions" needs an apostrophe: "intervention's"

Page 7, line 156: suggest adding "to" at: "ToM and to augment everyday..."
Page 7, line 159: should this be "Hofmann et al. [11]" instead of "Hofmann, Doan [11]"? Or should the prior reference two lines up be "Hofmann, Doan" instead? There's some inconsistency in how citations are being used in different places.

Page 7, line 169-70: both commas on these lines are unnecessary

Page 7, line 171: again, inconsistency in use of this citation

Page 8, line 186: unnecessary comma between "component, and"

Page 9, line 199: unnecessary comma between "component, and"

Page 9, line 202-5: the three commas in this paragraph are all unnecessary

Page 9, line 213: unnecessary comma between "cognitive ToM, and is"

Page 9, line 215: unnecessary comma between "affective ToM, and is"

Page 11, line 254-6: the sentence starting with "These nine verbs..." contains two separate clauses, split by a comma. Suggest replacing "...adolescents, and when..." with "...adolescents. When combined with...training they were found...".

Page 13, line 300: unnecessary comma between "the past, and found"

Page 13, line 310-2: sentence starting with "For instance, working memory..." may need a "that" between "...domains of EF have been consistently...". The comma between "children, and" is also unnecessary

Page 13, line 315: comma needed between "...techniques) may..." to close off that supporting text for "EF strategies"

Page 14, line 332: unnecessary comma between "social situations, and increase"

Page 16, line 376: should be either "having a positive past experience" or "having positive past experiences" (plural inconsistency between "a" and "experiences").

Page 16, line 378-87: all of the "i.e."s in this paragraph are giving examples for each category, and thus "e.g." is more appropriate as you are offering multiple possibilities instead of defining/clarifying what is meant (which is when "i.e." is more appropriate)

Page 16, line 393: unnecessary comma between "of career, who have"

Page 20, line 486: the final sentence in this paragraph appears in the following Exclusion Criteria sub-section, in which case it doesn't seem to be necessary in this sub-section

Page 21, line 408: suggest adding "the" at "...a clinical opinion of the intervention...", and removing the comma following "intervention,"
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