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Predicting family and child physical activity across six-months of a family-based intervention: An application of theory of planned behavior, planning and habit

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1 Running Head: Predictors of Family Physical Activity

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7 Predicting Family and Child Physical Activity across Six-Months of a Family-Based

8 Intervention: An Application of Theory of Planned Behavior, Planning and Habit

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Abstract

Background: Family-based physical activity (PA) interventions have proven effective in modifying physical activity; yet, the mechanisms underlying behavioral performance are currently unclear. In this study, we follow-up upon prior trial data that showed changes to child moderate-to-vigorous PA (MVPA) as a result of a family education+planning intervention compared to an education only condition. We examined parents' perceived family PA frequency, family PA social cognitions, and family PA habit over the 26 weeks between the two conditions.

Methods: One hundred and two parents (of children aged 6 to 12 yrs), were recruited through advertisements and randomized to either a planning + education condition (n = 52) or an education only condition (n = 50) designed to improve child MVPA. Self-reported family PA, social cognition (measured by theory of planned behavior, planning intention, habit) were completed by the contact parent at baseline, six-week, 13-week, and 26-week time-periods.

Results: The education+planning intervention increased planning intention ($p < .01$) and family PA ($p = .06$) compared to the education only group. The effect of condition on the putative mediators did not explain these changes (all 95% CIs crossed 0), and family PA was associated with child MVPA only at 13 weeks ($p < .01$). Intervention assignment had a small indirect effect on family PA (favoring the education+planning group) via Habit. Perceived behavioral control and habit were consistent predictors of family PA ($p < .05$), but not PA intention or planning intention ($p > .05$). **Conclusions:** The planning+education intervention showed improved family PA and planning intention, yet the null mediation results suggest that other variables from the family system (e.g., child motivation, other parent's motivation and plans) are likely needed to fully understand the intervention effects. The promotion of perceived behavioral control and habit to assist in family PA is recommended for future research in this population. **Registered Trial:** [clinicaltrials.gov # NCT01882192](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT01882192)

Keywords: Planning, Exercise, Habit, Theory of Planned Behavior

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Introduction

65 Engaging in regular physical activity (PA) during childhood is associated with better
66 physical and mental health profiles ^{1,2}, yet few are active enough to optimize these health
67 outcomes ³. A child's behavior is inter-connected within the structure and function of the family
68 system ⁴ and thus parents represent critical enablers of child PA ⁵. Family-based PA interventions
69 that focus on promoting child PA by involving parents and their children as stakeholders have
70 generally been successful at increasing child PA (SMD = 0.29), yet the range of effectiveness
71 considerably heterogeneous (95% CI 0.14 to 0.45) ⁶.

72 Understanding and intervening upon child PA within the family has frequently applied
73 social cognitive approaches ⁷, such as the theory of planned behavior (TPB)⁸. This approach
74 positions intention as the proximal determinant of action, and intention is subsequently co-
75 determined by attitudes (expectations about behavioral outcomes), subjective norm (perceptions
76 of social pressure to perform a behavior), and perceived behavioral control (perceptions of
77 capability and autonomy to enact a behavior). Thus far, educational interventions targeting the
78 attitudes of parents with information about the health benefits of child PA to increase parental
79 support for their children's PA have not been effective ⁶. Further, parents often have very high
80 intentions to assist their children in PA, but this goes unrealized in almost half these cases ^{9,10}.
81 This "intention-behavior gap" is duly recognized in PA research ¹¹ and unsurprising because
82 positive intentions would have presumably influenced the initial decision to even participate in a
83 PA intervention ¹². Instead, interventions that empower parents with skills on "how" to enact
84 physical activity, rather than reasons "why", have been effective ⁶. This mimics more recent
85 advances in theory beyond basic social cognitive intention formation approaches e.g., ¹³, where
86 the binding of intention to behavior is considered a consequence of sound planning and self-
87 regulation tactics ^{14,15}, potentially followed by determinants such as the development of habits
88 ^{16,17}.

89 While review of the behavior change techniques in family-based interventions can assist
90 in an understanding of the mechanisms underlying behavior change, mediation analysis is also
91 useful ¹⁸. PA performed in a trial is often not a sole function of the intervention itself, so it is
92 helpful to understand predictors of PA independent of intervention assignment ¹⁹. There is ample
93 observational research to demonstrate that parental support (e.g., encouragement, logistical
94 support, co- physical activity) is linked to child PA ^{20,21}, yet there is extremely limited, and mixed

95 evidence about family-based predictors and mediators of child PA in interventions. For example,
96 Brown et al. ²² showed that family-related variables were not predictive of child PA in three of
97 four intervention studies reviewed. This finding was supported by a more recent trial which also
98 found no link between change in child PA and parental support or parental access to home and
99 local PA facilities ²³. By contrast, Morgan et al. ²⁴ showed that family co-participation in PA
100 mediated the family intervention and child PA association. Co-PA is an important outcome in
101 most family PA interventions ²⁵ so this is a promising finding. Still, the relationship between
102 parental involvement variables and child PA in family interventions is poorly understood and
103 there is no information about the underlying predictive mechanisms such as parental motivation,
104 planning, or family PA habits.

105 Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine parent's perceived family PA
106 frequency (co-physical activity), family PA social cognitions, and family PA habit over the
107 course of a family planning intervention. The primary outcome of the original randomized
108 controlled trial was children's (aged 6-12 years) MVPA and the results showed that children in a
109 a planning+education group had higher MVPA, measured using accelerometry, at six-weeks, and
110 13 weeks compared to an education-only group, though both conditions returned to similar values
111 at 26 weeks ²⁶. We hypothesized (H1), similar to the child MVPA outcomes, that the
112 education+planning condition would show higher parent-reported family PA and planning
113 intention because this was the key focus of the intervention. We also explored whether family PA
114 habit increased in the planning+education group compared to the education group, because self-
115 regulation and behavior change are theorized as key antecedents of habit development ^{16,17}.

116 As a null hypothesis (H2), we expected that the education+planning intervention would
117 not affect social cognitive variables of the TPB; ⁸ compared to the education only condition. This
118 hypothesis was formed based on the post-intentional/action control theoretical focus of the
119 planning+education intervention ²⁷, which suggests that intention and its antecedents are already
120 a pre-requisite of entry into the trial and follow-through of intentions is based on self-regulatory
121 tactics (e.g., planning) and habit (learned cue-based responses). Thus, affective attitude
122 (expectations that family PA will be enjoyable), instrumental attitude (expectations that family
123 PA will be useful), subjective norm (perceptions of social pressure to perform family PA from
124 others), perceived behavioral control (perceptions of capability and autonomy to enact family

125 PA), and intention (commitment to enact family PA) were not expected to differ by experimental
126 group across the intervention.

127 An additional aim of the study was to examine the predictors of family PA across time
128 and any theoretical mediators of the intervention. We used an augmented TPB⁸ to predict PA
129 (see Figure 1). Briefly, child MVPA was expected to be predicted by family PA because family
130 PA is conceived as one of the forms in which a child is active²⁴. In turn (H3), we hypothesized
131 that planning intention²⁸ would predict family PA, and this sequencing (planning intention to
132 family PA to child MVPA) would collectively mediate the relationship between the intervention
133 conditions and child MVPA. This follows prior theoretical models that propose regular PA is -
134 determined by self-regulation tactics¹⁴. We further explored whether the intervention also had an
135 indirect effect upon family PA via habit, because habit has also been theorized as a co-
136 determinant with self-regulation in predicting PA^{16,17}.

137 Finally, we hypothesized (H4) that perceived behavioral control over family PA, and
138 family PA intention would predict family PA independent of the intervention conditions. This
139 theorizing is based on past research that has shown the importance of motivation (intention) and
140 perceptions of capability and opportunity (perceived behavioral control) in predicting family PA
141^{29,30}. We hypothesized that affective attitude, subjective norm, and perceived behavioral control
142 would predict family PA intention based on past research with the TPB³¹, but these variables
143 would be unrelated to the intervention condition because the main behavior change techniques
144 were focused on post-intentional planning.

145 **Methods**

146 The full detailed methods for this study have been reported elsewhere^{26,32,33}. We followed
147 the consolidated standards of reporting trials statement for this study³⁴.

148 **Design**

149 The trial featured a two-arm parallel design where participants were randomized and
150 allocated using a 1:1 ratio to one of two groups after baseline assessment: 1) family PA planning
151 + information/education; or 2) PA information/education only. Participants were assessed at six-
152 weeks, 13-weeks, and 26-weeks. Participants were aware of the condition they were in, but blind
153 to the other condition, while initial recruiters were blinded to treatment allocation (concealed by a
154 trial coordinator who performed the randomization). Rolling recruitment began in June 2012 and
155 completed in April 2017.

156 Participants

157 Participants were recruited through booths at local markets, advertisements, recreation
158 centers, and through passive materials sent to local schools. Families were also recruited through
159 referrals, whereby the recruiting family received a \$25 CAN grocery store gift card. Study
160 recruitment, retention, and assessment numbers for children and their parent contact can be found
161 in Rhodes et al.^{26,33}. Briefly, One hundred and two participants who met the study inclusion
162 criteria and completed the baseline assessments were randomly assigned to one of the two
163 conditions (n = 52 planning + education; n = 50 education). Of these, 42 participants in the
164 planning + education group and 38 education group participants completed the study to the six-
165 month endpoint (22% attrition), which included a gradual continuous drop-out across the six
166 week (8% attrition), three month (7% attrition) and six month (7% attrition) assessment times.
167 Five parents did not complete the six month measures despite the rest of the family completing
168 the study due to family circumstances (n=3) and not wanting to complete the measures (n=2).
169 Attrition numbers were not significantly different ($p > .05$) across the groups.

170 Inclusion criteria. Participants were children (aged 6-12 years) who did not meet
171 international PA guidelines of at least 60 minutes of MVPA per day³⁵, based on self-report
172 screening and baseline accelerometry and their least active parent (lowest MVPA at baseline).
173 While all members of the family were invited to participate in the intervention, only the one child
174 and one parent were designated for measurements.

175 Study setting. Participants were recruited in Greater Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

176 Procedures

177 The study followed procedures established in a prior pilot study³⁶ and detailed
178 information can be found in prior published reports^{26,32}. The lead trial coordinator consulted on
179 the study protocol with all research assistants to ensure the protocol was standardized. This study
180 was advertised as a family-based intervention, although child MVPA was considered the critical
181 outcome of interest across the study data collection and during advertisement. After interested
182 parents contacted the researcher and the family was determined to be eligible to participate in the
183 study, the trial coordinator scheduled a baseline assessment at the University of Victoria
184 laboratory. The baseline assessment for parents included a parent-reported questionnaire of
185 demographic factors and the above noted predictor variables and getting setup with an
186 accelerometer for the seven-day assessment protocol. A member of the research team overviewed the

187 instructions for wearing the device and ensured the belts were the appropriate size for participants. After
188 the completion of the accelerometry assessment, participants were randomized to one of the two
189 conditions. Following randomization, the trial coordinator scheduled a baseline session with the
190 family to deliver the study materials. At six-weeks and 13-weeks, the research staff met with
191 families to drop off accelerometers, conduct a check-in session and administer online
192 questionnaires of the self-reported parent outcomes. Follow-up assessment was at 26-weeks with
193 the same measures. As an incentive for families to complete all assessments, an honorarium was
194 provided upon pick-up of the accelerometers starting at \$25 at baseline and increasing by \$5 at each time
195 point.

196 **Intervention**

197 Details of the intervention can be found in previous publications ^{26,32,33}. In short, a
198 research assistant delivered intervention materials face-to-face after the baseline accelerometry
199 assessment. Both conditions received the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines ³⁵ handout,
200 which outlined adult and child MVPA guidelines. PA intensity was discussed and examples were
201 provided.

202 The PA information/education only condition received a booklet outlining the benefits of
203 PA for the whole family and common barriers and solutions to get children active ³⁶

204 The planning condition received the same information/education material as well as a dry
205 erase calendar and a workbook on planning family PA that included brainstorming exercises
206 using implementation intentions and action planning as well as coping planning and traditional
207 goal setting ^{37,38}. The expectation was ongoing use of this material to assist during their weekly
208 planning process. Check-in sessions were conducted with all families at six-weeks and 13-weeks,
209 and coincided with the measurement waves. The check-in sessions included discussion on
210 whether families have been using the materials, if they have been able to incorporate physical
211 activity, if they have been experiencing any challenges and how they might overcome those
212 challenges.

213 **Outcomes**

214 The primary outcome of the overall trial was child MVPA measured via accelerometry ²⁶.
215 This variable has been carried over to the present study as the criterion dependent variable in the
216 prediction equations only. An Actigraph GT3X accelerometer was used with single axis enabled
217 to assess the participants, who wore it on an elastic belt above the right hip for seven consecutive
218 days for at least 10 hours a day (only removing for water activities or showering). All participants
219 were asked to complete a logbook, recording the dates worn, if the device was removed, and what
220 their day roughly looked like including any physical activities. Logbooks were used to confirm
221 the accelerometer data matched what was reported by participants. If a discrepancy was noted,
222 such as dates not matching what was recorded on the device with what was recorded on the
223 logbook, this was adjusted to reflect the appropriate dates.

224 Accelerometers were initialized to collect pre-filtered data at a sample rate of 30 Hz for
225 the children and were downloaded into 10-second epochs to capture the sporadic nature of child
226 PA ^{39,40}. A minimum of four days with at least 600 minutes per day including at least one
227 weekend day of valid wear time were included in analysis based on recommended best practice
228 ^{40,41}. For determining valid wear time, the Troiano ⁴² algorithm was used which defines non-wear
229 time as a period of at least 60 consecutive minutes of zero counts, with an allowance for one to
230 two minutes of counts between 0 and 100. Child MVPA was determined using the Evenson ⁴³
231 cutpoints based off of recommendations from Trost et al. ⁴⁴. Data was modelled so that all
232 participants had a complete seven-day data-set. Data were modelled by taking the average of the
233 valid days and inputting those averages for the missing days within participants ⁴⁵.

234 **Predictor Variables**

235 The parent referent completed all questions about family-based PA. Family-based PA
236 was defined in the questionnaires as “at least one parent and at least one child together,
237 accumulating at least 30 minutes of activity, 4 times per week or more during your free time”.
238 This is an admittedly arbitrary definition that was meant to create a referent in order for parents to
239 respond to questions with a similar context ⁴⁶.

240 *Family PA* was measured by the instrument featured in our prior pilot trial ^{31,36}. The
241 original template was based on the Godin Leisure-Time Exercise Questionnaire ⁴⁷, the
242 International Physical Activity Questionnaire ⁴⁸ and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance
243 System Survey Questionnaire ⁴⁹. This includes an open estimate of frequency in a typical week
244 for parent respondents to complete, based on a 30 minutes duration to correspond with our

245 definition of family PA. Canada's guide for family PA⁵⁰ highlights structured (swimming
 246 lessons, skating, team sports etc.) and unstructured (family walks, bike rides, child play at parks
 247 or in the backyard) PA so separate questions were created for each type. The final outcome
 248 measure included total frequency of bouts using an amalgam composite of the two categories.

249 The instrumentation used to assess the constructs of the TPB included common items for
 250 assessment^{51,52}, yet framed for our family PA definition. Baseline and six weeks assessments
 251 asked for expectations of family PA over the next six weeks and 13 week and 26 week
 252 assessments asked for expectations over the next 3 months in order to correspond with the
 253 assessment times of the trial. *Affective attitude* (unenjoyable-enjoyable, boring-exciting) and
 254 *instrumental attitude* (unwise-wise, harmful-beneficial) were measured with two semantic
 255 differential items on seven-point scales. *Subjective norm* was measured with three items
 256 comprising both the injunctive (most people who are important to me would want me to..., most
 257 people whose opinions I value would expect me to...) and descriptive (most people who are
 258 important to me will...) components of the concept with seven-point response anchors from
 259 strongly disagree to strongly agree. *Perceived behavioral control* was measured with two items
 260 through the response options of seven-point scales between strongly disagree and strongly agree.
 261 Assessment of perceived behavioral control included both of its components of capability
 262 (confident I can...) and autonomy (under my control, up to me...), with a phrase to hold
 263 motivation constant (i.e., if I really wanted to) in order to reduce any confounded assessment of
 264 motivation⁵³. Finally, intention strength¹² was measured with a single item (I am committed...) using
 265 seven-point Likert response anchors from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Measures of
 266 affective attitude (time 1 $\alpha = 0.66$; time 2 $\alpha = 0.69$, time 3 $\alpha = 0.73$, time 4 $\alpha = 0.76$), instrumental
 267 attitude (time 1 $\alpha = 0.79$; time 2 $\alpha = 0.58$, time 3 $\alpha = 0.74$, time 4 $\alpha = 0.76$), subjective norm (time
 268 1 $\alpha = 0.64$; time 2 $\alpha = 0.64$, time 3 $\alpha = 0.63$, time 4 $\alpha = 0.62$), perceived behavioral control (time
 269 1 $\alpha = 0.70$; time 2 $\alpha = 0.89$, time 3 $\alpha = 0.77$, time 4 $\alpha = 0.57$) showed generally adequate internal
 270 consistency.

271 Assessments of post-intentional constructs included *planning intention* and self-reported
 272 *habit*. The planning intention measure was derived from work by Mistry et al.²⁸, based on prior
 273 items validated by Sniehotta et al.⁵⁴ and included forecasting questions about whether the parent
 274 will "keep track of family PA in a diary or log", "set short term family PA goals", "make detailed
 275 plans about concerning "when", "where", "how", and "what" family PA", "will make plans

276 regarding what to do if something interfered with family PA”, and “reserve time in your schedule
277 for family PA”. Assessment of habit used the self-reported automaticity index ⁵⁵, adjusted to the
278 definition of family PA. Response options for both measures were on a 7-point Likert scale from
279 (1) strongly disagree to (5) strongly agree. Reliabilities were acceptable for planning intention
280 (time 1 $\alpha = 0.86$; time 2 $\alpha = 0.90$, time 3 $\alpha = 0.85$, time 4 $\alpha = 0.89$) and habit (time 1 $\alpha = 0.95$;
281 time 2 $\alpha = 0.95$, time 3 $\alpha = 0.96$, time 4 $\alpha = 0.95$).

282 **Statistical Analysis**

283 Normality of all variables was checked to determine whether any transformations were
284 required. We followed a procedure where skewness and kurtosis was first checked, followed by
285 conversion to z-scores if skewness was over 2.0 and/or kurtosis was over 3.0 ⁵⁶. Z-scores > 3.29
286 were considered outliers, and subsequently shrunk to the next highest score in the distribution ⁵⁷.
287 Missingness of the variables was then inspected to determine the appropriate imputation
288 procedures ⁵⁸.

289 To address H1 and H2, a series of 2 (group: education, education+planning) by 4 (time:
290 baseline, 6 weeks, 13 weeks, 26) repeated measures analyses of variance were conducted on
291 family PA, all theory of planned behavior constructs, intention to plan, and habit. Power analysis
292 (.80 with an alpha of .05) of a trend with 4 repeated assessments, one-between group factor, an
293 estimated small-medium effect size based on our prior pilot study ³⁶ and a meta-analysis of the
294 family physical activity intervention literature ⁶, suggested that a sample size of 96 could detect
295 the primary hypothesis ⁵⁹. Given the a priori primary end-point of 26 weeks for this study ³²,
296 family PA and planning intention were also investigated with analysis of covariance by condition
297 at each time point, controlling for baseline.

298 To address the second aim of the study, prediction of child MVPA via accelerometry and
299 family PA with self-report (week six, week 13, week 26) used augmented TPB constructs from
300 the prior epoch (baseline, week six, week 13). This approach corresponded perfectly to the
301 questionnaire phrasing. Furthermore, both prospective behavior and prospective behavior
302 regressed upon past behavior were explored as outcomes to assess behavior and behavior change,
303 respectively ⁶⁰. Ordinary least squares regression analyses with path analysis were used to
304 predict child MVPA and family PA during these epochs. The PROCESS macro for SPSS ⁶¹ was

305 used (5000 bootstrapped samples) to investigate any mediation effects of the theoretical
 306 constructs between condition (education, education+planning) and PA and indirect effects across
 307 the path model. The path analyses (see Figure 1) included direct effects estimates in two
 308 regression equations that include five independent variables (dependent variables: intention,
 309 family PA), followed by two regression equations that included two independent variables
 310 (dependent variable: planning intention, child MVPA). Using a medium effect size ($f^2 = .15$), our
 311 power analysis suggested that the sample was sufficiently powered for seven independent
 312 variables ($\alpha = .05$; power = .80), supporting sample size parameters for the path models.

313 **Results**

314 **Baseline Characteristics of Respondents**

315 Baseline characteristics of the children are already detailed in Rhodes et al. ^{26,33}. Children
 316 had an average age of 9 yr, with an equal representation of boys and girls (52% female), and
 317 mainly white. Child accelerometry assessment at baseline indicated 49.12 (SD = 17.91) min of
 318 daily MVPA and BMI scores were all above the 50th but lower than the 85th percentile for age
 319 and sex ⁶². Parents had a mean age of 42 (SD = 5.00), and the majority (78%) were mothers. A
 320 majority of parents had a college education (64%), moderate to high incomes (56% >\$74,000
 321 CAN) and were employed (72%). Almost half of the parents were single-parents (41%) and just
 322 under one third (29%) of families had siblings participating in the trial. In terms of parental
 323 health, 33% of parents self-reported their health as poor or fair, 40% reported it was good, and
 324 27% reported very good to excellent. Nine percent of the sample reported being a smoker.
 325 Baseline accelerometry showed that MVPA among the parent contacts was 74.40 minutes per
 326 week (SD= 82.15; 14% of sample meeting international guidelines of 150 min).

327 **Handling Missing Data and Normality Assumptions**

328 Prior to conducting the main analyses, preliminary analyses showed that perceived
 329 behavioral control (time 1 and 2), intention (time 1, 2, and 4), Family PA (time 3 and 4) were
 330 kurtotic (i.e., values ≥ 3) at various time points in both conditions. Therefore, outliers (no more
 331 than 3 on any variable) were reduced to the next highest value ⁵⁷, which reduced all kurtosis
 332 below 2.00. Similar to prior results with this data-set ^{26,33}, we found these data missing

333 completely at random across the three time periods [Little's test $p = >.34$ for all times]. A more
 334 specific analysis of dummy coding a "missingness" variable at each measurement time and
 335 testing for the association with various baseline variables also showed no associations among
 336 variables ($p > .05$). This suggests a more conservative missing at random estimation of these data
 337 is accurate and an imputation approach was conducted using the expectation-maximization
 338 algorithm^{58,63}.

339 **Family Physical Activity and Predictor Variables**

340 The repeated measures analysis of variance results can be found in Table 1 and mean and
 341 SD values by intervention condition across all variables is detailed in Table 2. Family PA had a
 342 significant effect for time ($p < .01$; $\eta^2 = .07$), with both groups reporting an increase in frequency
 343 over the intervention, but not a significant time by condition interaction ($p = .19$; $\eta^2 = .07$).
 344 Follow-up analysis of covariance tests by time-point, however, showed that changes in family PA
 345 were higher from baseline in the planning+education group for six weeks ($F_{1,99} = 3.68$; $p = .06$; η^2
 346 $= .04$) and the 26 week primary end-point ($F_{1,99} = 3.79$; $p = .06$; $\eta^2 = .04$), but not at 13 weeks
 347 ($F_{1,99} = 0.44$; $p = .51$; $\eta^2 = .00$). Planning intention had a significant time effect ($p < .01$; $\eta^2 = .77$)
 348 and time x condition interaction ($p = .02$; $\eta^2 = .09$). Specifically, planning intention dropped
 349 across the trial, yet the planning+education condition showed less decrease across time than the
 350 education condition (see Table 2). Follow-up analysis of covariance tests showed that planning
 351 intention was higher in the planning+education group for six weeks ($F_{1,99} = 7.18$; $p < .01$; $\eta^2 =$
 352 $.07$), and 13 weeks ($F_{1,99} = 8.18$; $p < .01$; $\eta^2 = .08$), but not the 26 week end-point ($F_{1,99} = 0.88$; p
 353 $= .35$; $\eta^2 = .01$). No other variables showed evidence of an interaction effect by condition across
 354 time ($p > .10$). However, habit ($p < .01$; $\eta^2 = .21$), instrumental attitude ($p < .01$; $\eta^2 = .21$),
 355 subjective norm ($p = .01$; $\eta^2 = .04$), perceived behavioral control ($p < .01$; $\eta^2 = .27$), and intention
 356 ($p < .01$; $\eta^2 = .48$) all showed significant time effects across the trial. Habit gradually increased
 357 across time, while instrumental attitude, subjective norm, perceived behavioral control, and
 358 intention generally decreased across the trial from their initially high baseline scores.

359 **Prediction of MVPA**

360 Bivariate correlations among the augmented TPB constructs with family PA and child
 361 MVPA can be found in Supplementary Tables 1-3. Attitude, subjective norm and perceived
 362 behavioral control were associated with family PA intention (rs ranged from .34 to .71), with the
 363 exception of instrumental attitude at 13 weeks ($r = -.03$). Family PA intention was consistently

364 associated with planning intention (rs ranged from .27 to .59) and habit was associated with most
 365 TPB variables, with the exception of instrumental attitude ($p > .05$). Habit was the only variable
 366 consistently associated with family PA (rs ranged from .23 to .30), and family PA was only
 367 associated with child MVPA at 13 weeks ($r = .25$).

368 Figure 1a details the path model for the augmented TPB predicting MVPA from baseline
 369 to six weeks, Figure 1b shows the augmented TPB at six weeks predicting MVPA at 13 weeks,
 370 and Figure 1c details the augmented TPB at 13 weeks predicting MVPA at 26 weeks. These
 371 same models are presented with unstandardized residuals in Supplemental Figure 1 to predict
 372 analysis of change over time. Family PA and condition predicted ($p < .05$) child MVPA at 13
 373 weeks in both the standard and residual models (R^2 range .14 to .15), but did not predict child
 374 MVPA at six weeks or 26 weeks ($p > .05$). At 13 weeks, analyses in the standard model showed
 375 there were indirect effects of perceived behavioral control ($\beta = .07$; 95% CI $\beta = .01$ to $\beta = .22$)
 376 and habit ($\beta = .08$; 95% CI $\beta = .01$ to $\beta = .23$) on child MVPA through family PA, but there were
 377 no indirect effects of condition, intention, or planning intention (all 95% CIs crossed through 0).
 378 No mediation/indirect effects were identified in the residual models.

379 Prediction of family PA ranged from nine to 16% variance explained across the standard
 380 and residual models. PA intention and planning intention did not predict family PA across any
 381 time point in the standard or residual models ($p > .05$). Perceived behavioral control, by contrast,
 382 predicted ($p < .05$) family PA at six weeks in the standard and residual model and at 13 weeks for
 383 the standard model only. Habit predicted ($p < .05$) family PA at 13 weeks and 26 weeks in the
 384 standard model but not in the residual models ($p > .05$). Condition assignment, favoring the
 385 education+planning group, had an independent effect on family PA at six weeks in the residual
 386 model, but no other significant direct effects ($p > .05$). Condition also had a small indirect effect
 387 on family PA at 13 weeks ($\beta = .09$; 95% CI $\beta = .02$ to $\beta = .19$) and 26 weeks ($\beta = .09$; 95% CI $\beta =$
 388 $.03$ to $\beta = .18$) through habit for the standard models only.

389 PA intention predicted planning intention consistently across the standard models ($p <$
 390 $.05$). Affective attitude (13 weeks $\beta = .08$; 95% CI $\beta = .01$ to $\beta = .21$), subjective norm (baseline β
 391 $= .11$; 95% CI $\beta = .04$ to $\beta = .22$), and perceived behavioral control (baseline $\beta = .10$; 95% CI $\beta =$
 392 $.07$ to $\beta = .23$; 6 weeks $\beta = .14$; 95% CI $\beta = .02$ to $\beta = .32$) had indirect effects upon planning
 393 intention through PA intention at various time periods. Change in PA intention also predicted
 394 change in planning intention from baseline to six weeks ($p < .01$), but not the change from six

395 weeks to 13 weeks ($p > .05$). This effect of PA intention change from baseline to six weeks
 396 mediated the effects of perceived behavioral control ($\beta = .23$; 95% CI $\beta = .06$ to $\beta = .51$) and
 397 subjective norm ($\beta = .08$; 95% CI $\beta = .02$ to $\beta = .21$) changes from baseline to six weeks upon
 398 corresponding changes in planning intention. Independent of the effect of PA intention on
 399 planning intention, condition assignment had effects on planning intention at six weeks ($p < .05$)
 400 for both the standard and residual models and at 13 weeks ($\beta = .20$, $p < .05$) for the standard
 401 model only.

402 Finally, TPB variables explained significant ($p < .01$) variance in intention in both the
 403 standard and residual models across all time points (R^2 range from .30 to .60). For the standard
 404 models, affective attitude, subjective norm, and perceived behavioral control were consistent
 405 significant ($p < .05$) predictors of PA intention (with the exception of subjective norm at 6 weeks),
 406 whereas instrumental attitude did not predict family PA intention at any time point. The results
 407 were very similar for the residual models. Affective attitude, subjective norm, and perceived
 408 behavioral control were consistent significant ($p < .05$) predictors of change in PA intention (with
 409 the exception of affective attitude baseline to 6 weeks), whereas change in instrumental attitude
 410 did not predict change in PA intention at any time point. Condition did not predict intention in
 411 three of the four models; condition had a significant negative effect ($p < .05$), favoring the
 412 education only condition, on PA intention at 13 weeks in the standard model. Condition had no
 413 significant ($p > .05$) effects on any of the TPB constructs across any time-point.

414 Discussion

415 The purpose of this study was to examine the effect of a family intervention on the least
 416 active parent's perceptions of family co-physical activity, social cognitions about family PA, and
 417 family PA habit. The intervention included comparing an education group (receiving information
 418 about the benefits of family PA) to an education +planning group (receiving additional
 419 information on planning for PA for their child) over 26 weeks. We hypothesized (H1) that the
 420 education+planning condition would show higher family PA and planning intention because this
 421 was the key focus of the intervention. Our analysis supported this hypothesis. Parent reported
 422 family PA frequency was slightly higher ($p = .06$; $\eta^2 = .04$) at the six-week and 26 week
 423 assessment times in the education+planning group compared to the education group and planning
 424 intention was higher in the planning+education group compared to the education group following
 425 the six-week and 13 week assessments, but not at 26 weeks.

426 The effect of the education+planning intervention upon family PA replicates the findings
427 from our pilot study at the six-week point ³⁶, and the small yet practically meaningful effect size
428 ⁶⁴ is similar to prior meta-analyses of family-based interventions ^{6,65}. The results underscore the
429 challenges of modifying family PA and the small shifts in behavior that can be attributed to a
430 family-based intervention ^{66,67}. Further, our family PA variable, measured as family co-physical
431 activity, was not the only target of the family-based intervention. Parental support behaviours in
432 the forms of encouragement and logistical support for child PA ⁶⁸ were also promoted but were
433 not measured.

434 Our results for planning intention serve as a supportive manipulation check, particularly
435 because planning intention was only different between the groups after the intervention (6 weeks)
436 and the intervention booster (13 weeks) delivery periods, but not in 26 week follow-up. It should
437 also be noted that planning intention dropped considerably across the trial for both groups,
438 suggesting a lessening of enthusiasm to use planning. This finding aligns with the process
439 evaluation findings reported in our primary outcome paper ²⁶, where some families reported
440 disengaging from planning techniques by study end. Planning tactics may be cumbersome and
441 tiring over time, and it may be necessary to acquire more automatic action control means such as
442 habit for PA continuation ^{9,17}. Change in habit was not significantly different between conditions
443 across the trial, but there was a significant increase in habit strength from baseline to 26 weeks
444 that supports the premise of habit formation over time.

445 While we specifically hypothesized that family PA and planning intention would change
446 as a result of our family-based intervention, we adopted a null hypothesis (H2) for the
447 intervention impact on social cognitive variables of the TPB compared to the education only
448 condition. This hypothesis was supported and once again reflect pilot trial findings ³⁶, where
449 intention and perceived behavioral control weren't significantly different as a result of the
450 planning intervention. We have now extended this finding to show that attitude and subjective
451 norm were also invariant to condition assignment. The results support the theoretical premise of
452 post-intentional action control theories ²⁷, and specific theories such as the health action process
453 approach ¹⁴, where planning is positioned as an intermediary between intention and behavior.
454 With the exception of affective attitude, all theory of planned behavior variables showed a
455 considerable decrease across the intervention from high initial values. This response shift is

456 common in experimental trials, as participants re-set their expectations after more experience
457 with the condition ⁶⁹.

458 The second aim of this study was to gain a better understanding of the predictors of both
459 PA change and overall PA performance across the trial. To achieve this, we used an augmented
460 TPB that included planning intention and habit as additional predictors of family PA, and family
461 PA as a predictor of child MVPA (see Figure 1). We hypothesized (H3) that planning intention
462 would predict family PA, family PA would predict child MVPA, and planning intention and
463 family PA would collectively mediate the relationship between the intervention conditions and
464 child MVPA. Our results did not generally support this hypothesis. The family PA variable did
465 predict child MVPA and change in child MVPA at 13 weeks and the magnitude of the effect was
466 medium ⁶⁴, but this was not replicated at other time-points. Furthermore, planning intention did
467 not predict family PA or family PA change at any time-point; this also meant there was no
468 evidence that planning intention mediated the relationship between the intervention and changes
469 in family PA or child MVPA. Several child PA interventions have failed to demonstrate the
470 putative mediator was responsible for the change in PA attributed to the intervention ^{22,23} and this
471 study concurs with this null literature.

472 The results of our analyses means that our putative mediators provided limited
473 explanation for why the outcomes changed by intervention condition. Planning intention is linked
474 to actual planning behavior ²⁸, but the two constructs are not synonymous. Actual planning
475 behavior may have served as a better mediator, and thus we recommend a measure of planning
476 behavior in future research. Our exploratory analyses also showed some evidence that the
477 intervention had an indirect effect through habit when predicting family PA, but not change in
478 family PA. Habit was also a predictor of family PA at 13 weeks and 26 weeks in the medium
479 effect size range ⁶⁴. Given that planning behavior change techniques and habits have theoretical
480 linkages ^{17,70}, it may be that some of the planning intervention assisted in fostering family PA
481 habits. Additional mediators of the intervention may reside in unmeasured variables, particularly
482 at the child level ²², and also with other family members such as the more active parent. Family-
483 based interventions, such as this one, include multiple stakeholders in the family system who
484 interact and co-determine behavior ⁷¹. Our study is likely limited by the focus on the contact
485 parent's social cognitions about family PA. Following the suggestions of Davison et al. ⁷², we
486 recommend that family interventions collect data on all stakeholders if possible.

487 Finally, the augmented TPB provided some additional information that was helpful to
488 explain family PA outcomes more generally. We hypothesized (H4) that perceived behavioral
489 control over family PA, and PA intention would predict family PA independent of the
490 intervention conditions. We further hypothesized that affective attitude, subjective norm, and
491 perceived behavioral control would predict family PA intention in concordance with TPB⁸.
492 Perceived behavioral control was a predictor of family PA at six weeks and 13 weeks but not at
493 26 weeks, nor did it predict change in family PA. Intention did not predict family PA at any
494 time-point, yet affective attitude, subjective norm, and perceived behavioral control predicted
495 intention and change in intention consistently. Taken together, the results support past research in
496 family PA that shows large intention-behavior discordance; yet, a more consistent association
497 with perceived behavioral control^{9,10}. The null effects of intention on family PA are likely
498 heightened further in this study by the volunteer nature of the trial, which makes having good
499 intentions a necessary function of even participating in the first place¹².

500 Given the negligible impact of intention on family PA, the results do not position great
501 import to intervening upon its proposed TPB antecedents, with the possible exception of
502 perceived behavioral control. Parenting skills may be necessary for effective perceived control
503 e.g.,⁷³, yet occupational and other time demands are frequent barriers to spending time together
504 as a family²⁵. Intervening to improve perceived behavioral control may be difficult, given
505 parental time-demands, but some family time-management and problem solving may be prudent
506 in interventions⁷². Still, the results of our models suggest the best intervention effort may be
507 spent on developing family PA habits. This literature is sparse at the moment but a focus on
508 building consistency in family PA practice with critical cues to action that precede the behavior is
509 recommended to build the learned cue-behavior associations responsible for habits⁷⁴.

510 Despite the novel findings in our study and the strong methods employed, there are
511 noteworthy limitations. The sample of families was mainly white, middle income, and educated.
512 While many of these features do represent Victoria⁷⁵, the generalizability to other regions
513 worldwide is unknown. Second, while our measurement of study variables had generally
514 acceptable reliability, there were some circumstances where measures had internal consistencies
515 below rule of thumb (i.e., .70) which may compromise the findings. As noted previously,
516 planning intention may not be a sound proxy of actual planning, and a self-report of family co-
517 PA frequency is likely to contain biases that could easily explain why it did not link reliably to

518 child MVPA min measured with accelerometry⁷⁶. A better synchrony between these measures
 519 may be achieved with more recent advances in technology where blue-tooth connections can pair
 520 co-activity via accelerometry. The measurement of habit via self-report is also an ongoing
 521 controversy although no alternative has yet been validated⁷⁷. Finally, while our sample size was
 522 adequate to detect small-medium effects, it was not powered to detect very small effect sizes⁶⁴.

523 Overall, our results showed some evidence that the family intervention focused on
 524 education+planning increased our contact parent's planning intention and self-report of family
 525 PA compared to an education only group. The effect of the condition on the proposed mediators
 526 from our augmented TPB did not explain these changes, and family PA had mixed evidence for
 527 an association with child MVPA across the trial. The findings showed a small indirect effect of
 528 the intervention via habit on overall family PA, favoring the education+planning group, yet the
 529 results generally suggest that other variables from the family system (e.g., child motivation, other
 530 parent's motivation and plans) are likely needed to fully understand the intervention effects. PA
 531 intention and planning intention from the contact parent was unable to predict family PA across
 532 the study; yet, perceived behavioral control and habit were consistent predictors of family PA.
 533 Thus, the promotion of perceived behavioral control and habit to assist in family PA is
 534 recommended for future research in this population.

535 Figure Caption

536 Figure 1: Prediction of child MVPA and family PA using the augmented theory of planned
 537 behavior (A) baseline to six weeks; (B) six weeks to 13 weeks; and (C) 13 weeks to 26 weeks.

538 Note: N = 102; slotted lines = $p > .05$; full lines = $p < .05$.

539

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Table 1
Results from the repeated measures equations (N = 102)

	AA	IA	SN	PBC	Intention	Planning	Habit	Family PA (SR)
	$F_{3,98} (p) \eta^2$	$F_{3,98} (p) \eta^2$	$F_{3,98} (p) \eta^2$	$F_{3,98} (p) \eta^2$	$F_{3,98} (p) \eta^2$	$F_{3,98} (p) \eta^2$	$F_{3,98} (p) \eta^2$	$F_{3,98} (p) \eta^2$
Time	1.72 (.17) .05	8.63 (.00) .21	4.42 (.01) .04	12.06 (.00) .27	29.80 (.00) .48	111.40 (.00) .77	8.51 (.00) .21	7.96 (.00) .07
Time x Condition	0.46 (.71) .01	0.31 (.82) .01	0.22 (.89) .00	0.15 (.93) .00	1.18 (.32) .04	3.32 (.02) .09	2.09 (.11) .06	1.61 (.19) .05

Note. AA = affective attitude; IA = instrumental attitude; PBC = perceived behavioral control; SN = subjective norm; Planning = planning intention; PA = physical activity.

Table 2

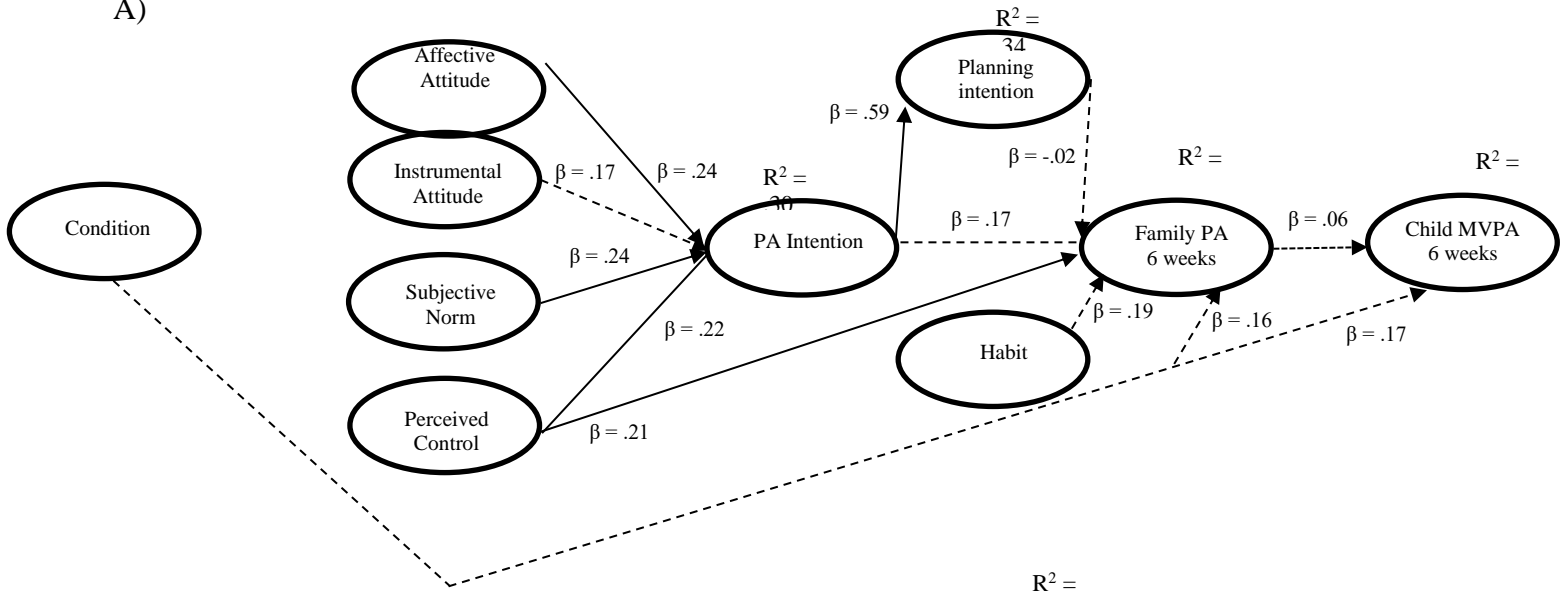
Descriptive statistics across physical activity, and extended theory of planned behavior by experimental group (N = 102)

	Intervention				Control			
	Mean (Standard Deviation)				Mean (Standard Deviation)			
	Baseline	6 weeks	12 weeks	24 weeks	Baseline	6 weeks	12 weeks	24 weeks
Affective Attitude	5.77 (.80)	5.66(0.73)	5.76 (0.66)	5.70 (0.69)	5.66 (0.71)	5.62 (0.54)	5.66 (0.53)	5.67 (.57)
Habit	3.80 (1.48)	4.23 (1.34)	4.14 (1.31)	4.42 (1.35)	3.31(1.53)	3.61 (1.30)	3.81 (1.29)	4.13 (1.30)
Instrument Attitude	6.53 (0.57)	6.34 (0.45)	6.49 (0.35)	6.38 (0.51)	6.61 (.51)	6.42 (0.44)	6.54 (0.38)	6.50 (0.40)
Intention Strength	6.15 (.61)	5.42 (.94)	5.47 (0.65)	5.67 (0.92)	6.18 (.56)	5.70 (0.60)	5.73 (0.52)	5.83 (.61)
PBC	5.79 (0.64)	5.30 (0.90)	5.44 0(.59)	5.61 (.81)	5.87 (0.68)	5.47 (0.57)	5.53 (0.61)	5.74 (0.53)
Planning Intention	5.53 (1.02)	5.23 (0.67)	4.83 (0.68)	4.42 (0.83)	5.77 (0.99)	4.86 (1.24)	4.62 (1.07)	4.32 (1.16)
Subjective Norm	5.92 (0.75)	5.71 (0.68)	5.79 (.74)	5.85 (0.77)	6.07 (.68)	5.83 (0.68)	6.07 (.66)	6.03 (0.58)
Family PA	3.06 (2.42)	4.34 (2.45)	3.84 (1.37)	4.12 (2.66)	3.02 (1.89)	3.64 (1.34)	3.69 (1.27)	3.31 (2.10)
Child MVPA Accelerometer		54.17(19.52)	57.02(13.58)	56.46 (17.16)	47.67(19.24)	47.87 (17.79)	48.59 (14.19)	50.64 (17.76)

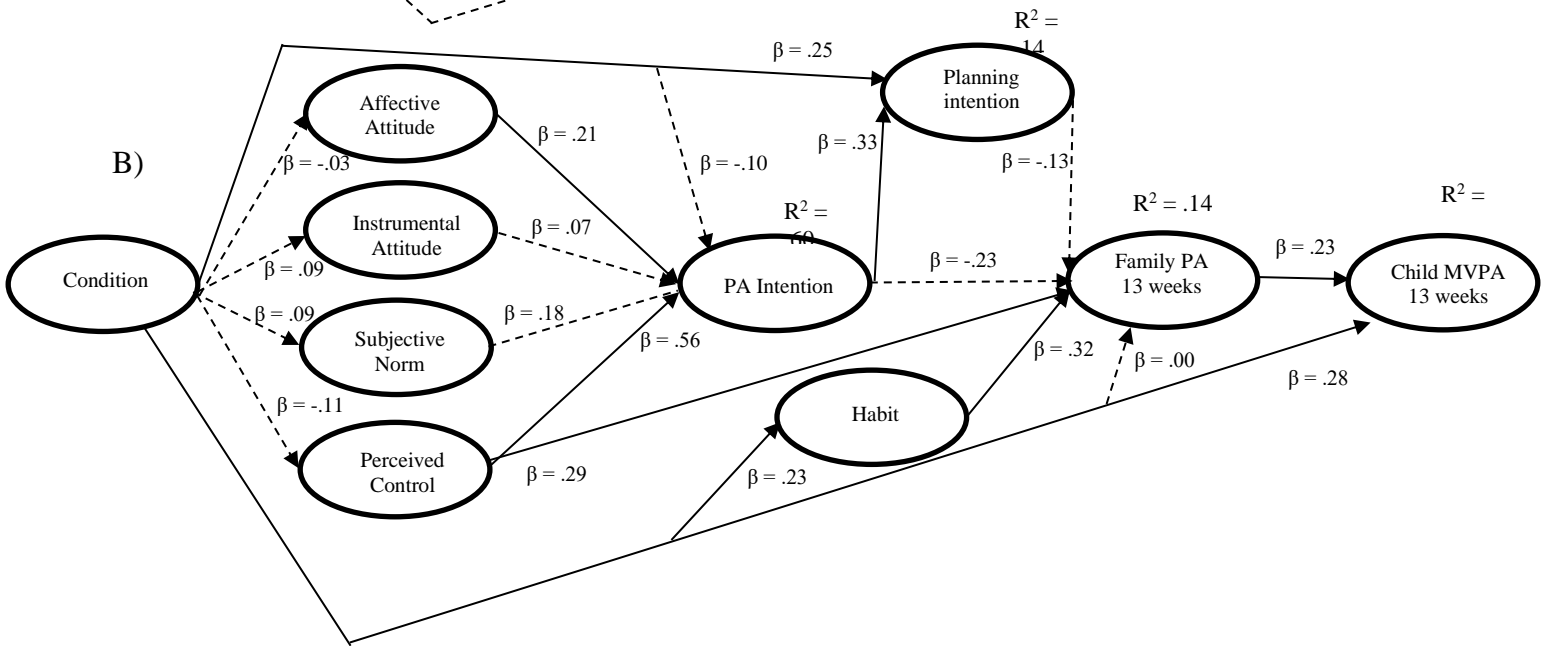
Note: PBC = perceived behavioral control; PA = Physical activity. MVPA = moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity. Family PA is presented as frequency of 30 min bouts per week. Child MVPA is presented as min per day.

Predictors of Family Physical Activity 26

A)



B)



C)

