

Q Alex Hetherington (researcher)

A Man with son (aged 7)

Q So, the focus of the interview is technologies in play. So, I'm going to use the word technologies in a lot of the different questions.

A That's fine.

Q When I say that, I mean like physical things, the obvious like mobile phones and tablets and cameras and consoles, that kind of thing. Also, different kinds of media, maybe apps, websites, [unclear] games. So, a little bit of background, how many children have you got?

A I have got two children.

Q And how old are they?

A The oldest is 13 and my youngest is seven.

Q Okay, the [unclear] of the study, the focus is on children aged three to 11, so if possible, could I ask you to keep the seven-year-old in mind when answering the questions?

A Yes, that's no problem at all.

Q You can talk about the 13-year-old, obviously, especially if there's any interaction that goes on between them with technology. That would be really helpful. [Overtalking].

A Yes, [unclear].

Q We'll go straight into the questions. There're five different groups of questions I've got to ask today. The first one is about your child's play in technology. The first one is just kind of a general background question, how much does technology feature in your child's life?

A Unfortunately, I'm probably going to say too much nowadays. So, technology wise, [unclear], he has access to Nintendo Wii U and Switch and a free DS. And also, he occasionally uses my telephone or tablet as well. So, that's in regards to that kind of technology.

Q How much would you say he uses the devices in a week? How much time does he spend on them?

A Just trying to figure it out in my head, they'll have three hours of the weekday, but that's [inaudible] the day, and then four hours on the weekend, 15, 19, 23 hours. In theory it should be 23 hours a week of consoles and that kind of stuff.

Q Okay, brilliant. Are these in any particular space, amongst the things that's in the living room?

A Yes, they're all set up in the living room.

Q And in the bedroom? Do you ever take [overtalking]?

A No.

Q Okay, do you mostly supervise the technology use?

A Yes, one of either myself or my wife, we're normally downstairs so we're within earshot of what's going on on the console, like in the front room when he's playing on it.

Q Okay, no worries. Does he ever play while watching television?

A No, because if he does anything on the Wii U, he tends to watch stuff on YouTube on the Wii U and then if he's playing on the Switch, he tends to play games that are on the big screen.

Q Yes, [unclear], no worries. What kinds of games does he play on the devices? [Inaudible]?

A Pokémon is predominantly the game that him and brother will play together, but they do have other games. He enjoys playing Minecraft, he will occasionally put a few of the other games on that we have, as well, but that's not very often that he'll do that.

Q Right, so largely Pokémon and Minecraft. How about when it comes to media, like YouTube you mentioned. Has he got any favourite kinds of content?

A DanTDM, like all of those ones where you watch people playing games and those ones where they watch people opening presents or what it is. I don't really understand it, but that's what they enjoy watching.

So, those are the kinds of things that he tends to go towards watching when he's watching YouTube.

Q Do you ever watch CBeebies, CBBC, any Netflix?

A No, we don't have a subscription to Netflix, so that's not available. I'm going to be honest; I can't remember the last time I actually saw him watch TV other than when we sat down and watched a film together. So, if he's going to do anything, it's predominantly play on games consoles.

Q Yes, okay. Does he have any physical toys that kind of relate to his digital interests? Any Minecraft toys, things like that?

A No, not toys, unless we're counting books. He has a few Minecraft books that he likes to look at.

Q What about the others [?]?

A No, they're more like these ones where they give you suggestions of what you can build, so there's like this, I think it's called Brickipedia. So, it shows you all the different things you can build and what things you need to use to build, and what you need to mine and all of those kinds of things. So, he has that, then he has a couple of Pokémon books. One is a manual and then the other one is just a [unclear] encyclopaedia of all the different Pokémon s that are available at that particular time when we bought it.

- Q Okay, does he have those out with him while he's playing on the devices or is it more a separate activity?
- A No, it's more something that he'll have in his bedroom, but he'll just think it through until I force him to come out of his bedroom in the morning. So, for that he tends to stay up in his bedroom.
- Q Does he have any other kinds of physical toys? Anything like a LeapPad or an educational tablet, a robot, anything like that?
- A No, he doesn't have any of those.
- Q Nothing like that, no worries. Any toys that are internet enabled?
- A He has a Furby, and that is the only toy that he has that is internet enabled.
- Q Is he particularly interested in that? Does he play with it very often?
- A No, that lasted about five minutes of interest, to be honest.
- Q Yes, okay, no worries. How about, has he ever had the chance to play with any kind of augmented reality or virtual reality?
- A No, we don't have any of those in our house, and he's never shown an interest in them either.
- Q How about any kind of artificial intelligence systems, like Alexa and Siri?
- A Yes, we've got, I don't want to say unless she suddenly turns on, we've got the A one, which is recently bought, and he really enjoys that one because again, he gets to play songs that he likes.
- Q Is that because you [unclear] play music, and things like that?
- A Oh yes, [unclear], they're probably just songs that he likes to play, Baby Shark and there's a Poo Poo song, and all sorts. So, yes, there you go.
- Q Does he ask it questions?
- A Yes, he does. He will randomly say, Alexa how many minutes I'm surviving until the year 2020, he said the other day. So, he's asked some questions like that, but really weird ones. We do quizzes with him, because he's trying to do his times tables, so he uses that a lot. So, we'd say, ask me whatever times table questions that he's doing at that particular time. So, he has used it in that regard to help him with some education.
- Q Okay, does he ever ask it to tell him jokes and things like that?
- A He hasn't found that one out, to be honest with you.
- Q Okay, no worries. Does he play outdoors a lot?
- A He does a lot of organised activities, so he does football, hockey, netball and swimming. Yes, so that's he does in regards to outdoors, but afternoons, and like during the weekends, if he gets a play date with a friend, he'll go around to his friends for a play date and that kind of stuff.

- Q Does any technology feature in his outdoor play at all?
- A No, it's predominantly all just what it is, like football and that kind of stuff. So, no he doesn't tend to take any of his technology out.
- Q When he's playing with physical toys or friends, do you ever notice an influence of technology?
- A I'd say that, if he's trying to do some kind of role play, he'll bring it back to, oh you can pretend to be this Pokémon character. Like, him and his brother during the summer, when they're playing on the trampoline in the garden, they'll have Pokémon battles and so. It'll always be those kinds of things, they'll bring it around to Pokémon, in that regard.
- Q We're near the end of the first set of questions, this next question is specifically about LEGO. Is there much LEGO in your household?
- A Yes, there is an abundance of LEGO in the household.
- Q How much would you say, if you take a guess?
- A I would say, are we on about sets?
- Q Yes, [inaudible].
- A Okay, at least 150 sets.
- Q Oh my, wow.
- A Yes, there's a lot of those, and you know those ones that you got with [unclear] because it's like paper, so there is a few of those in there, but we do try and keep them going with the LEGO. So, there is a lot, but that's also through him and his brother. So, a lot of that is what his brother has got during his time coming up as well. So, yes I'd say 150 wouldn't be far off at the moment.
- Q Is there something that you or your wife [unclear] particularly interested in, kind of an interest that they've inherited?
- A I think it was something that one of his friends, well I say one of his friends, one of my oldest son's friends brought along, then I think possibly like most children, little brother wants to be the same as big brother, so he's shown that interest. So, I'd probably say, it was probably influenced through his brother, but I wouldn't say that that's the only reason that he likes it, because he does enjoy building it and all those things.
- Q Yes, okay. And how about other LEGO stuff that isn't the sets? Any kinds of accessories, bags, anything like that?
- A No, I'm trying to picture what's in his bedroom. No, there's no bags. There is some clothing, actually, there is some LEGO clothing, so there is that. And I don't know if we'll get around to this build, but there is video games which are LEGO-based as well. So, I don't know if that counts as under the accessories, but there's a lot of video games as well, with LEGO themes on them.
- Q Okay, how many of those would you say there is?

A Eight, I'm still just looking at them as we speak.

Q Eight? Are they all in the living room, then? All on the Wii U?

A Yes, it's all in the living room, I'm sure [unclear]. But yes, there's quite a few LEGO games as well, like the Harry Potters, and the Star Wars and the Indiana Jones and LEGO World.

Q How about any of the films, seen any of them?

A Phones? No.

Q Films.

A Films, oh god yes. Yes, they've really enjoyed all of them, to be honest with you. they enjoyed Ninjago, they enjoyed the LEGO Movie and then Batman movie, and like the Clutch Powers ones as well.

Q Oh, yes.

A So, yes, they have enjoyed all of them. And one of the Scooby Doo ones as well.

Q Yes, right. This one is a little bit more [unclear]. What kinds of new toys and products do you think LEGO should be developing for the digital age?

A I don't know, because from what I've gathered for myself from having a look around, they've already started to see where you can do the movie making and all of those ones. So, I'm aware that those ones area already on the marker. Then there's, is it the LEGO overboard or overlords, where that's got a bit of a more internet-based, [unclear] based thing around it. So, I don't know.

Other than the games for the consoles, because he doesn't have a mobile, so he's never really had a look at the apps on what's available in that regard, to go oh look, they already have this out from LEGO. So, other than that, there's not a lot a lot else they use.