

Q Alex Hetherington (researcher)
A Woman with daughter (aged 11)

Q Just a few things I need to go through first before I start the questions. First is the idea of technology, technology' is mentioned a lot in the different questions and it kind of has a few more meanings than you might think of straight away if that makes sense? So when we talk about technologies, we talk about mobile phones, tablets, cameras, game consoles, computers, but also different kinds of media like apps, website and digital games.

A All right.

Q We're also interested in any kind of making that your child may do, just for a little bit of background how many children do you have?

A I've got two.

Q And how old are they?

A 11 and 13.

Q Okay so the focus of our study for this piece of research is children aged three to 11, so can I ask you to focus your answers solely on the 11 year old if that's possible?

A Yes, that's fine, she's the technical one, the other one's not so.

Q Okay wonderful, that's fantastic, thank you. You can answer as much or as little for the different questions, if you don't want to answer any you don't have to, and I think that's pretty much it, we can get straight into it if that's okay with you?

A Sure, go for it.

Q First question is does your child like to play with any particular devices, apps or digital toys, and if so, how?

A The main thing that she plays with is TikTok on her iPhone, it's her primary thing.

Q How often would you say she plays on TikTok?

A Every day, I have to prise her off of it, if she was allowed to, she would be on it from when she woke up to when she went to sleep.

Q Is there any time of day that she tends to in particular?

A When she comes home from school.

Q Is there any particular place that she plays TikTok?

A It's normally in her bedroom.

Q Does she have her own phone for how she plays?

A Yes.

Q Is she usually alone during this time, does anyone play with her?

- A Sometimes I join in with her.
- Q Any other devices, apps or toys that she's particularly interested in or is it just TikTok?
- A Roblox is the other one that she plays a lot.
- Q How often would you say she plays on Roblox?
- A She plays Roblox every day as well, because she plays that with her, they all go online together and play as a friend group.
- Q Do you know if she has any specific interest in Roblox?
- A She's into all the, they change all their [unclear] clothing on the Roblox and they swap the pets, she does all of that sort of stuff.
- Q How do you think your child's feeling playing these different activities?
- A If she's winning she's in a good mood, if she's losing she gets the hump.
- Q Does she play at all while watching television?
- A No, it's either one or the other, she can't concentrate on more than one device at a time, she does make me laugh, and she gets herself confused.
- Q Does she have any kind of activity on things like YouTube, Network, DVDs, anything like that?
- A She watches YouTube a lot, she follows a couple of YouTubers and she keeps going on at me, Mum, can I have a YouTube channel? And I'm like, no, not happening.
- Q Do you know what YouTubers she's follows, do you have any idea?
- A There's was two boys, I'm sure they was on the X Factor as well, I don't know their names, I'm so bad with stuff like that.
- Q Is there any particular interest that she has on YouTube and things like that?
- A YouTube is normally for pranks, she will watch prank after prank, and the attempt to do it on my which I don't find too funny.
- Q Does she play any video games at all?
- A Yes, she plays Xbox, we play that together a lot to be fair.
- Q Anything else?
- A She's got a Hudl tablet, but that she only tends to watch films on that on, she only watches her Netflix on that one.
- Q What does she watch on Netflix, does she have any particular favourites?
- A At the minute we're watching, because we watch the episodes together, is it Grim? And the Umbrella Academy, and Once Upon a Time, that was a brilliant series.
- Q Does she have any physical toys that relate to her digital interests?

A She's got a, I don't know if you'd call it a digital toy, it's like a microphone, and it's got a speaker and that on, I suppose that's a toy that she uses to go along with her devices, and then she's got a keyboard as well, and she connects that to her phone, teaches her through her phone as well.

Q Does she have any kind of other digital toys like educational toys, like LeapPad tablets, things like that?

A No, if she wants anything educational-wise she tends to use the laptop, because she uses the laptop to login to all of her schoolwork, because she doesn't get a piece of paper from school now like we used to, all her homework's digitised.

Q So she does that all herself on a laptop?

A Yes, she does all of that on the laptop in the front room, the only device that fixed and isn't allowed to go around the house, is the laptop.

Q Other than the laptop and the phone is there any other toys that she has that are internet enabled?

A She has, she doesn't play with it no more, but she has it, it's a Cayla the doll, it's interactive, and that interacts with her, but that goes through the internet, she doesn't connect her phone or anything up to that. I had to download an app on my phone and then she uses the toy, I just turn the app on and then it all connects to the internet, and she talks to it and it talks back to her.

Q Did she enjoy using that when she did play with it?

A Yes, very much so, and her Furby, that used to interact as well, and she used to love playing with that.

Q Has she ever played with anything involving augmented reality or virtual reality?

A Is that with all the goggles and sets? No, it's not something that she's got into. Would Sims be virtual reality?

Q I think that's a different kind of virtual reality, so no, I'm not sure that's what we're asking for now. How about Pokémon Go, is that something she would bother with?

A No, she wasn't into that.

Q How about any kind of artificial intelligence systems, things like Alexa, Siri and Google Home?

A We've got Alexa indoors, they use that more than me, because they tend to cheat and ask Alexa for their homework answers.

Q What kind of things do they ask for?

A She asks it jokes all the time, she likes having a joke with Alexa, she uses Alexa to set alarms when she's timing herself, and to play her music, she plays all her music through Alexa, and just general knowledge we use it for as well.

Q Last question for this section, does your child play in outdoor spaces feature any technology?

- A She pays TikTok outside, that's pretty much it outside, other than that she's normally outside on her bike to be fair.
- Q Do you ever think when she's not playing technology, that you can see the influence of technology in her play?
- A 100%.
- Q What's some of the ways that that takes shape?
- A She'll be on TikTok and she watches a lot of American people, and follows a lot of American YouTubers, and she'll come off the TikTok and we'll be talking at the table and all of a sudden she'll start using an American twang, or she'll start using American words, like garbage, and I'm like no, it's rubbish, and no, it's garbage, no it's not. And if I take her off of it without her wanting to come off it, I always get a repercussion of her being moody afterwards as well.
- Q I'm sure I'll ask about that in one of the sections, that's good to know, thank you. This question is specifically about LEGO, does your child own any LEGO?
- A Yes.
- Q How much LEGO?
- A There's a good three or four boxes worth.
- Q Are these LEGO sets or are they just general bricks?
- A We've had sent that over the year have just been put into big boxes, so she needs to collect the Friends LEGO, the girls Friends sets, she used to collect them, so they're in the boxes, and then there's just standard sets as well where we've picked up the old yellow box, proper boxes of LEGO.
- Q How about any other kind of LEGO stuff like accessories, bags, any of the LEGO films, things like that?
- A No.
- Q Not interested in any of them? Ever been to Legoland?
- A No?
- Q That's the first set of questions done, we're going to move on to the second set now, and these are about your views on play and technology. Who decides what devices, digital toys and apps that your child gets to use?
- A Me.
- Q What guides those choices?
- A Behaviour is one of them, and I think it depends what app she wants to play whether I will allow it, so I always research the app and have a brief look at the app before I will allow her to download anything either.
- Q Does she ask you sometimes to use certain apps, certain devices, and things like that?

A What do you mean?

Q Does she come to you with new things that you necessarily haven't of and ask your permission?

A Yes, she's well ahead on technology compared to me.

Q In your view, what types of devices and digital toys and apps can promote play?

A I think a lot of them do, it depends what play, I mean, on TikTok she's very active physically when she's using that app, so that's a big form of exercise in itself.

Q Do you think any kinds of devices, or digital toys and apps and things can limit play?

A Yes, YouTube does.

Q Do you think that's about YouTube itself like just the act of sitting and watching a video, or it is more about [inaudible?].

A I think it's a case of your sitting and watching.

Q Do you think that devices, digital toys and apps and things can promote creativity?

A Yes.

Q Can you give me some examples of how you've seen that happening?

A With her TikTok she's very creative, because she's into making the videos, it sort of gave her a bit of a passion, because she's now [inaudible]. TikTok is the one that makes her creative, because she'll make outfits to wear to TikTok, or she does a lot of photo editing for TikTok as well so she thinks about stuff like that.

Q Do you think on your side of things that digital play and things like that can limit creativity?

A Yes, I think you can tend to follow things rather than think up your own ideas, it's easier to get an idea off of someone else.

Q What kind of new toys do you think that LEGO should be developing for children in the digital age?

A LEGO should make themselves what they used to be, which was an old-school toy that brought a family together. LEGO's never been just restricted to... I mean I'm 33 and I still play around with her LEGO every now and again now, but to digitalise where we can all play together or compete against each other in building structures, that would be something I'd be interested to play with my children.

Q When playing with technology, how far is your child practically engaged, are they very interested, are they focused in what they're doing?

A Yes, she is, she's focused on, and anything she does she puts 100% into.

Q Do you think that she finds her play with technology to be meaningful for

everyday interests outside of that specific play, if that makes sense?

A No, I think like her TikTok for example is based on one thing.

Q Do you think when she's playing with technology that she tries new things and tries to make improvements to what she's doing?

A Yes.

Q What's some of the ways that you've seen that take shape?

A Again with her photo editing, she started off just doing standard videos, and the way she edits and produces videos now is [inaudible].

I haven't even moved I'm sitting in the same place, which is the worst thing as well. TikTok makes her, she's developed playing TikTok with technology in the way that she uses software and she edits videos. It's gave her another form of language as well because she uses all these technical words that you would use in info editing that she now uses as well.

Q That's very interesting, thank you. That's the second set of questions we've been through, three more to go through, this next set is about children's emotions and wellbeing when it comes to technology and play. So the first question is do you think that play with technology has an effect on children's emotions and wellbeing?

A Yes.

Q How do you think, and why do you think that is?

A I think there could be a lot of pressure, and I think my child as well, she's seen a lot pressure to be a certain way or to perform to a certain pattern, so I think that, emotionally, is quite difficult for some of them.

Q What kind of range of emotions to you see in your child when she's playing with technology?

A When she's losing she gets angry, when she's winning she's happy, and if she watches something that's sad, she will portray that she's sad as well, you can see that it pulls on emotional heartstrings with her sometimes.

Q Do you ever get the feeling that she gets frustrated when playing with technology?

A No, not really.

Q Does she ever get bored of playing with technology?

A No, she doesn't get bored.

Q Do you think that playing with technology can allow for more social interaction, and do you think that your child engages well with others when she's playing with technology?

A Yes.

Q What's some of the ways that you've seen that take shape?

- A When she's playing her Roblox, she's engaging with her friends and she's got a nice circle of friends, so that's always positive when she's with her friends, but they don't really tend to compete, they all tend to help each other.
- Q What types of technology do you think can support social play?
- A Roblox is a good one, TikTok is a good one, and WhatsApp as well, she has WhatsApp and that keeps her very social with her family, because we've got a lot of family who live abroad, so [inaudible].
- Q What do you think it is about these different apps and devices that enable her to be more social and supports that social play?
- A That she can engage with her friends in a nice environment.
- Q Right, that's the end of section three, so we're on to section four now, and this is about your role in technology-mediated play, so when your child's playing with technology how often do you play with them and how does this take shape?
- A I'd say that I play with her every day when it comes to technology, whether it be watching a film with her or if she's doing her TikTok, I'm really bad for jumping in and ruining her videos when she's recording them, it's the only way I get her back.
- Q You mentioned you play on the Xbox with her sometimes.
- A Yes, we play on the Xbox together, in fact that's a majorly social thing because we have Xbox nights where she has her friends come over, and I have my friends come over and we all compete as well.
- Q Is there any games that you've got favourites for on apps like that
- A Me and her tend to play Kameo together a lot, and Sonic, they're our two favourites.
- Q Do you think that there are any kinds of digital toys, technology apps that are bad for playing with other people?
- A I don't think it's the apps and the technology that's bad, I think it's the way people use them that can be interpreted as bad, so I don't think technology in itself is bad.
- Q Are you any other ways that you technology to initiate play with your child? You talked about TikTok sometimes, you talked about Xbox, is there anything else?
- A Not really because we love our board games, that's when we sort of come together, is when we're playing board games, so technology-wise, no, apart from the Xbox and TikTok, if we're communicating throughout the day we tend to use WhatsApp to contact each other, but that's about it.
- Q Does your child ever ask you to play with one of your devices, like your phone for something, is that something they've done when they were younger?
- A When she was younger she used to, but not now, unless her phone's dead and we're out that's when she'll try and use mine.

- Q Is there any specific kinds of technological play that she does with other family members that she doesn't do with you?
- A Roblox she does with her sister, I don't get involved in Roblox, and TikTok she gets involved in with other family members, WhatsApp she does, and that's pretty much it.
- Q So that's the 4th section, we're onto the last one now, and it's more about your general perceptions of technologies. Do you think certain technologies offer more positive or negative experiences for your child?
- A Positive.
- Q Why do you think this is?
- A Because a lot of them relate to the sort of hobbies and crafts that she's into.
- Q Do you have any concerns about your child's experience with technologies?
- A I do, I always worry that someone's going to try and contact her that you don't want to contact here, or get involved in them in that way, but then to be fair that doesn't... I check her phone on a regular basis so if not it's not a major worry to me because I'm on top of it anyway.
- Q Do you have any other safety concerns about internet-enabled toys?
- A Yes, on my internet I've got safety and parental lock so anything she's not allowed to access, she doesn't access anyway.
- Q Do you have any concerns about data privacy in relation to your child?
- A I've never really thought about that actually, it's my details that tend to be put into the phone so apart from her sharing her age and her name online, there's not really much that she shares that's too personal.
- Q Do you think that her use of technology improves family life in a positive way?
- A No, I wouldn't say that's always the case.
- Q What makes you say that?
- A When we're trying to do something it's hard work to get her off of technology, when she's on it to get her off of it, once you do get her off of it then she's, oh, I'm bored, got nothing to do.
- Q Have you found any strategies with being able to do that a little better?
- A No, shut up and put up with her or I don't get any back to be fair.
- Q Okay, we're going to move into the last question now and that's what advice or guidance can you offer to new parents on issues relating to technology and safety?
- A Always keep an eye on your child's phone, until they're 18 I don't think they've got, if you've bought them that phone, they haven't got a right to privacy when it comes to their phones and their technology, so always talk to you child about things as well, be very open with them and explain to them that everything on

your phones and technology is not always true and it's not always safe. And I think the more honest you are with them, the more honest they are back with you.

Q Is there anything else you'd like to say about anything that we've talked about?

A No, I don't think so.