

Q Alex Hetherington (researcher)  
A Interviewee with daughter (aged 7) and son (aged 16 months)

Q I'll get on with the questions then. I won't take too much of your time. Just one moment, I need a little bit of background information first. How many children do you have?

A Two.

Q And what are their ages?

A One is seven, the other one is 16 months.

Q For the questions, the [unclear] study is children aged three to 11. So if possible, could you keep the seven year-old in mind when you answer the questions? Is that okay?

A Okay.

Q Thank you. So most of the questions are about technology use. So I'm going to be mentioning technology a lot in the different questions, and when I say technology, I mean the obvious stuff like mobile phones, tablets, computers, but also different kinds of media, like apps and websites. Is that okay?

A Okay.

Q We're also interested in making and tinkering, any kind of creative activity that your children are involved with, and also different kinds of play. So, just different engagement with different toys. You might not think of some activities with technology to be play, but anything like that, if you're not sure if it's relevant, just mention it, because it might be, you never know.

A Okay.

Q Are there any questions before we begin?

A No, nothing.

Q Okay, I'll go straight into the questions then. The first set of questions are about the child's play and technology. So could you give me a quick overview of how technology features in your child's life? What kind of devices do they use?

A They use them smart phones, tablets, and can use my laptop sometimes.

Q And your laptop.

A Also, they have a TV.

Q Is there anything else?

A Yes, they have a PS4.

Q So what would you say is their main device that they spend the most time on?

A Has to be the tablet.

- Q The tablet, okay. What kind of tablet is it, if you don't mind me asking?
- A An Amazon tablet.
- Q Thank you. On the Amazon tablet, are there any particular apps or media sites that they gravitate towards? What do they spend most of the time doing?
- A They spend most of the time watching videos on YouTube.
- Q Are there any other media apps that they use, things like Netflix, maybe CBBs?
- A Yes, they watch Netflix.
- Q Anything else, ITV Player, IPlay or anything like that?
- A No, [overtalking].
- Q No worries. Do they watch regular television at all?
- A Not really.
- Q How much time would you say they spend in a given week on tablets?
- A They spend about maybe four hours. Yes, because they're working on their tablet during the weekend, not during school.
- Q How about other kinds of technology? Phones, the Play Station 4, things like that.
- A Play Station 4 is just once in a while. They don't really use it that much, maybe once or twice in two weeks.
- Q Okay. Do they have any favourite games on the Play Station?
- A They play FIFA.
- Q Do they have any physical toys that relate to their digital interests?
- A No.
- Q Do they play football in real life at all?
- A Yes.
- Q How often do they do that?
- A Once a week.
- Q Do they have any kind of digital or technological toys, any kind of educational tablets or robots, anything like that?
- A Not really, but the 16 month-old baby has all these toy tablets where you punch the buttons and it plays something, maybe if you touch a square. Yes, he has that.
- Q Do they have any internet-enabled toys?
- A No, I don't think so, no.
- Q Do they ever have the chance to play with any kind of augmented reality or

virtual reality?

A No, not yet.

Q Is that something that you'd be interested in the future, letting them have [overtalking]?

A Yes, definitely.

Q Have they ever had any chance to play with any kind of artificial intelligence assistant like Alexa or Siri or Google?

A Yes.

Q Where did that take place? Have you got one yourself?

A No, I have a cousin who has one. So when they are at her place, they do play with that.

IV How often do they play outdoors?

A Not often, no.

Q When you're children are playing with physical toys that don't involve technology, do you think that you ever see the influence of technology in their behaviour and how they're playing?

A Yes.

Q How do you think that takes shape?

A I noticed they try acting out what they saw maybe on TV, or just pressing a toy tablet as if there was no video [?] tablet. I notice that a lot.

Q Can you think of any specific examples? Is there anything in particular that they like to copy?

A Nothing I can think of right now.

Q Do you know any specific YouTube videos they like to watch?

A I don't know their names.

Q Okay. No worries, that's fine. So we're nearing the end of the first set of questions. This next little bit is specifically about LEGO. Is there much LEGO in your house at all?

A Yes, they do have LEGOs.

Q How much would you say?

A Not much because I really don't like buying it. So not much.

Q Is there any other kind of LEGO things, other than the actual bricks and the sets themselves?

A No, it's just the bricks.

- Q Have you ever seen the LEGO films or anything like that?
- A Yes, they like watching it.
- Q Yes, they like watching it. Have you got that on a DVD? Is it something that you watch often?
- A They watch on YouTube.
- Q So this next question's a little bit more hypothetical. It's a little bit more imaginary. What kinds of new products and toys do you think that LEGO should be developing for the digital age?
- A Something more interactive, not just the building blocks and all that. And something they can learn with, maybe something that can help them with their education or something.
- Q Thank you. So we're going to move onto the second set of questions now, but these questions are more about your views on children's play and technology.
- A Okay.
- Q So, when your children are playing with technology, who makes the decision what they get to play with, and when?
- A I do.
- Q And what guides your choices when you're making those decisions?
- A I mostly want them to play with something that can help them, not just play for playing sake. So, yes, they can have fun. When they are doing their assignments, then I go for something like that.
- Q Okay. Where do you get your information from? How do you make that decision whether or not something's going to help them or not?
- A From other parents, myself, or maybe things I see on Twitter.
- Q So you spend a lot of time on Twitter? Is that one of your big sources of information?
- A Yes.
- Q Do you ever talk to your child's school about any advice or information about tech use?
- A Yes.
- Q What kind of things have they said? Have you listened to their advice as something interest?
- A Not really.
- Q Do you think there's a particular reason for that?
- A I'm going to say cultural differences.

Q Okay, not problem. Do you think that there are certain kinds of technology or certain kinds of apps, maybe, that promote play?

A Yes.

Q And how do you think they might promote play?

A More interactive apps. Apps that is...

Q Can you give me some examples?

A I can't think of any off the top of my head right now.

Q That's okay, no worries. Do you think, on the other hand, certain kinds of devices, certain apps maybe can limit play?

A Well, it just depends on how much time they spend on it. If they get to spend too much time on those kinds of things, then it does limit play a little.

Q Okay, no worries. Do you think that certain kinds of devices or digital toys or apps can promote creativity?

A Yes.

Q How do you think that is?

A My daughter, she spends a lot of time watching other kids on YouTube. And then at the end of the day you notice she's practically doing what she sees the other kids do. I think [unclear] the more creative for herself because while she's doing what she sees and do, she's improving herself. So I do think, yes, it encourages creativity.

Q Thank you. That relates to another question I'm going to ask a little bit later, that's where you can answer, thank you. Do you think, on the other hand, that certain kinds of technology, certain kinds of apps might limit creativity?

A No.

Q Okay, no worries. When your child's using technology, would you say that they're very actively engaged in what they're doing? Are they very focused and interested?

A 80% of the time.

Q Do you ever find it difficult to get them away from technology when you want to?

A Sometimes, yes.

Q Do you think that your child's [unclear] their play with technology to be meaningful? Is it relevant to their everyday interests?

A Yes.

Q Why do you think that is?

A I think they also feel that they are part of the community because when I meet my

close friends and they're all talking about something, they all watch it on TV. I think it's part of their identity, you can't take it away from them.

Q When playing with technology, do you think that your child enjoys trying out new things and making improvements to what they're doing?

A Yes.

Q What are some of the ways that that takes shape?

A In the way they do their own things, like we've noticed if they're watching a video on YouTube about a child learning to tie their shoes, if they know what's happening, they are tying their shoes the way they see that child on TV doing it. And it's a whole lot easier for me to even teach them how to do stuff that way.

Q Thank you, that's really good. So, moving onto the third set of questions now and this is more about technology and children's emotions and well-being. So, do you think that technology use can have an effect on children's emotions and well-being?

A Yes, they can.

Q What makes you think that?

A Children learn a lot from what they see, and where, as an adult, you already know some of the things you see on TV are not real. [Unclear] then most children, they don't know that yet. They view everything they see on TV as real. So sometimes when I see other kids on TV having extra toys, they think it's real in a way, it's not real, and then it has a negative effect on their well-being.

They start having mental breakdowns. They are depressed because they don't have all those toys they see on TV. It does affect children and it can also affect them in a good way. They can learn from what they see as well.

Q What's one of ways do you think technology use can affect them in a good way?

A They can learn to stuff by themselves. My little girl, she learnt to tie her shoes from TV. I never taught her that.

Q When your child's playing with technology, what's the emotion that you most often see in them?

A Happiness.

Q What other range of emotions do you see in her?

A She's just happy when she's watching TV or playing with her [unclear].

Q Do you think that she ever feels frustrated as well?

A Sometimes I noticed.

Q Do you think [overtalking] any particular reason for that?

A Maybe when the internet connection is not good, and she's trying to punch, punch, it's not working, she gets really frustrated.

- Q Do you think that she ever gets bored of playing with technology?
- A Yes.
- Q Why do you think this is?
- A I really don't know. Don't think she's [unclear] outright.
- Q Do you think when she gets bored of playing with technology, is it similar or different to the way that she might get bored with playing with something physical.
- A They're similar, quite similar.
- Q Similar, okay, no worries. And playing with technology that allows for social interaction, would you say that she engages well with this?
- A Yes.
- Q What makes you say that?
- A I just see her interacting well with others.
- Q Do you think that different types of technology can better support social play?
- A No.
- Q So onto the fourth set of questions now, and this is about your role as a parent in technology-mediated play. So when your child's play involves technology, do you ever play with her?
- A Sometimes.
- Q And how does that usually happen?
- IE Sometimes she brings her tablet to me, and we just [unclear].
- Q This happen very often?
- A Yes, when I'm at home.
- Q Is there any particular place in the house where this happens, in the living room, things like that?
- A My bedroom.
- Q Do you think that certain kinds of apps or certain kinds of devices are better for playing with your daughter?
- A Yes.
- Q Which ones in particular?
- A The tablet.
- Q If you're on your device doing something unrelated, does your daughter ever come to you and ask if she can join you in what you're doing?
- A All the time.

- Q What are the things that she's joined you on?
- A If I'm on SkyBoy [?] [unclear]. Yes, I still like her join in, or even if I'm just working on my laptop she will just [unclear] to my work.
- Q Are there any kinds of devices or applications that your daughter can only access with someone else, extended family members, your sisters maybe?
- A No.
- Q No, nothing like that, okay. Do you ever use technology to initiate play with your child?
- A No.
- Q That's the end of the fourth set of questions. We're onto the last set now, and this is more about your general perceptions of technologies.
- A Okay.
- Q Do you think that certain technologies offer more positive or negative experiences for you daughter?
- A I think they are all the same.
- Q Do you have any concerns about your daughter's use of technologies?
- A Yes, I'm worried somebody might steal her identity. Or she might look into an account with [unclear] or something. I'm also worried she might be bullied online.
- Q What do you think has shaped those concerns?
- A Can you repeat that please?
- A Maybe use [unclear] for info [?] controls because there's nothing I can do.
- Q Sorry, I'm just going over a question that you've answered before, so I'm figuring out best way to ask it. What do you think has shaped your concerns about data privacy, because you mentioned that you're worried about your daughter's identity being stolen?
- A Yes.
- Q What do you think's made you worry about that?
- A I see it happening a lot. I don't want to [unclear]. I know they're kids, but they don't really know what's going on. There might just see, maybe, a data page that requires their name and they just fill it out without really understanding what they are doing. So that, I'm really scared when it comes to that.
- Q Do you think that your daughter's use of technologies influences family life in a positive way?
- A Yes.
- Q How do you think that happens?

A Because of her use of technology she's able to stay in touch with her cousins who are not around. So when we meet up, maybe for Christmas celebration, it's like we were never apart in the first place because they are always talking on WhatsApp or Skype, yes.

Q Thank you. Do you ever think, on the other hand, that your daughter's use of technologies can influence family life in a negative way?

A Yes.

Q And why do you think that is?

A I'm worried sometimes she's so focused, she doesn't realise there are other people around.

Q Do you have any other concerns about use of technologies that we haven't really talked about?

A No.

Q No worries. Onto the last question now, what advice or guidance would you offer to new parents on issues relating to technology and safety?

A I think parents should watch what their children are doing online. And they should have a time limit for it. They shouldn't allow children to just be on technology from morning to the night. There should be a time for it.

Q Do you have a time limit in place for technology use for your children?

A Yes.

Q How long is it?

A During school days it's [unclear] and it's only for doing homework. And then during the weekend they can go maybe two hours a day.

Q Thank you. Okay, thank you very much. You've answered all my questions.