

Q Julia Bishop (researcher)
Q2 Alex Hetherington (researcher)
A Serena (Mum)
B Kawsu (Dad)
C Mallison (6)
D Essa (4)

Q (*Looking at F1r_20191102_d001 and reading what is written*) 'This is a robot, Alex, and another one.' Oh do you mean the robot's called Alex or are you talking to Alex when you write that down?

C Talking to Alex.

Q2 That's the one you showed me last week isn't it, and this is the new one.

C Yeah.

Q Oh, and what made you draw this?

C I don't know.

A This is the week before, this is before you came last time he did this one.

Q I didn't get to see that. Have you got photos of this? Oh my gosh. Mallison.

C I did this one now.

Q So this is the new one?

C Yeah.

Q I see.

A Is it that way round?

Q Is it this way round?

C No.

Q Or this way? No tell me about it.

A Oh I get it, I see it now. Can you see it?

Q Can you tell me more about it because I need to understand it more and I'm not inside your head, so can you tell me?

C It's one...there's a bunk bed there.

Q Yes, I can see the steps going up.

C Yeah. And then these are all the walls and that's a carpet.

Q Oh that's really lovely. Oh it looks like it might be quite a touchy feely soft sort of carpet, is that what you were thinking?

C Mmm.

Q What would you do on that carpet if you were in that room?

C Play football on it.

Q Would you? So it's almost like grass then is it?

C Yeah.

Q Is it Astro Turf?

C Yeah.

Q Mind you that's a bit hard isn't it? Would you do any playing in there?

A If it was Astro Turf I'm sure he would.

Q You think he would like an Astro Turf bedroom?

A He's constantly kicking a ball around the house.

C Wait one sec, one sec.

A No you don't need to go and get anything.

C Yes I do.

Q Oh, something related to what we're saying. Essa, what have you got there?

D A house.

Q2 A house.

Q Oh tell us about your wonderful house. I can see some....these are like windows.

A You did a brilliant house actually. We haven't sent it Julia yet have we, but....

Q Oh if you've got a picture of it, you know I love stuff like that.

C I did something in my bedroom.

Q Oh what's this?

A No, that's it now, no football please.

Q Mallison, you were in the middle of telling me, I want to know, is this your bedroom Mallison?

C No.

Q No OK. So who is....

C But what I'm going to get.

Q It's the bedroom you're going to get. Oh wow. So is this you?

A It's got two floors.

Q Oh who is on the top bunk here?

C Me.

Q And Essa's on the other bed. So what else is going to happen in this bedroom when it gets finished, are you going to tell me? Apart from playing football.

A Look at Julia when she's talking to you.

Q He's having a think aren't you?

C Yeah.

Q I ask really difficult questions Serena, you know me, so they require thinking.

C I play with my LEGO.

Q Play with your LEGO. Where would you do that in that room, is there a special place where you could do that?

C Yeah.

Q OK, so are these like a chest of drawers?

C Yeah.

Q OK and where would you play?

C Flying drawers.

Q Pardon?

C What attach to the bed, called flying drawers because they're attached to the bed. But they're not on the ground.

- Q Oh they're flying, I see what you mean, yeah they're floating. That's amazing.
- C Because they're attached to the bed.
- Q I see. And that means you, in the top bunk, can reach to the top of the chest of drawers doesn't it?
- C Yeah. If Essa wants to I'll get in and then he can have one.
- Q So you're in charge of the chest of drawers and you pass it down to him.
- C Yeah. Or if he wants to he can just go and grab one because there'll be a hole there.
- Q Oh through the end of the bed so he can reach.
- C Yeah.
- Q Because obviously he's got to sort of stretch up. I wondered if it was like a lift, if it went up and down.
- C Yeah well it is really, there's a button.
- D I'm drawing a magic bedroom in a minute. That's my house.
- Q And what's inside the doors?
- C Toys.
- Q Do you know, I knew you were going to say that. Not clothes like mum and I would put in there, but toys! Brilliant,
- C Random balls.
- Q Now you know this room, you know we're interested in sometimes you use the iPad or the Switch or your VTech watch, would that come into this room anywhere?
- C Yes.
- Q So tell me more about where?
- C In the drawer.
- Q It would be in the drawer. So when would you get that out?
- C Probably if my mum was saying 'do your work, do you work' and I'm getting bored of it and I just go on it and [overtalking].

Q Ooh, should I be going to cover up mum's ears when you're telling me these secrets? So you would just get it out when you were a bit fed up with doing your school work, is that it?

C Mmm.

Q But sometimes your school work is on the iPad isn't it?

C Yes.

Q So do you do school work in here, or do you mainly do that downstairs here in the living room perhaps or the kitchen?

C I'll do it in....really anywhere. But sometimes there's no internet so I can't do that.

Q Oh yeah.

C So I just go on YouTube, but then you'd want internet for YouTube so I can't go on that all the time.

Q Oh my gosh so what happens....oh go on.

C But even when, only this morning, this boy who is obsessed with football and he never wants to stop. He literally has not a single day off playing football.

Q Blimey.

A Who is that?

C Chase.

A Is this....

Q Is he a YouTuber?

C No.

A It's this thing he was trying to get it up this morning when I was doing breakfast.

Q What's that? Can you tell me more about that Mallison, I'm really interested in that?

C I'll go and get the iPad and show you.

A Go on then, so they play football....

Q Is that alright Serena if he does, it's probably a bit easier than learning about it in the abstract.

A Yeah. He was asking me....

C Mum, the iPad.

A He had the iPad this morning when he woke up. He asked for it first because he woke up first and I was trying to keep him quiet so he didn't wake him up. So he went and played on the iPad. And then when he woke up and I went in to, they ended up in his bedroom, he'd got this football thing on and he wanted me to look at it. Can you get the iPad out the kitchen, please?

Q2 Is your house finished yet, is it all done?

C Found it.

Q Brilliant. Let's have a quick look at this.

Q2 It is done, can I take a photo of it, is that alright?

Q I can see a ? picture in here as well, this is the Switch isn't it?

A What I was going to say is, he wanted to show me but I would say no because of ???

Q Of course yeah, so he didn't have the....yeah.

A So he was saying 'mum look at this, look at this'. Which one?

C It was on YouTube.

A I know it's there. It's actually that.

C No it isn't.

Q Oh thanks Serena, yeah.

A It is that, it is that because....

C It isn't.

A ...you paused it, I asked you to pause it.

C No, I paused this.

Q [To Essa] Do you want to....we've got some stickers actually if he wants to decorate his book he could do that, and I've got some other ones here. Two seconds, I have some stickers here that I'm going to give....and then I'm going to look at your thing.

Plays video [https://youtu.be/i68Usm4mCSg – '10-Year-Old Soccer SENSATION / Next Lionel Messi?']

Q So he's called Chase Carerra, and it's called 'Ten year old soccer sensation next Lionel Messi'. I'll tell you what, can I take your photograph and you can hold that up. Do you want to put it on the picture of the boy? Tell me a bit about why you like this. I think you

do like this film don't you? Can you just put your finger on what it is you like to see about this? You told me first of all he has no days off. That impressed you I think would you say?

C Yes.

Q Do you have days off when you don't play football?

C I'm not always playing because I'm not allowed outside most of the time now because how cold it is, mum thinks I'm going to get cold. I don't care if I do get a cold.

Q Don't you?

C No.

Q Do you play football in the house sometimes?

C Yeah. I watch this. If I....

Plays video [https://youtu.be/WT6YNL5Acmo – 'Cristiano Ronaldo Freestyle Skills | #5 Players Lounge']

C Wait, these aren't the right bits, I'll try and find it [*goes to about 02:30 in on this film*].

Q What, are you looking for a special bit that you like?

C Yeah.

C It's not this [unclear].

Q Oh they're doing like tricks. This is on Rioferdinand.com. Oh so is he like doing....can you do those sort of tricks?

C No. I can knee it though and do some like them.

Q Can you? How did you learn to do the kneeing and stuff like that?

C Watch this. Ah! This is just the bit where you see.....

Q Oh my gosh, that was brilliant. So about 3 minutes and 40 seconds in he does this....oh look at him now. Gosh. He makes it look so easy, doesn't he?

C Yeah. But it's actually really, really hard.

Q Have you tried that?

C No. [break in recording] -aldo.

Q Right, and who is this doing the tricks then with his feet?

C I don't know him.

Q You don't know him. He's pretty good though isn't he?

C Yeah.

Q Would you like to be able to do this sort of thing, you two?

C Yeah.

Q Let's have it off shall we and just chat about it. Is that alright?

C Yeah.

Q Lovely. Pause it. Fantastic. Oh thank you, I know you want to watch all of it.

C Ronaldo wins this penalty thing.

Q Does he? Do you spend a lot of time looking at YouTube?

C Yeah.

Q And what do you search up on there when you search? What word would you put in?

C I'll search for anything.

Q Do you search for football, or footballers, or names?

C Yeah I search for football stuff. I even search for basketball(?) stars.

Q Do you, yeah that's great. And how did you find that boy, the American boy who does 'soccer' [in American accent] as you said, how did you find him?

C It just comes up on YouTube.

Q It came up did it? So tell me what it was you like....

C ??? Yes.

Q And did you just see that one today?

C I've seen it for ages.

Q Oh have you, OK. And so you've watched it before lots of times?

C Yeah.

Q And do you ever think about him when you're not watching YouTube, do you ever when you're all playing football do you ever think like 'I'm going to be like him'?

C Yeah.

Q Great. Oh thank you, that's brilliant. Let's pop the pause button down on there.

A Essa we're not playing on that.

Q Thank you very much. I wondered Serena if you might use the iPad more if they were poorly? Because you've been talking about them being a little bit....

A No they didn't really use anything much.

Q No, so it's not something you'd use when they were ill or something like that?

A No erm.....

Q No that's fine I just wondered.

A I'm trying to think what they've done this week. I've been on nights so that's probably what I ??? So this week, Tuesday we stayed at home. Tuesday Mallison was not feeling very well so we actually laid on the settee for quite a while didn't we and watched a programme on TV called Little Couple, which is about two parents with achondroplasia that had adopted two children with achondroplasia from different countries.

Q What is achondroplasia? I don't even know what it is.

A It's like dwarfism.

Q Oh I didn't know that was the term for it.

A Well it's just because I've watched it for a long time so I've heard about them before. And he likes that programme, there's a little boy on it and he likes it, he's quite funny. And he watched that with me for a couple of hours. But he just lay there, he was just really poorly. Then Wednesday he went with my mum, and when he felt OK my mum did some spellings and some bits with him. He did actually have the iPad because he did a bit of his times tables, but I don't know if after he did his times tables whether she let him play on YouTube or not, I don't know about that because I wasn't there. And then Thursday I think it was a similar kind of idea, he went for a walk with the dog with my mum for a short time and then did a bit more work, a combination of a few things. And I don't know how long he was on there. But she wouldn't let him be on for ages. And then Friday he stayed home. I think he might have had a bit of time on there but I don't think it was long.

Q No, so it hasn't featured perhaps much more than would have been your normal routine by the sounds of it?

A No.

Q No, thanks Serena. No as they had been poorly I thought I would just ask.

A And last night I did let him go on the Nintendo each but it was just because I wanted them to use the GoPro so they could show....

Q Oh so there's more GoPro footage to look at?

A There's a couple yeah just from last night.

Q Oh thank you I'll download those. We wondered if we could just show you some of the other GoPro footage that we've filmed and just ask each of the lads a bit about that – and yourself. Can you just spend about 10 minutes doing that and then we'll go to some films of this stuff.

A Yeah. Do you want me to get this off so that you can....

Q Thank you yeah that would be great. That's the ??? done.

[Break in recording]

Ato show that they can do it together. And they do do that sometimes, it's not like they don't do it anyway.

Q OK so we are talking about this GoPro film here, which is 2219 [F1p_20191102_v013]. And you were saying that they were on this together.

A Yeah, one is one side of the screen, and one's the other.

Q OK. That's right, we talked about it didn't we last time, that's right I remember now.

A I can't remember which way round it were, the boys will probably be able to tell you. I feel like this was Essa on this side.

Q On the right hand side, yeah. OK. So Mallison had the camera on and was....

A No, I put the camera there.

Q That's right I remember. Sorry it's coming back to me now, sorry.

A To get a better picture.

Q That's what it was, yeah that's right. That's brilliant. So will they play on that quite a lot would you say?

A I wouldn't say quite a lot but they do often ask to go on it together. Like I wouldn't say it's the top thing they ask for. If they get the time and you give them the choice, Mallison would always pick Minecraft on his own, and Essa would probably go for Mario on his own. But if it was on the TV, which we don't do as often we usually do it as a....you know like he's doing now, if it was on the TV they would probably....Essa likes Just Dance, and Mallison likes to do a bit of Mario. But then occasionally they'll ask to do the Mario together.

Q Gosh, Essa....yeah we've seen some pictures of the Just Dance but we've not actually seen Just Dance in action, that will be another thing to film actually, it would be amazing.

A Yeah. Do you want to do Just Dance, Essa, later? Yeah?

Q That would be great, with the GoPro? Thank you very much, that would be fantastic. So maybe we just need to speak with Mallison and he could choose one of his films he'd like to look back on. Mallison, sorry I know you're busy on the Switch.

A Yes but he's had some time on there yesterday haven't you and we've got homework to do today.

C Yeah but I was just doing this block.

A Listen, listen....

Q Yeah it's OK you can finish what you're doing because I don't want to interrupt if you're in the middle of a task, I know you're showing that to Alex.

A Julia wants to talk to you.

C In a bit.

Q In a minute. Can we look at one of your GoPro films of the Switch as well?

C Er....yeah.

Q Thank you. OK.

D I'm on Just Dance now.

Q What are you on? Oh wow, what's that, Essa?

D Er, Mallinson, what do you call that, that colouring game what you have numbers and colour the numbers in?

C Pixelart.

Q Pixelart, thank you. Yeah that's what you showed me last week didn't you? Oh you're really good at this.

A Alex and Julia have got a lot of things to do today.

Q2 What else do you need to do, Mallison?

A That will do for now because you can maybe have a go later if you've done your homework can't you. So let me pop it back on the stand. Julia wants to talk to you about....

C I like Giro Bird? but I'm not ???

Q Thanks Mallison, we need you to have a look at this film as well, is that alright? Do you want to be in the middle?

C I... I lose on both of them [*referring to F1p_20191102_v013 and F1p_20191102_v015*].

A Essa, are you going to do the stickers?

D No.

Q So I'll show you what all the different ones are and then you can pick one.

A Alex won't bring you nothing special again.

Q OK so we've got...that was just a practice one, So these were some of the very early ones that you did. So can you tell from the preview there which one it is? There's that one, you're on the iPad there. There's this one.

C Time Tables. [*F1c_20191012_v005*]

Q Times Tables, that's 3 minutes. This one is 17 minutes and there's a weird voice coming out of it on this one, do you mind just telling me what that one is?

Plays video - F1c_20191012_v006

C This is the man on Minecraft. He's telling me what to do. It's just telling you if you're on Survival. It's telling you what will happen if you're on Survival.

Q Do you go on Survival?

C No, I go on Creative so I don't die.

Q How do you feel about that voice and what he's telling you?

C I don't know.

Q No. Do you listen to it quite a lot?

C No, I never even listen what it's saying. I don't care what he even says.

Q Don't you?

C No, I just get on with the game.

Q Yeah OK. So let's jump ahead a little bit and see what you're doing now. Does that voice keep going or does it switch off when you're in Creative mode?

C Well it's always on except for when you're actually playing the game when....mum, could you get me the Switch a minute so I can show Julia. So yeah, when it was like that then.

Q Ah I see.

C Not like that.

Q No. Do you want me to do it, how do you think you'll do it on this one?

C Yeah, can't. So I'm not doing it.

Q OK.

C Yeah there, it will not say, it will not say anything.

Q OK that's fine. Does it make any noise at all?

C Oh I remember doing this bit.

Q Do you?

C Yeah.

Q So we're about 8 minutes in, or 9 minutes in [on *F1c_20191012_v006*], and....oh you're talking.

Plays video

C I know. I talked on some of these.... I'm making it out of Minecraft hay.

Q What did you say, Minecraft what?

C Hay.

Q Hay? Got it.

C Oh....they dead you.

Q So tell me a bit more about what you're doing here.

C 'It makes them go away [he says on film]' If you get wood out of trees, all the wood, it will make them go away doesn't it?

Q2 Yeah. Which bit goes away?

C The leaves.

Q2 The leaves. That's how it works.

Q Wow, this is all new to me. How did you figure that out? Was it just because it happened or did somebody tell you, or did you see it on YouTube, or....?

C Er....I just found that out of my friends. I just did it anyway, it was a big tree and I wanted to get away quick so I could build some more.

Q Would you say that you always find out something new when you go on Minecraft?

C No I just see the same things really, just want to do my stuff what I like to do with it.

Q What's your favourite thing to do, or what are the main things that you would do on there then, is it building, is that what it's all about really?

C Yeah. It's about....Minecraft is basically about building. But the main thing about it that I like is killing the animals to get food.

Q Really? Yeah? Is that part of what happens in your head, or are you actually doing that as part of what's happening on the screen?

C I just like doing it anyway.

Q Is there like....you know when you start building, do you know what you're going to build or does it kind of take shape as you go along?

C I know what I want to build.

Q Do you? Can you give me an example of something that you like to build, or what you were doing on this particular one?

C I don't know what I was doing anyway.

Q No? And can it change? Can you start a building and then think 'no it's not going well I'm going to slightly change this and make it go off in another way'?

C Yeah you can just rebuild buildings and stuff.

Q Do you ever destroy what you've built, or take it down. Is that a silly question of Minecraft, I don't know?

C No I never do that.

Q You wouldn't? So have you built lots of buildings now, have you got like a whole area of buildings and stuff?

C No.

Q So where are all your buildings in the Minecraft world?

C Because if you have your own world what you can go on yourself and it has all your stuff on, it's never going to disappear then you can actually have that for ever. And then it's a whole world because it's your world. And you can join people on their worlds if they want you to, but if they don't tell you their name then you can't join them.

Q Do you ever go to anybody else's world?

C No.

Q Does anybody come to your world?

C No.

Q And are you alone a lot then? When you're just building is it just you and Minecraft as it were?

C Yeah.

Q Are there people in Minecraft in your head, do you imagine them?

C Well I can actually....I know that Minecraft can kill you if you're on Survival. But that night when I was doing Minecraft I thought I'm going to make this river bigger, that's what I thought, then I was always going to make the river bigger so I could put summat in it. And then I put some poisonous puffer fish in it too, I think I did, yeah I think I did actually.

Q I didn't follow what you said there. You did something?

C I was making the river bigger so I could put some poisonous puffer fish in.

Q2 To put some puffer fish in?

C Yeah.

Q2 I see. What kind of puffer fish?

C Poisonous.

Q2 Poisonous puffer fish.

Q How did you get that idea? What made you think of that?

C I don't know.

Q It just came into your head?

C Yeah.

Q2 Where did you get the puffer fish from? Did they come from the eggs?

C What? No. I just go on Creative, you can just get whatever you want, you don't have to find it. As you might play in Survival but I don't.

Q2 I see. Can you show me those puffer fish and ??? is that OK?

C Yeah.

Q Might be very interesting. So when you're building and stuff do you think of like little scenes that might be happening in your Minecraft world?

C Yeah. I even spun (spawn?) this spider.

Q2 Did you?

C In Mario Minecraft I saw a cave spider because I went in a dungeon.

Q2 Did you?

C Yeah.

Q2 Scary.

Q That sounds scary. Were you scared though?

C No.

Q Weren't you, how did you....

C Because I was on Creative and then they wouldn't get killed.

A He's not scared of Creative because he knows he can't get killed in it. Not like the other one, he won't play the other one.

Q OK, so it was just the being killed one. Yeah. So how do you feel? Is it like....I've never done this so can you tell me, how did you feel when you met the spider, is it exciting, a bit thrilling?

C Exciting.

Q Yeah. And what did you want to do next, were you like Doctor Who and walk towards it, walk towards danger like Doctor Who always does?

A He won't know what Doctor Who is.

Q No, oh bless you, oh I'm showing my age now.

C Anyway I did walk towards it.

Q But you know what I mean, all these heroes, they walk towards danger, I would be running away! What about the spider, what did you do?

C I just put it on a lead anyway.

Q You put it on a lead? Well that's the best way to deal with spiders, I never thought about that. Did you take it for a walk then?

C Yeah.

Q Brilliant. Oh that's fantastic, thank you ever so much. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about that film, or do you want to watch one of the other films, or shall we make something now?

C I have an idea. We can watch another one because I had a good one.

Q Oh really? Go on.

C One of them. I think it might be this.

Q Do you want to tell me which one it is? We can look through them. Was it one we've looked at already or do you want to go down the other ones?

C Go down, it might be there.

Q Sorry, I don't know if you can see from the preview or whether you want me to put them on? There's also some Mario Karts I think on there which you were playing. Do you want to have a look at that Essa as well and tell us about that?

C Maybe that one.

Q Which one? This one?

C Yeah, that might be it.

Q That's a Switch one.

C Yeah that's the Switch one, because I usually do them on Switch.

Q What would you like me to show you now?

C Could we go on this one because this might be actually a good one I think.

Q Is this the same one? I think this is the same one that we've just been looking at, let's go to the end and we'll see.

C Oh it's the same one.

Q It is the same one, yeah it's your favourite we've discovered. Do you want to tell me a bit about the Mario....

C There's one there.

Q There's one there, OK.

C That will not be the same probably.

Q It might be because I might have made a mistake and copied it twice. It isn't it yeah, it is.

A Was it Mario that you recorded the other day for her, can you remember?

C I had another one.

Q May we just do the Mario? Let's put it on and then we can perhaps, if you'd like to you could go back with Alex because he knows what you're talking about more with Minecraft.

C Yeah and then where's the GoPro, where's the GoPro?

Q It's right here actually, it's just....oh, is this where you were playing together? [

C Yeah.

Q Oh right.

C I was just doing that, shut the back it's better to find. Because if you're at the back you won't get bombed. But sometimes I even overtake.

Plays video - F1p_20191102_v015

Q There's a lovely smile on Essa's face. Oh that's the end of that one, do you want to watch it from the beginning again, or shall we....there's another one of this.

C Yeah there is another one.

Q Shall we look at another one? Let's see if we can quickly find one. I think all of these might be, let's have a look, unless they're just photos, let's just check. What's this one – oh no that's the Switch. What's this one?

C Oh that one I think. I know what it is.

Plays video - F1p_20191102_v013

Q Is this when you were playing together again, can you remember?

C Yeah.

Q Is it true for you that if you lose it's not so good? Is that why you don't like playing with Essa?

C Yeah.

Q Because he won?

C No. He literally cheats. He cheats, that's why I don't like playing with him.

Q Because he cheats. Oh right, so it's got to be fair.

C Yeah. But he always cheats.

Q And then he won, and that made it even worse maybe.

C Yeah. And then he cheats.

Q And how do you feel when you're playing this, is it exciting, do you feel excited, or are you concentrating a lot on playing?

C I'm concentrating.

Q Right, yeah. Have you played it for quite a long time now? I just mean have you played it over quite a few months, or years?

C Yeah, I've done it quite a few months.

Q Yeah, so you feel like you're quite an experienced player then?

C Yeah.

Q Yeah. Is there anything you particularly like about doing it – or that you don't like about it?

C I don't really play on it ever.

Q No. So it's not a regular thing. Well, thank you for filming it. Is there anything else I've not asked you about that you need to tell me about this? You're watching very intently I must say.

C I know. That's what I did. Oh no, down up, for my....

Q It would be amazing wouldn't it if you could really do this in real life.

C [Still watching film. Unclear]

Q Do you ever play Mario Karts in the playground or anything like that, or with your friends in the yard?

C No.

Q No? Shall we put the pause button down there because it's nearly finished. But we've done quite a lot of looking at films and you've been brilliant, thank you for your explanations. [Break in recording] So there was an actual bucket of puffer fish? So the game suggested it to you? There you go. Alright let me get this copying and then we'll....we have a little something for you.

C Really?

Q Yeah. Alex is going to bring it in now. [Brings in box of Classic LEGO]

[Break in recording]

A And they were propping him on that little display thing, do you remember that?

C Yeah.

A That's what they [Alex and Julia] want you to do, they want you to invent something, something that nobody else has thought of. Yeah?

[LEGO being emptied onto floor][Break in recording]

Q Is it, playing with the LEGO, yeah.

D Look what I just built.

A Wow, a door, that's brilliant. Be careful because I can hear LEGO shooting about and I don't want you to lose any pieces.

Q So have they been playing with LEGO really from a very young age and you've found it really absorbs their attention and stuff?

A Yeah, like literally from....I can't remember when they first got LEGO but they were fairly young. Because they started with the....is it Duplo?

Q Oh yes, yes the bigger bricks.

A They started with that, yeah, and straightaway without me really needing to encourage them much they wanted to build stuff. So yeah they've enjoyed it from that.

Q So do you see LEGO as a sort of very creative kind of toy, do you feel positive about it in that way?

A Yeah. I love LEGO, I think it's a really good thing to do.

C My mummy used to have a horse LEGO....

A I did when I was young.

Cwhat she still has in the house.

A I do, yeah.

Q Have you still got that, Serena?

A Yeah it's upstairs. I can show it you if you want. It's a horse set LEGO that I had when I was a kid and I kept it thinking, like because I loved it, and I gave it to my cousins when they were little. And they took it home, looked after it, and they've given it back to me for my children.

Q Oh gosh that's very well preserved. So has Essa....Essa particularly, I'm thinking about his horse interests, has he played with it?

A Oh yeah he's played with it yeah, yeah he's played with it and he likes it. It's like a....it's on two levels, it's like you build something and it's on two levels so he needs a bit of help building it. But when it is built he likes playing with it doesn't he?

C Yeah, he would play with it.

A But obviously it was a present when I was a child, it's gone through me, my siblings, my cousins and then back to me again for my kids. So that's how good LEGO is.

Q Yeah.

A No I've always loved LEGO, I've always loved building random stuff, I used to build houses and you know. And then I like them playing with it because I just think it's creative.

C I can build a house now.

A Yeah you're building a house. And I don't think it's too damaging either.

Q Sorry, explain that, what did you mean?

A Well I think some things with technology now it's based around....like Minecraft, it's fighting against animals or....you know if he wasn't on the Creative it would be fighting to survive. The Incredibles, it's fighting to protect people. You know there's a lot of that kind of stuff in it. And although I don't stop them too much from doing it because I want them to be included in things that their friends are doing, I don't want it to be too much. Like I don't want it to....do you know what I'm saying, like be their whole....

Q Yeah, the be all and end all as it were.

A Yeah, the main thing that they are interested in and creating. And yet you hear a lot of children and I speak to a lot of parents that say that they go home from school and all they do is play on the iPad or the Nintendo and that's all they want to do, and they're struggling to get them off it for bed and stuff like that. And I've never allowed that because I just think it's no good for them. I never did and I don't think it's no good, I don't like too much technology.

Q Yeah. But just going back to the Minecraft, because that's sort of LEGO-y, isn't it in its bricks and it's building things. So tell me how you feel....obviously Mallison just naturally prefers the creative side of that, he likes building and he was just talking about it, how do you feel about Minecraft and what he's doing on there? Is that creative and how does that compare to building with LEGO physical bricks would you say – in your view?

A I prefer the actual LEGO as opposed to the Minecraft. But I didn't know really much about Minecraft when I bought it. I didn't realise when I actually bought it that it would be so brutal in terms of the Survival section of it, because I thought that was a bit harsh for a kid of his age. I mean he was literally distraught when he realised that this spider or whatever was on his way to get him, and he was crying saying he didn't want to touch it again. And then it was another child that told us about the Creative side of it, and he loves that now. And I don't mind him being on that, but I don't....I wouldn't say I encourage it.

Q No. Do you feel it is creative? I mean it's called Creative but is that true would you say?

A When I watched him last night I was impressed with how he was clicking the box on and how he knew how to flick them out. And he was moving around the room at different angles and moving around, and through moving around and going round this room he was flicking up the lights. And I thought it was pretty impressive because I've never done that with him so he's just learnt that by doing it or by talking to his friends. So it's quite good in that way.

Q Do you think our questioning you about this has influenced the way that you look at them playing ???

A Yes I think so, because I don't think I'd probably....you what sorry?

C They were torches.

A Oh torches, yeah sorry. Yeah I think it probably has because it's probably made me like....the couple of questions that you've asked and they've given an answer for, I've thought to myself 'oh I never thought....'. Like asking me questions about the pictures and figuring out that that set of drawers [in one of Mallison's drawings] wasn't on the floor. You wouldn't have....

Q I didn't click that. It was Mallison led me.

A No, but it's about asking them the questions and then figuring out from the picture. It's just little things like that I think, that without you asking them I probably wouldn't have thought that's what he meant by that picture, if you know what I mean? So yeah it has been a little bit interesting in that way.

Q Yeah. So that's with the pictures. What about with the use of technology, would you have taken that interest, or would you have seen that positive side? You obviously felt very positive about this, his competence, his skill there of flicking on the lights or the torches and stuff. Do you think it's [overtalking].

A I think it's made me a little bit more aware. But I think I always try and take an interest in whatever he's doing. I don't think I've....I wouldn't say I sit by his side too much while he's on it so I'm not aware of everything he's doing on it, if you know what I mean. Yeah a little bit, but I don't think....I think ultimately I do glance over his shoulder because I want to know that it's appropriate, what he's doing, but I wouldn't say I sit and completely watch him 100% what he's doing. Because I might ask him to do his work, and I might do that, I'd rather do that bit of it with him, and then while he's then having some time what he wants to do – like let's say Nintendo time – I then might do the ironing or something that needs doing in the house, if you know what I mean. So I think that I leave to him. And plus I don't really get it, so I think it's hard for me to go 'You need to do this now, or this' because I don't actually know what he's doing half the time.

Q Yeah. So you like him to have a bit of independence with it perhaps, you value that?

A Yeah. From the start he said to me 'Mum, mum, mum I don't know what to do' and I've said 'I don't know what to do either, you need to figure it out, mummy doesn't know how to work it'.

C You can do that yourself now. I know how to do it. I can teach you.

A You know when I was a kid there was Sonic out and I played on Sonic a bit, so I think Mario and Sonic are a little bit similar. So I think I got Sonic.....I got Mario from playing on Sonic. But I think Minecraft is such a difference to something that I would have played on when I were a kid I don't really get it. I mean we played on Tetris, you know. They were just Game Boys, that's what we had. They're really I think complex in comparison.

Q Yeah. It's really interesting actually, isn't it? And I mean I didn't play on any of that stuff because I'm older again. So it is that generational thing. I think that's what makes our study really interesting.

A It's changed so much hasn't it?

Q It has changed. So it's really interesting because it changes the dynamic of normally we think that we'll facilitate their play a bit and help them play this, and they say 'Well how do you play this' and I suppose we often draw on our own experiences to do that.

A But going back to when I were a kid, they don't see that we used to have to come off the internet so my dad could use the phone and things like that. There were silly things like that where you just think they don't....like they'll say to me 'can I play on this on the car' and I'm like 'no there's no internet in the car' and they're like 'why?' Like that's crazy if you think about it because when I was a kid that wasn't even something you would have even considered, it were like 'there's too many people on the internet, somebody needs to get off' because it won't work. So it's come on massively. And I worry like what it's going to be like in another 20 years.

Q Right, what will they be telling their children? Yeah absolutely.

A So I do see the differences. But I also think when I was a kid, you know, playing out, being a kid, you know, being out in the garden, being outside and whatever, thinking for yourself, all them things are quite important, and that's what I'm trying to make sure that they get as well.

Q Yeah. So do you try and balance it up, when the weather's fine you make sure that they have a certain amount of time outside?

A Yes.

Q And is it like a 50/50 thing between inside and outside, or just....

A I think it's weather dependent, I don't think I can really say that.

Q Yeah of course, yeah.

A I think....yeah I don't think I can really put a time on it. I just feel like if they've been on....like I wouldn't say we have the telly on very much when I'm in, it's not really a....I do encourage them to play 'find something to do' you know.

Q Yeah. So you think in some ways maybe variety is important in what they do?

A Yeah, yeah I agree, yeah definitely, so not too much of anything.

Q Yes, so it's a whole range of things, some of it involving technology and some of it much more hands-on.

A Yeah. From Mallison being very, very young he's always had very good fine motor skills, he's always been capable of picking up small things and....you know like working in that way. I think some children struggle with that. So maybe I wouldn't have encouraged it as young if he had struggled, you know. Maybe I wouldn't have expected as much as I have of him. But he's always done it from being really little, so it's just always been like something he's enjoyed. You know some children that struggle to put two bricks together might not want to do it, do you know what I mean, but he hasn't so....and Essa's just kind of followed suit.

Q And so when you, you obviously love LEGO and both the boys love LEGO as well. So was there a time when they first started using it that you used to help them and support them in playing it?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q What sort of things would you do?

A Mallison, Mallison! You need to build something for me please.

C I have built this.

Q Tell us about it. Tell Alex about it if you've built it.

A One of the early things that Mallison got I remember was a robot.

Q A LEGO robot?

A Duplo, a Duplo like robot. And it could be built several different ways, we've still got it, it's in one of the LEGO boxes. But he used to ask me to build it for him so he could play with it as a robot.

Q So he would watch you while you built it and kind of carried out the instructions?

A Yeah, and then he'd play with it. And then over time then he'd build it, but probably not exactly how it were built with the bricks, he'd make it a different way or....do you know what I mean?

Q And how did you feel when he didn't do exactly the right thing for the instructions, did you [overtalking].

A Well I don't think at that point he was following the instructions. It was 'Mummy, build me this' so I'd build it. And then he'd then build it from what he'd remembered how I'd built it. I don't think he then at that point followed any instructions.

Q No. And would you follow the instructions to build it sort of thing?

A Probably from the box, not from you know an instruction manual kind of thing, just from like looking at the box and thinking....

Q No, but just looking at the box and figuring it out.

A Yeah.

Q Yeah, that's brilliant. So I was thinking....so with the Minecraft it's sort of different isn't it because you haven't got that experience to fall back on, so there's a contrast between the way that you can support that play, or have to leave him to be independent compared to the LEGO.

A Yeah.

Q Do you think any of the skills that he's got from you and from the LEGO play, do you think that transfers across in any way to what he does in Minecraft?

A I think so. I do think so. Because if you think about it it's fairly simple, it's bricks, it's building. And it's figuring out that you need a door, it's figuring out that you need a window it's figuring out how to make a roof, it's all [overtalking].

Q You can see that crossover between the two.

A Yeah. I just think it's different because with the Minecraft you're having to put it on, take it away, whereas you know like you can bash it down and put the window in or something. Whereas with this he's got to break it all up and restart it. So it's just a bit different process but it's the same kind of idea.

Q Yeah, oh that's really interesting. That's great. So you do see the Minecraft as being a bit creative, but perhaps not as much as the LEGO?

A Now he's on the Creative section of it and not on the Survival I don't hate it, I don't dislike it completely, I do allow him to play on it. It's just the amount of time he's on it I don't like.

Q Right yeah, so you feel like he might be drawn in a bit too much and then you can't get his attention until the thing's.....

A Yeah. But I also see it as a reward. So if he's done something good... Mallinson, Alex is sat waiting to see what you can create.

C I have created summat.

A Right. But look at all them bricks that are there.

C I don't need any more bricks.

A All them bricks that are there....

Q Mallison, actually could I just ask you something?

C Yeah.

Q It just gave me an idea. I just wondered if there's any connection between what you've built and what you do on the Switch. Does that toy that you've built – and I don't know what it is of course – does it have any link up to a piece of technology, or the Switch, or the iPad or anything like that?

C Not a single bit.

Q Not a single bit. Oh right.

A What is it?

Q What is it? What can it do?

A I've never seen you make anything like that before. What is it?

C I'll tell you in a sec.

Q He's thinking about what it is. Yeah that's fine, that's the process I think. And it's on the iPad?

C It's something what bounces up and down.

Q Oh it bounces up and down, OK.

A But what is it?

C It's a boinging boingy.

Q A boinging thing, OK, that means it bounces.

C Yeah.

Q So is it on a special trampoline or something that it can do that?

C Yeah it's on a special trampoline.

Q OK. Is the trampoline the iPad, it looks like it at the moment?

C Yeah.

Q OK.

A Right, but you know if you bounce it on there any more you know what's going to happen don't you, them things are going to shoot down the back of that cabinet and then they're gone.

Q Ooops, yeah.

A Can't move that, it's too heavy. I mean it. I'm not joking.

Q Has it got any weapons on it, or does it fight or anything like that?

C And this is.....what do you call it now?

A Oh I know what that is.

Q What's that? [*Believe this discussion relates to F1p_20191109_p028*]

C Speed boat.

A Oh is it a speed boat. Because you know.....

C Yeah and it's a car maker.

A Do you know what I thought that were going to be? Look at the side of it. Look at it from the side, what does it look like?

C I don't know.

A What do you think it might look like?

C I don't know.

A I reckon that has come from your project.

C Project of what?

A Titanic.

C What? Where?

A Because they were their big steam things.

C No. There are not even four of them.

A That's true, but I'm just wondering whether in your little mind that's what you've come up with. Let me see if I can find it for you. I'm going to show Julia a picture. When did we hand that in now?

Q Oh yeah.

A Mallison, what did you say this was again? [see F1p_20191109_p029]

Q With the pink bricks on.

A Something about a house, and you said something about the roof.

C It's a lifting up house roof.

A A lift in what?

C A lifting up house roof.

A Lifting up house roof?

C Yeah.

Q Wow. So it does....

A So them.

Q The ladder things, yeah.

A But I don't know what he means by lifting up house roof.

Q Do you think it's lifting up the roof, so it's like a roof that collapses and then will....we'll have to ask him.

A And then that was Essa's, which was a two-storey house with a door and a window [see F1p_20191109_p032].

Q Oh that's amazing. If you could WhatsApp them to me that would be fantastic.

A Yes.

Q Is that something they've just done recently?

A That was on Thursday, so that was....

Q Yes, very recent.

Awhilst they were at my mum's feeling unwell, yeah. And whilst it was flooding! That was my mum's estate.

Q Oh my gosh.

A So whilst it was flooding outside I said 'right there's no point in moving anywhere because the traffic will be really bad' so we stayed later and they did LEGO just to pass a bit of time.

Q Oh yeah. Oh that's great, thank you, really good to see that. So it's just very interesting to talk about creativity and....

A Mallison, can we just finish the LEGO first please? Can you make me one more thing? Mallison, you are the most creative, aren't you?

D I'm the creative.

A Yours is brilliant, Essa.

Q So you are Essa too, and we need to hear about yours too. Yours is a slightly longer project I can see, it looks amazing. I love those circular things, I think they would make rather cool chairs. [This discussion refers to Essa's model seen in F1r_20191109_p021 to F1r_20191109_p027]

A Essa, what are them circular things on the end?

D Drums.

Q Drums. They look like African drums actually.

A Well this is what he's probably done it from. Essa, where's the African drums in here? Essa if you go in the kitchen, on the floor down there, there's one down there you can show Julia. Got it from Gambia. [see F1r_20191109_p015 and F1r_20191109_p016].

Q Oh they're lovely. They're so cute because they're small little drums.

A Well there's different size ones.

Q Oh right OK I've got to take a picture.

A Do you want to show Julia how to play the drum?

D Find my name. E-s-s-a.

A How do you play a drum though, Essa?

Q Oh do show.

A How do you play a drum? What do you do with it, where do you put it, where do you put this part of it? Show Julia what you'd do if you was....

Q Are you shy? I won't take your photo if you don't want me to.

D I don't know.

C I'll do it.

Q Essa. Oh OK, cool.

Plays drum

Q Can I have you both together and I can take a photo of this, it looks amazing.

D I don't want to do it.

Q You don't play football at the same time I'm betting.

D Essa, put the drum in your legs and show Julia how you do it in Gambia, because that's what Gambians do, don't they? That's right. Beat the drum like a Gambian now. Hold it.

Q You don't want to do you? Essa, can I have a go. Show me.

A He broke it.

Q OK, do I do it like this? Or like this? No? What do I do?

D Sometimes it's like on the head.

Q You're kidding me?! Oh you're joking me, I know you are. OK I think I do this? And then what do I do, is there a special rhythm?

D Yeah.

Julia tries to play drum

A You know how to do it, you're the best at it. So we went to Gambia and he was watching them all in Gambia and we brought these back. And then when we came home we was doing this, and 'come on Essa let's do the drum' and then one day he just picked it up and put it between his legs and started drumming it. And we never told him to do that, he just did it from observing them over there doing it.

Q Yes, that's really neat.

A So that's ???

Q I wanted to ask you. I was thinking about some of the things you were talking about in some of the first visits, and I was thinking about like what you were just telling me that they watched you, or Mallison watched you do the LEGO and stuff. And I was thinking then about what Mallison was doing when he was looking on YouTube and watching them sometimes play Minecraft and things like that. And it made me wonder if there was any....because he hasn't got you to observe maybe he goes on YouTube to watch people?

A Because he hasn't got me there?

Q Yeah to observe playing with Minecraft. So I was just wondering about the role of watching in learning how to play with things.

A Do you ever watch Minecraft on YouTube?

C Yeah!

Q Is there particular YouTubers that you like to watch?

C What?

A When you go on YouTube and watch Minecraft, is it something in particular you've watched?

C Yes!

A Or, do you feel like you've learnt what you've learnt on Minecraft through speaking to [boy he met at swimming while waiting for his brother to have a swimming lesson]?

C No what I've learnt on Minecraft so I do that. I build. I build. I build.

A Do you think you've learnt more from watching YouTube, Minecraft on YouTube, or do you think you've learnt more from watching [boy at swimming] on Minecraft?

C Watching [boy at swimming] on Minecraft.

A Right. So [boy at swimming] is the boy at Essa's swimming?

Q He's the boy at swimming, wasn't he, yeah I remember him, yeah, yeah.

A So I think he's learnt a lot from letting him do it and saying 'You do this, you do this'.

Q It's just that role of watching, isn't it?

A He's given him a lot of confidence.

Q Yeah, that's great.

A Because I've said I can't do it, and then he's gone to [boy at swimming] and said 'Can you help me?'

Q Yeah. And do you think Essa might then pick up the confidence from Mallison, because he seems to watch Mallison?

A Maybe yeah, but he doesn't seem as interested in Minecraft at the minute so...

Q No. And Essa doesn't really do anything on the Switch does he at the moment, is that right?

A Not Minecraft, no.

Q Brilliant.

A It's quite complex. I think it's too hard for him at the minute.

Q Yeah, well he's been very engrossed in the LEGO.

A Essa just likes playing. I'd say he's more inclined to go on the iPad or get out the phone and do this.

Q Would you say they both use sort of devices about the same amount, they're just different devices? Or is Essa less interested just generally perhaps in the iPad and what he likes to go on?

A I think Essa, apart from in a morning when he first wakes up, I think he's less likely to ask for the iPad or the Nintendo.

Q What will he do instead, what would he rather go for?

A He'd be more likely to say 'Can I open this?'

Q Like a LEGO set or something?

A Yeah, or a lot of his toys, or play....he's played a lot with that pirate ship that he got for his birthday.

Q Yeah.

A Don't you, Essa? We've talked about this loads, haven't we? Do you just sit and play? He'll get a car mat and just bump cars over the car mat, or he'll get his horse box and just play with the horse box. It might be his age, or it might be his personality, it's difficult to say at this point. But he's just more inclined to do that, whereas Mallison will....if you don't give him something and say 'Build this, play with this, do this game' he'd be more inclined to just build something random through boxes of toys, create a kind of safe house with toys around him, as opposed to play with actual toys.

Q Yes.

A Do you know what I mean, he's just different.

Q He's just different. No it's really interesting to know that.

A Or he'll get a piece of string and he'll tie it to as many things as he can and create like a....I don't know, just stuff, like random stuff like that. I just find it irritating. Yeah because he'll get string and he'll tie it....he'll just tie it to all sorts of stuff and you're like 'Stop tying it to stuff'.