

Q Julia Bishop (researcher)
Q2 Alex Hetherington (researcher)
A Serena (mum)
B Kawsu (dad)
C Mallinson (6)
D Essa (4)

Q So looking at the iPad. What is this?

C Time Table Rockstars.

Q Time Table Rockstars. Wow. Are you a times table rockstar then?

C Yeah.

Q So how does it work, what does it do?

C So you have to type in your, so nobody can get on to yours except from you.

A You type in your password don't you?

Q Can you show me?

C Yeah.

Q Let's have a look.

C So right now I'm on home, play, and then the shop where you can buy stuff, your clothes and all that stuff. They've got lots of stuff. And which I don't buy now because I think that's fine. Erm...I'll go on battles.

A Are you explaining what it is? So it's something from school and it's where all the class get a login and then they play, they do times tables.

C My class....and that's me. I used to have that rock hair but now I don't.

Q So what's that one you're pointing to there?

C I used to have that...

Q Is that your avatar?

A When you get the answers right you get points don't you?

C Yeah.

A And then with the points you can buy things for your rock star. So this is Mallinson's rock star.

C Yeah, but if we go on this...

A Let me just show him.

Q He's called Thunder Bazillion. Wow.

C Yeah and I got loads of coins.

A So this is his rock star and then he goes on erm, he's got a lot of coins he can spend.

Q A hundred and sixty-seven thousand, wow.

A Yeah, that shows you how much time he's spent on it. So you go on Continue. Do you want to show them once?

C Yeah.

Q Can I film this? Would you allow us to...

C Yeah.

A Yeah.

Q Do you want to sit where Alex can see and perhaps I'll stand behind and I'll look and you can explain to me and Alex can film, is that all right? Do you want to get behind, Alex, or do you want to be here?

A If I come out of the way... Mallinson come sit next to Julia and then I can sit that side of you.

Q Ok so do you want to go through what you have to do?

C One.... twenty-four...This one is a hard one but I know it...Twelve.

Q What's this happening here?

C So that is the time you've got to do it.

Q Oh the time left you've got. How long do you get altogether?

C So it's already counted down from one hundred but I did have the three minute timer.

Q OK, so can you change the time on it that you spend?

C Yeah. So one, two and three.

Q Minutes.

C Minutes, four minutes.

Q Oh wow. And then I noticed your rock star was going up the side here, what's happening there?

C That's how many points I'm making.

Q Oh wow. And are the points the money that you're getting? The coins to buy things for your rock star?

C Yeah. I get lots. Sometimes, once I, I got even one hundred because it was just the same answer so it just go five, five, five, five, five, and then I got really quick at it and then I got one hundred.

Q That's amazing and can you tell it which times tables you want to do or anything like that? Because some are easier than others or do you get all the numbers?

C Nope. You get random numbers.

A ??? so at the start when you first start out it's really easy times tables like one times two, two times two and then when you pass a certain number, so if you do a one minute game you have to get twenty right to pass and if you do a two minute game you have to get forty and if you do a three minute game you have to get sixty, so when you pass one of them markers it puts you on the next level and the next level it might be, rather than being one times two it might be two times one and then you've got to pass that.

C But I went to number ninety-three.

Q Ninety-three. And how long have you had this then? Because that seems incredible.

C A long time.

Q Did you have it in last year?

A They gave it them at the beginning of Year One, but the first time we went on it it was unreachable, the...

Time: 05:00

C Just the same as Minecraft weren't it?

A But they gave it you didn't they? But when you had a go one of the questions was something like twelve times twenty-four or something like that, no, no, two times twelve or something like that, or twenty-four divided by two. It was something at the beginning of Year One which was too hard and as soon as he did it and didn't know the answer he got very upset about it and started crying about it saying 'Mummy tell me the answer' and I said 'I can't tell you the answer, the whole point is you're supposed to learn' but the point was it wasn't reachable. So I went to school and I said 'I'm not making him do this because it's too hard' and then a little bit later on in the year they sent another letter out to kind of advertise it again and we had another go, and by that point it had changed and it was much easier, it was their level and he absolutely flew with it, he loved it. He did it all didn't you? He just kept getting more and more points and going through all the levels.

C Yeah and then I was, took the school on and I got all this, only one person in the class beat me once.

Q Blimey, so you compare yourself with other people in the class?

C Yes.

Q Can you see what they've done, the others in the class?

C Yes.

A Yeah so he can go to Home.

C Home.

A And then....

C Classes.

A Yeah. And then stats, and then I put, put...

C Currency

A No total earnings.

C Total earnings, I am first place and current balance I am ???

A Just one second because you're moving too quick for them. So total earnings, so this is just the kids that are in Year Two and they're listed there on how many points they've got so you can go through all the pages but basically...

C I am this place.

A Mallinson's got a hundred and sixty-seven thousand but the one below him has got forty-seven thousand so it just shows you how

Q So you're the top of the table aren't you?

C Yeah. Current balance.

Q And I want to know how you chose this name. Could you choose it?

C No.

A No you did. You got a, there were a random, there were a chart weren't they with random names in and we looked through.

C Yeah.

A There were loads of different random names and then we ended up saying what ???

C I wanted this one called Freya but ???

A And we talked about it and he decided to go for that one, didn't you?

C Yeah.

Q I see and did you choose the picture that went with it as well or did the picture and the name come together?

A No it's a random, I think the rock star when you first get it it's the same isn't it? They're all the same, I think and then Mallinson's looks like that now because he's bought the clothes for it.

Q Got it.

A Through the points he's earned through doing the sums. I think this is amazing, I'm so impressed with it but then you can also look at, so they have teams within each year group so he can also look at ???

C Speed I'm at fourth place.

A So if you go on red team and then you go on total earnings again and then stats, he can look at himself compared to all the other children that are in red team which are children from Year One to Year Six and he can see where he is as well so...

C And as well as current balance I'm actually ??? and speed.

Q Gosh you are doing amazingly well there.

A Yeah but looking at total earnings so you are only fourth in the whole of the red team amongst the Year One to Year Six but it's only because he's....so I've allowed him iPad time to do this, so then ???

C I'm not on speed here, this is probably all...

Q So you can compare yourself in earnings and in speed.

C Yeah.

Q Is there any other way you can compare yourself with other people?

C Yes.

A So how much your total earnings are, how much your current earnings are and how fast you are.

Q Yeah.

C It's the whole school charts.

A So then he can look at it among everybody in the school then.

C Every single person in the school.

Q Wow, that's amazing.

C I am, mum...

A Yeah but you'll have to chart it up, look, you have to put lifetime coins and list them down. So I think he's about number twenty-one in the whole school.

Q Blimey. And is this important to you? Do you like to check where you are or do you just like doing the sums anyway?

C Yep. I do check on this a lot.

A You did.

C And then no ??? for me.

A He did but in the summer he's just not been interested at all, it's just completely gone out of the window. All of year one he was into it but then in the summer. I tried to encourage him but you don't want to do it do you?

C It's gone out ??? No.

Q Is this something they remind you about at school or is it something that you like to do?

A So through school they do battles, so if you look here there's different battles between red and yellow and different boys and girls, so they'll do boys and girls within year one or year two.

C Yeah and the current, no battle ???

Q And so do the teachers organise the battles?

A They'll set a battle up, yeah and they'll say when there's one coming up and when there's a current one in and what the previous battle winners are and...

Q And are the battles, do they take place over a particular period of time?

A Yeah so like a week or four days or whatever and they'll have a battle between the boys and the girls or one class and another class which really encourages them to do it because they're trying to beat the girls or they're trying to beat the other class or whatever.

Time: 10:10

C Yeah but my, the girls won one because there was more girls in our class than boys.

Q Yes it wouldn't be fair if there was more girls than boys or boys than girls.

A Yeah and they also did a lot of it right at the end didn't they, like that morning. So you thought you were pretty confident in winning and then they...

C Lost.

A Then you lost because I think they all went on it that morning.

C Yeah.

A Before ???

C Yeah and then all the boys probably don't go on it.

Q And did the school, you know how did you feel about it?

C But ??? you can't go on it because it's blocked, you can't go on it at all.

A Yeah. At first I was very frustrated because I thought 'Why put something on that kids can't do? That's going to upset them' but actually when we went on it the second time I've just loved it I thought it were brilliant. It's just really embedded a lot of them times tables that ???

Q And did you say, Essa, Essa, did you say that you go on it as well, the Times Table Rockstar? Have you learned anything from it yet?

D Sometimes. Sometimes we, he tells me that erm....

B What to do?

D He tells me the numbers that I do and I press enter and then I...

A So Mallinson looks at it with him, he tells him what the answer is and then Essa presses the numbers and presses enter.

Q Brilliant. So have you not perhaps had so much to.... you know I know that Essa's not officially using it yet but do you find that you've not had much input with Essa, it's been Mallinson who's led Essa on that particular thing would you say?

A That's from Year one upwards so...

Q Right, so Essa's not even in that year yet is he? No.

A And also Essa's not expected at four to do the times tables, so it's only times tables so...I don't talk him through the answers because I don't want to confuse him because he's only four.

Q Right yes but you're happy for Mallinson to sort of do that with him in a playful sort of way.

A To do it with him, yeah. But Mallinson...well he was ??? with his learning and stuff and that's really nice. But Essa really wants to beat him...

Q That's actually really nice.

Aso he's quite a competitive kind of...

Q Yeah. One to watch maybe. Oh that's really great. I'm conscious that we really ought to let you go and they just want to show this so...

C Make it as random as you can.