

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

Q You were telling me about how you made the safari park. So what do you do? Who are the animals and what do you do?

D And I've got a baby tiger.

Q Ah. That's really cute. Can I see him a bit closer? I like baby animals. Oh he is really nice.

D There's just a hippo here.

Q Oh and a baby hippo.

D And a baby zebra.

Q A baby zebra, oh, now do you always put the baby animals by their mums or dads? Or do you have them in a separate place?

D We always keep them in a separate place so they get look after with other people, and I see the baby hippo biting someone's leg.

Q Hmm.

D It bited their leg.

A Is this real or is this in...

D Real.

C Yeah it's real.

A Or is this when you're playing?

D It's on the iPad, on YouTube. I saw it.

Q Is it?

C Really.

A Is that with [boy cousin name]?

C No, me.

Q What is it you saw on the iPad? Because I've not seen it I'm not following this. So what did you see on the iPad?

D A baby hippo.

Q Oh right. So do you think about that when you are playing with your baby hippos?

D And there were two big hippos, one daddy and one...

A Essa, Julia just asked you a question.

Q Wow, that's all right, no, sometimes they've got more to say and I'm just in there a bit too quick. Don't worry at all. So on the YouTube video there's the mum and the dad as well as the baby hippo. Is that right, Essa?

D Yeah.

Q And what do they do in the video? Do you remember anything about that or are you just remembering the pictures of them in your mind?

D And the baby hippo roared and roared down the steps.

Q Really? So whereabouts are they? Where are they being pictured? You're talking in the film.

D It was...

Q Is it at a zoo or something?

D Yeah it was at a zoo.

Q OK. How did you find that video?

D It just came up on our iPad didn't it?

C Yeah and then I found it and I know Essa likes animals so I put it on for him.

D Yeah.

Q Oh that's nice of you, Mallison.

D Mummy, can we go on the iPad to show Julia?

A Whatever Julia wants you to do.

Q Well, only if it's allowed.

A It is allowed. You can do whatever.

Q May we? Would that be all right?

A Yes if you can find it.

- C It's on YouTube mum.
- D Yeah we can, we know how to do it.
- C That's for something else.
- D Oh that's flippy floppy.
- C No, Blibby.
- D That's Blibby Blobby, that's Blibby Blobby.
- Q Can you find the animal one still?
- D I'll found that Blibby thing. I just put Blibby on.
- Q2 Essa, is it OK if I video you doing this? Is that all right?
- C Essa, daddy said...
- D I wanna type something in. Can you do ??? type some more thing in.
- Q Who says what words have to go in?
- D I want horsey ...
- Q Aren't you going to show me the hippo?
- D I know what I'm doing.
- Q Can you show me the hippos? How do you find the hippos on there?
- D No. I want horsey.
- A Shush, Essa.
- Q Mallison, how do you find the hippos on there?
- C It's just basically on the other side but I'm just typing this for Essa.
- Q Is it a hippo or a rhino?
- A Listen, listen. Julia's interested on how you got the hippos on the iPad.
- Q Was it the hippos or rhinos now? I've forgotten.
- C Essa's obsessed with horses.
- Q Now you've got on to horses, all right.
- C Yeah. I've got horses on for him. Minecraft horses get on that, that's Minecraft.
- D Ooh I'm going to watch this horsey horse, funny horsey.

Q Have you watched it before?

A Just one sec....

C She's trying to sort this out, Essa. Fine then, don't do it. I'm trying to sort the internet out, so if you press anything it won't work Essa, because there's no internet.

A Essa's favourite thing in the world is horses so they spend a lot of time playing with horses or watching horses or...

C Let mum do it. Mum, do internet. Essa, how did you get off this?

D Oh I don't know.

A Just try and put something on, see if something comes on because as far as I know...

Q Yeah, see if the internet's working.

D I know what to put on. This.

A Right try...

Q It says where did the internet go? Do you want to look on your settings if there's anything on there. I'll just pause that.

D Wait, no, no, I don't want to go on that. I'm not going on that.

Q So this is the game. Which horses game is this? What is it called, do we know?

D I don't know.

A It's an app I put on for him just because it's horses. We just typed in 'horses' to see what apps there were.

Q Right, oh that's a good idea.

D Clean the horsey.

Q Oh it's the one where you have to clean it, yeah, with the hose.

A You look after it don't you?

D Yeah.

Q Ah, he's enjoying that.

D Scrub, scrub, scrub, scrub, scrub, scrub. Scrub. Three stars! yeah.

A It was just a free app.

Q Was it?

A Yeah. You didn't have to pay anything for it, it was just a free app he's put on and he's just figured it out over time, how to work it.

Q Do you have any...I mean is this a new area for you, finding apps and things for this?

A Yeah I wouldn't say I'm all that confident in it...

D How you get off that bit you can press that.

Q You press 'OK' and that gets rid of that bit. I see.

A A lot of the stuff on there is either stuff that they've asked for or that are free that I've thought oh they can try that.

D I'm stroking it.

A The maths one and the spelling one have come through school.

D I'm stroking the horsey.

Q Yes but you're obviously having to do quite a lot of this on your own as well with their other interests?

A Yeah, but I do really like the school ones; I think they're really good.

Q Yes. Does it make you feel a bit more confident because they've come through the school?

A Yeah, a bit more reassured that they're....

Q ...OK for them, yeah.

D Take that, play with the animals if you want to play with the animals.

Q Where's the box for those? Where's the ...

A I'll do that while Mallison shows you the other.

Q Oh that's fine.

C Where's the GoPro?

Q2 Are there some videos on it you'd like to show?

C Yep. Have you seen the Minecraft video?

Q [*talking to Essa*] Is this your favourite horse app at the minute, would you say?

D Yeah.

Q And what's the favourite thing you like to do? You were stroking its nose then. Ooh there's another horse up there.

D So, level up. So I want to be on Level Six and when I've finished all these I'm going to do this one.

Q OK.

D So press that, swipe it... star, so that's a star...Ah! X so I don't get a star. Yes!

Q So why didn't you get a star that time? I didn't understand, can you explain that to me?

D I don't know, it just give you a star when you're not playing.

Q Oh I see.

D Yes, three stars!

Q You probably know quite a lot about horse care do you already, because you're so keen on riding and things.

D Yeah.

Q Have you looked after a real horse as well?

D No, I haven't.

A You've done horse riding though haven't you? You've been to them horses.

Q Yes. As part of your horse riding do you have to do any of these things like stroke its nose or give it a wash or a brush or anything?

A No, but a lot of his reading that he will pick at night time is all about how to look after horses and horse books and stuff like that. So yeah, he's really obsessed. He's been like that since he was about one really. From being one, he's loved horses.

Q Yes. Where did that come from would you say?

A I don't know. I remember us going to just before he was two we went to Build a Bear and I wanted to get him a bear for his second birthday and I knew he liked horses because he had gone on about them for a while even though he was only one. When we went to Build a Bear I wanted to get him a Paw Patrol dog because his brother had got one and he picked up this really kind of pink and frilly horse and because he was only little I was like 'Oh no Essa, let's get you this Paw Patrol dog because you like Paw Patrol' and I convinced him to get this Paw Patrol dog but I didn't realise at that point how strong his passion were for horses. So I felt awful after actually because it got stronger and stronger you know over months and years whatever and I thought it was just a phase at that moment. I thought he would grow out of horses and he would have liked the Paw Patrol more. He does like the Paw Patrol but he really does like the horses more than that. So that's how I remember it being less than, he was less than two when it started.

Q That's fascinating. Where does it come from have you got any idea?

A I rode horses when I was younger but not for a terribly long time because it was obviously really expensive and my mum and dad didn't have a lot of money and I was doing dancing so I picked dancing over horses because I knew it was more expensive. So I always, I suppose I've always made a big deal about whenever we go anywhere with animals and he's just clung onto the horses out of all the animals that we see.

Q That's fascinating.

A It's not like we just see horses, you know we see farm animals, he sees other animals. We do a lot of day trips. But he's just always clung onto horses and giraffes as well; you like giraffes as well don't you?

D Yeah.

Q Do you?

A But not as much as horses.

D Horses are my favourite thing in the world.

Q Horses are your favourite thing in the world.

A We went to Yorkshire Wildlife Park in the summer and considering we were going to a zoo, outside the zoo in a field were some horses and he was more fascinated by the horses in the field than he was the animals in the zoo. He was stood at the gate for ages looking at them didn't you?

D Yeah.

Q So how does, so this is manifesting itself in lots of different ways.

A Yeah.

Q The apps, the books, anything on TV or anything like that would you say?

A Literally anything. If we go to a shop and he sees a horse on a top, he'll comment on it. If we went, if we were driving in the car and there's a horse in a field he'll be leaping, trying to get out of his seat to almost look at it. Anything really don't you, Essa? You love them. His bed, I mean I can bring some of the stuff down from his bedroom, he's got loads of horses. Do you want me...

Q What you could do, Serena, which would be fantastic, would you mind taking some photos and ?? of his bedroom because it's nice to see the stuff in situ as well, do you know what I mean?

A Yeah.

D Level Six, oh yeah.

Q So, Essa, what do you like about horses? Do you like the way they look? Do you like riding them? What is it do you think that is so fascinating?

D So I've got one more thing that I've got to unlock.

Q All right, you do that first.

D I've got to unlock that by doing all of these to unlock that and then I've...

A I didn't know that Essa, so you've taught me something there.

D I've got to unlock that.

Q How do you unlock them then?

D I've got to get the wood up to unlock every single one.

Q How did you know about the unlocking? Did you work it out?

D Yeah. So I'm just going to...

A I haven't taught it him.

Q No. I mean do you find yourself...

D Oh I've got another new horse!

Q ...teaching them anything when it comes to apps and that kind of electronic technology type of thing?

D Mum, I've got a new horse, mum, mum, every time I get levelled up I get a new horse.

A Wow that's amazing. Erm, majority of the stuff I would say they know how to work. Mallison gets really, really stressed out on the... what do you call that now?

Q2 Switch.

A Switch, that's it. If he goes on Minecraft and its not on the creative setting, it's on the survival setting. Because on the survival setting he can be killed, he has to survive by eating food and things can attack him and he really doesn't like that, it upsets him. So he plays on the creative setting and it's just about him building then and he can get food and stuff, he can eat but he's not worried about being killed or not eating enough and all that sort of stuff, so he's not got the same pressures I don't think. But all his friends probably do the survival but it does upset him so... he doesn't play on it a massive amount of time so I think he's still got a lot of learning to do and he gets frustrated with me because he'll ask me how to do stuff and I don't know. I could do other apps but I think Minecraft's quite complicated.

Q Yes it is. How about his dad is he also given to...

A Not at all, no. He wouldn't have a clue. He might be able to turn it on but that would be about it.

Q So would you say that a lot of Mallison's learning is trial and error then? He's finding out for himself, is it intuitive learning?

D Mum, that horse has got very old because I've been feeding it.

Q He looks happy.

A When we first got the iPad, I can't remember if it was last Christmas or not. It was last Christmas or the year before, I'm not sure. I wasn't really keen on using YouTube at all so we got Kids YouTube on there and then I feel it's more filtered as to what they can view and stuff like that so, but now...before I think he was I suppose randomly selecting videos that are kind of just displayed in front of him, but now he'll actually write, because he can read and spell quite well, he'll actually write in the words, so Essa will say 'I want horses on' so he'll type in horses and then it'll bring up horse videos, so they kind of in their little way, do it between them. Sometimes they watch the same things together and sometimes they'll have a little bit of time each to do their own little things. Because he's more likely to go for like animal things and Mallison likes more Minecraft and building. And he likes to watch people play on it as well, which I really can't understand, but that's probably the thing that I would most encourage him to come off if I knew he was doing that.

Q Yeah. You've got a reservation about that partly because you can't understand his enjoyment of it but is there anything else that's making you anxious?

A I just think it's peculiar, I don't think, why not play yourself? Why watch another child play?

Q Right.

A Because it's like there's literally children on there that are playing and they're watching them play. I don't get that. I think it's very strange.

Q Does he...I'm going to have to sit on a chair, I'm getting pins and needles. Does he kind of ever imitate that? You know, when he's playing do you think he is imagining that he is also being watched by other children?

A Yes I do. I think that he talks like he's... yeah. He's got erm...a VTech watch that can video and he's been on there before hiding under the table, pretending that things are happening around him and stuff like that, so...

Q So the VTech watch, so how is he using that? Is he filming with it or ...

A Yes you press it and it can film...

D Guess what Julia, ??? can jump over some horse.

Q You're going to do what? What are you doing there, I don't understand.

D Jumping over these.

Q Oh jumping, it's because it's upside down I couldn't see you have to jump over the jumps. You're good at that. Can you do that in real life? Are you into jumping yet with your horse riding?

D No.

Q Can you do trotting?

D No. I'm allowed to do...

C He does trotting.

A Yeah he can do trotting. You've been up in the woods haven't you and you can do trotting.

Q That's brilliant. And do you do the rising trot?

D Yeah, yeah rising trot.

Q That's fantastic.

A Yeah and they've taught him how to hold the reins and how to make the horse stop and go.

D Do you want me to show you how you hold the reins?

Q Yes please. I'd like to see how you hold the reins. Oh that's right. I did a few riding lessons and you've just reminded me, you have to get it under your little finger don't you? It's coming back to me and don't you have to sit a certain way in the saddle? Very upright. Oh we've lost him again, he's levelled up. It makes you excited when you level up doesn't it? What's the most exciting part of that would you say? Is it going up the levels or is it doing things with the horse?

A What do you enjoy the most, Essa?

D Oh I'm tired. I can't go on it.

A Yeah because it's got a clock there that's counting down hasn't it? In that many minutes you'll be able to have another go, I think.

D I'm just going to wait. I'm going on a different thing.

A Okey, doke.

Q Sorry. What were we saying? We were talking about oh yeah filming with the VTech camera under the table.

A Oh yeah. So erm...they sometimes change their voices when they're playing, almost like they're American or something like that which I find really strange because I don't think

they particularly watch a lot of American programmes so, I don't really know where the voice came from.

Q Do they make it like higher or lower or is it just the accent?

A It's just a bit more squeaky I think, yeah, different each time.

Q Yeah and is that what you think is sort of making Mallison imagine like he's on...

A Yeah, I think it comes from that, yeah. But what... Mallison, when you got the watch what do you pretend you're doing? Is it the ninjas or something? Or cyber attack or, you know when you were doing the thing with [boy cousin name], you'd got your VTech watch on and you were hiding under the table with [boy cousin name], oh the zombie virus, that was it. Where's that come from? Where's the zombie virus come from?

C A video what [boy cousin name] would use.

A What's Papa Jake? Is that a programme?

C What [boy cousin name] would choose.

A Is that something on TV?

D No, on the iPad.

C YouTube.

A Oh so something on YouTube that his cousin watches has got something to do with a zombie virus, which I think is another child playing, that's my guess. Is that right? Is it another child...

C No, an adult.

A An adult?

D Playing with nerfs, hundreds of nerfs.

A So...an adult playing with nerf guns talking about a zombie virus and that's what they were trying to...

Q Oh it's interesting how it's influencing their pretend play isn't it? Yeah. I mean would you say that that's common or do they just be like.... other kinds of pretend ...

A Oh yeah it's just whatever's that week isn't it? It's just random.

Q So is it quite short-lived would you say? And then it's another thing or do they come back to that scenario if he's ever seen one of the...

A I think some things they come back to and some things they...I don't know.

Q You can't think of anything particularly but...yeah.

A They talk about ninjas a lot, they tend to be like, they'll say the word 'Ninja' a lot. I think it just depends what they're into at that point in time.

Q Yeah, yeah.

D Julia, ??? woo hoo!

Q Is this, this looks like Thomas the Tank Engine?

D Yeah.

Q But it's on a roller coaster. I'm confused, can you explain what we're looking at here?

D We're trying to keep the wheels on the rails if you want to, so that's what happens if you don't ...

Q Oh he sort of wobbled didn't he and he nearly came off.

A Oh is it you're encouraging it to stay on the track.

D Yeah that's what happens if you ???

Q Oh I love the fireworks. Hey I love that app.

D Oh you've got to watch an advert now.

Q What's that one called? Oh you've got to watch an advert now. What do you think about the adverts?

D Some of them are transformer ones.

Q Some of them are what?

D Some of them are transformer ones.

Q Transformer ones and how do you feel about those ones?

D Good

A Do you like the ads Essa?

D That's the transformer ones.

Q OK.

A Do you like the apps Essa or would you prefer them not to be there?

D I want to have them.

A Oh right. They annoy me.

Q That reminds me actually, sorry I'm thinking about him and I should be doing my question sheet. You sent me some photos, didn't you [F1p_20190924_p001-F1p_20190924_p003]? And I was really intrigued by the flying...

A Mallison will be able to tell you more about it.

Q Yeah.

A Because what happened was we spread out a load of random LEGO on to the table while my family were there. And while my family were there they were just randomly building between them and it was almost like a bit of a competition I suppose. And so he made that and then I said 'Oh what's that?' and then I thought 'Oh, that might be something that I could send you'. But he'd even got like a back seat driver and a front, there's the person in the back there. It's got obviously wheels on the front. These are his wings on the back. I'm not really sure what this is, you'd probably be able to ask him, but yeah, that's the kind of stuff he'll just randomly make and he really enjoys stuff like that.

Q Now I can't remember, am I right in thinking that you often photograph what he makes or sometimes you...

A Yeah sometimes, it just depends on...yeah I do sometimes.

Q Just a second, Essa.

A I'll have to have a look at my photos and see if I've got any more. Mallison, you know when you was with the family the other day and you put them little....and you were playing with [girl cousin name]'s LEGO and you put them little animals in that like, that like house?

C Pet home.

A Oh was it a pet home?

C Yeah.

A Oh that's a pet home, if you look closely you can see all the animals.

Q Oh yeah.

A He said this bit here was a swimming pool, obviously some ladders, some steps for them to climb up but he took a lot of time doing it. That looks like a chair, a place for their food, two little bowls for them to eat out of. I couldn't work out what this was.

Q The grey...

A Yeah you'd have to ask him about that. I'm not sure, but I thought that was pretty good because he spent a lot of time on that and he didn't want to erm...he didn't want to break it up or anything, he was getting upset about somebody possibly breaking it up, but we had to put it all away because there's nowhere to kind of display all the LEGO.

Q Yes, yeah absolutely. Have you ever put stuff on display or is it more that you just make it and then put it away?

A I don't think we have, no. I mean that little thing that's, little things like what he's shown you what he's made and what he's shown Alex, he'll make stuff like that and I won't, I'll leave that but I do tend to like put them back in their boxes and put it all away because I tell them all the time that LEGO's really small and we have a lot of little children come to the house and I don't want them to pick it up and I like to keep all the sets together if we can..

Q Fair enough, you want to see all the sets go back together again and you don't have a jumble.

A He's got a small yellow box that is jumbled because...

Q OK, well I didn't mean jumble, I mean mixed up.

A I know what you mean, yeah, like as in just different random pieces in there, but a lot of the sets that we've bought have all been stuff that you can make, but that day at my mum's, there were two different sets which were all like random pieces and I think he really enjoyed that a lot more.

Q Is that when he did the pet's....

A Yeah because I think it was coming from his imagination as opposed to coming from an instruction sheet so he liked that.

A [Looking at GoPro film] You can see a lot of it but it's just the lighting wasn't quite right but we sat him in that chair last night, I think he did one there and that one's much better because you can see it clearly. But you can see what he's doing so...

Q So who's sort of requesting to do the Switch, was it Mallison?

A Mallison. Does this tell you when it was?

Q It will tell us when it was yeah.

A Yeah I think it might, I can't remember if it was yesterday or the day before but when he comes home he has to read a book and throughout the week I like him to go on either the Spelling Shed or the Times Table, and if he does that and his behaviour's OK then we let him go on it at certain times ??? Can we turn this down please? Turn it down for me.

Q Are you all right Essa?

D I don't know where the thingy is.

A We talked about it, you know where it is. Come here. He'll tell me all the time that he doesn't know where the volume is. Bring it here please.

Q Oh you've found the mute button there, that's fantastic.

A It's because they're both deaf, so they tend to put stuff on louder.

Q Quite loud. Yeah, oh yes I see. Sorry so you were saying so this was coming from Mallison to film this, yeah.

A No so he wanted to go in and so I put the GoPro on him. But he chose the app, not the app, he chose the game, he chose what he wanted to go on he just said 'Can I have the Nintendo?' and I said 'Because you've done all these good things', I said, 'Yes you can have it', but then I had to put the GoPro on as well.

Q Yeah. So would you say it's sort of typical the way he plays with it or is there something in particular we need to note about this sort of playing as far as you've observed him play?

A When he's on the Minecraft I just leave him to it because I don't, I don't understand it and the only time he'll come to me and ask me for help is if it's on survival. Sometimes he puts it on that by accident and I somehow figure it out to change it back to creative. But as for what he's doing, as for what he's building and where his mind's at, it's all him, I've not had any influence over it. He'll just tell me sometimes 'Oh mummy I'm building a house' or on one of them he says 'I'm making the pool bigger for everybody' and stuff like that. So that's all from him, it's not from any influence of us.

Q Yeah. That's interesting isn't it? Yeah. And you said that sometimes they're teaching you stuff but on Minecraft you're not so into that.

A I just think it's a really different game to all the other things I've used myself over the years. I find it really hard to work out. Also I think the Switch, there's a lot of buttons, there's a lot of dials and there's a lot of letters on buttons that mean different things, so even me I'm trying to figure out well how do I go back and how do I restart or pause? I'm still figuring out myself so...

Q Yes because you don't play, you don't use any console games yourself.

A Not really. I will go on the, there's a Mario Karts one which is just a kart racing and I'll go on it because sometimes Essa will get frustrated if he's completely losing or if he's not going the right way so sometimes I'll help Essa with it but I don't feel like I need to help Mallison at all. He'll just do it on his own.

Q And so emotionally, do you feel he's able to cope because he mentioned it was frustrated I think when onto the, I can't remember the one that isn't the creative, the other...

A The survival one, he doesn't like that game.

Q But after that, supposing it's not doing what he wants it to do, can he sort of do the problem solving without you know...

A Minecraft never came from home, that sort of Minecraft is played at school. So he would come home from school talking about Minecraft and it was from his friends, so he

kept saying 'I want this Minecraft, I want that Minecraft, mummy, that's Minecraft, that's Minecraft' and I kept saying 'I know'. But as it got closer to his birthday I knew it was something he kind of wanted so we bought him a lot of things that were Minecraft, we bought him the game, I bought him a top, I bought him some socks some pyjamas, you know, just a lot of different things with Minecraft on. But then when it actually came to playing the game that was like the first time he'd properly had a go, he'd got this assumption that he loved Minecraft because it had come from school and everyone Minecraft but actually when he did it himself he didn't like it because I think... was it a spider coming to get you?

C Yeah.

A This spider was coming to get him and it's day and night on it so it was dark and this spider was coming towards him.

C Yeah, and they're just ginormous aren't they? They're just ginormous.

A He didn't like it.

Q No. When you say it came from school you mean like friends at school, we're not talking teachers here. .

A Yeah so they've obviously got the game and they speak about it, you can ask Mallison but in the yard I'm pretty sure they pretend that they're in the Minecraft game when they run round the yard, like play Minecraft. So I think that was kind of happening at school because he was coming back from school talking about it and so we thought 'Oh we'll get him the Minecraft stuff, he's really into it obviously'. But then actually when it came to it he really didn't like it. So we went to swimming lessons with Essa, there was a boy there that I knew his mum and he is about ... two or three years older than him and he was playing on Minecraft and I said 'Well how about we bring your Nintendo next week and Greg can show you how to play it' and so he did that and Greg showed him, Greg built him a house that was built up in a tree and he showed him how to do stuff with it and...you've met Greg about three times now haven't you? Is that right, Mallison? So occasionally every couple of weeks when he has his swimming lesson they meet in the swimming waiting area and they play and he teaches him, so that's where he's come from. What he knows has come from Greg.

Q Right and so obviously Greg is very much on the creative side.

A Yes. Well I think Greg does, because he's a bit older I think he does either but he said 'Oh you don't have to do that bit, you can do creative' and that's where this came from. I didn't know about the creative before that and then he was much happier from that point.

Q Yeah. Do you have any concerns about the Minecraft you know with data privacy or other people coming into the game?

A No because I don't think I set it up. I don't think I've set it up so that he can play against his friends, but other children in school have because he keeps asking me, he wants to play against Freddie, a friend from school but I don't think I've set it up so it can do that.

Q Right, so you set it up yourself when it first came out.

A When he first started yeah I set it up and I'm sure you can set it up so that he tell them their name in and they can search for him and they can find each other but we haven't gone that far with it yet. I'm sure you can, but ...

Q So if you could and he asked, how do you feel about that, what...

A Well so far I've said 'No' because I've heard other mums at school saying that out of school the kids are asking each other to play and if the other child is not playing, the other child is not happy about them and getting upset and stuff like that so I'm like 'You're too young for that'.

Q So it's just a behaviour management issue is it where it results in, is that it, or do you think it results in...

A I don't know. I just think he goes to school, sees his friends, does his learning and he comes home and then home time is our time and not for him to be getting frustrated by what's going off with the other friends on other games or at school or....I just think you know it's an internet thing isn't it. It's not like social media but it is like outside of school, that extra kind of contact that I don't know somehow might....I don't feel comfortable with it just yet. I'm sure he will, I'm sure he'll ask me again at some point or we'll re-discuss it but...

Q I mean that's sort of the problem of parenting or perhaps you don't see it as a problem at the moment but these are kind of new things, new decisions that you have to make that wouldn't have been, you don't have much to draw on here because there's not part of our own experience, although you're considerably younger than me bless you.

A No but we didn't have anything like that, especially internet based when we were kids. I mean I had a Nintendo, like a, I think they were called Game Boy, they were like a little device that you played on but they were no way connected to the internet or anything like that.

Q Yeah. Do you ever find yourself drawing on that? Is there anything you draw on to help you make decisions? I mean obviously there must be apart from your family system, obviously.

A No just how my parents brought me up you know, we were brought up to go out and play, you know, actually playing with other children and I don't like them being rude and just sitting and just playing on a device for long periods of time. I just think about how I was brought up and the values and stuff from my mum and dad. But when you're a kid they don't seem like they're fair but when you're an adult you think 'Actually no that's teaching them a lot'. So I think that's where I got a lot of my opinions from so, I mean they are playing now, but I wouldn't let them have like hours on them or anything like that, it would be short lived. Whereas I know a lot of children they come in from school and they go on their devices and then they might play on it till bedtime and I've heard a lot of mums saying that they allow

them to go to bed at a certain time and play on TV or games for an hour before bed but we don't have that. We do tea, bath, book, bed.

Q Yes so it's a real routine that's internet ???

A Yeah pre-tea if they've done, from school pre-tea if they've done things the that we've asked them to do and they've behaved and they want to do something like this then I will allow it but we do spend a lot of time with my mum at her house with their cousins and they will spend a lot of time playing, whether that's outside with the football or trampoline or in the playroom with cars or building LEGO or they may watch a little bit of TV, there's just lots of things that they will do. I wouldn't say they do many board games but it could just be running round the house pretending to be ninjas, it's all very...innocent.

Q Yeah. So in your mind is there like a balance sheet going on where you sort of think about 'OK so we've got....' there's a balance sheet in terms of sort of earning time with the Switch or whatever.

A Just one second. Just one second sweetheart.

Q But also between the, you know sort of the non-internet play let's say and everything else they do, you're kind of keeping a balance sheet in there would you say?

A I do say to like...I don't think it affects Essa but with Mallison if he's really naughty or you know really rude or there's some kind of behaviour that I don't like, then as a punishment I'll say 'OK then you don't get any time on the Switch or the iPad or sweets'. That really bothers him so it's a really good way to make him realise he's in the wrong. Essa there's not much that bothers Essa. I can ban him from a lot of stuff and he wouldn't really be affected by that. I've not really figured out what works with him yet but it does definitely work with Mallison and he will show me good behaviour and show me that he wants to do his learning in order to win time.

Q It's like, something a bit of both normal play.....

A It's like an incentive, yeah.

Q So you wouldn't do that like with play with the cousins or anything like that? That wouldn't have quite the same...

A What if they can play with their cousins?

Q Yeah, to use it as a way of gaining good behaviour or anything like that?

A No because I don't think they'd see that as a treat because they see them so much, so it's not like, they probably see their cousins almost as much as they see each other. They probably go there or we see them at least five a days a week.

Q Yeas? Oh lovely, yeah that's nice, extended family.

A Four or five days it just depends on what my shifts are, patterns and things like that.

Q Sorry I must go because Essa just had said something to me and I had to put him off. So Essa what was it you wanted to show me or ask me there? Is it this app?

A Essa, was you showing the alpha blocks?

D Yeah.

A Do you want to show Julia?

Q The alpha blocks, well Alex is also here. Sorry I've commandeered your place.

D Alex has C Z.

Q He's seen it already?

D Alex has C Z.

Q Zed? That's right. So what does Z do? Oh he's sleeping zzzzz.

D ?? is like....

Q Talk normally, I can't understand...

D Can't you wake up sleepy head?

Q Time to wake up. What are they doing? Is Z your favourite letter then?

D Yes.

A No. I don't think it is is it? It is today.

D Wake up sleepy head.

Q Oh are you singing a song? That's lovely.

D I'm going to go on to blocks ???

A So there's that that helps him remember the letters and then there's a...through school they do the words.... I can't think of what it is off the top of my head, they talk, is it down the...down the horse's leg and over its back or something like that. They use a way to talk about letters.

Q Oh yeah.

A So he picks it up from there and he picks it up from what they say at school.

Q Oh yes and so then will you see him transferring that knowledge from what he's been taught at school to using the Alphablocks because it's about forming the letters isn't it? They've got a...

A Yeah I think he just, I don't know, he just seems to like the Alphablocks. They're pretty good when they do the words with them. He's quite good at it to be honest, aren't you

Essa? You like doing your letters don't you? I think he prefers to do it on there than he probably would do writing but you know he's still only four and he does than most four year olds.

Q You're happy about that.

A I'm not worried about him at all, no. He's reading, he's starting to read already and write, he knows the majority of letters, he sometimes just gets confused on certain ones like 'B' and a 'D' and they just have to think about them don't they?

Q Yes that's right. Yeah it just comes with time.

A But if you really, really pushed him he'd figure it out. He'd know.

Q So that's really interesting. So cousins, can you just tell me, I think you might have mentioned this before but I've forgotten what their ages are.

A So [boy cousin name]'s is the same age as Mallison, so he's six.

Q Right, OK.

A And [girl cousin name]'s eleven.

C Eleven yeah.

Q OK. So one older and one the same age more or less.

A So we've got, [boy cousin name]'s in between these two, so we've got three boys around the same age and then [girl cousin name] who's eleven, so it's quite a big dynamic really because it's like, sometimes they go a bit wild and sometimes she can act like a, almost like a parent to them in the way that she'll tell them off and stuff like that and she has to be told that 'no, you're not the parent', you know, 'we'll sort that out'. Because they do get a bit wild sometimes as a trio.

Q Of course, well, it's normal play stuff.

A You think they're wild now but wait till [boy cousin name] gets here, it's like having triplets.

Q Oh gosh.

A It's really hard sometimes.

Q Yeah. So they see them frequently and there's obviously been a bit of influence in regards to the technology. Would you say it's coming one way more than the other or would you say that Mallison is perhaps showing things to [boy cousin name] as well? Do you think he's sort of...do they just share.

A I don't understand what you mean. Say that again.

Q Yeah so they just, I was thinking that [boy cousin name] was sort of influencing you know in using the tech some of the tech stuff so maybe on the ??

A Yeah so the reason why we ended up getting a Switch...sorry Alex your book's just dropped. Their auntie, my sister, wanted to get a Switch for her daughter [girl cousin name] for them to share, so she ended up deciding she was going to get that for the two of them. And because we do try to treat them all, the four of them kind of similar, it was then, I decided to get, we must have got the iPad the year before actually, because I think we got the Switch at Christmas.

Q OK.

A So we must have got the iPad the year before.

Q 2017.

A So the year before we got, we all got, we got two iPads for the two sets of siblings if you know what I mean and then last year we got them the Switches, the two sets of, just because when it's fair and they don't feel well they've got it and we haven't kind of thing.

Q That's really interesting actually because I hadn't thought about that dynamic of you know keeping it equal between...

A Even though they're cousins, they're cousins, but we still feel like they should be treat...

Q Yeah because they're in close contact with each other and therefore they're aware.

A Oh they're very aware like they felt if they'd have got the Switch and they'd not they'd have been asking and saying 'Well, why can't we have one? stuff like that.

Q Yes.

A So we had a talk about it and I just thought 'Do you know what I would probably end up getting one anyway and I'd rather get it at Christmas as a present to share, as opposed to getting it for a birthday as a present on their own' because they are very expensive. But I think all in all Mallison does have more time on it but then he's older so...I think that's fair. I think Essa asks less, Essa doesn't ask as much but he will play. He will play with his horses, he will play with his farm, won't you Essa? You'll play with, you've got some Playmobil haven't you that you love.

Q So Essa's play on tech related toys, is that more random?

A Non-tech did you say?

Q No, tech, or is it sort of more or less the same routine as Mallison?

A No. He won't play on Minecraft because he can't do it.

Q Yeah but I meant the timing really, so you were saying so Mallison comes back from school and does certain things.

A The majority of the time if Essa asks it's because he's being prompted by Mallison because Mallison's asked. So he'll ask and then Essa will have a sort of chain effect. So yeah Essa's more likely to get something out on his own without being prompted and just spread it out on the floor.

Q Oh that's interesting, but not with the tech? So the non-tech toys he'll just, it's spontaneous.

A The non-tech toys are spontaneous. The tech toys they have to, they definitely have to ask to pick up the Nintendo, and the iPad's locked so they have to ask to get on it.

Q Right. Interesting, thank you.

A It's definitely not just, they don't just grab it and play.

Q They can't go quite so spontaneously they have to come through you.

A No, I don't think they've ever picked up the Nintendo without saying 'Can I play on it?' and that has been locked for a reason just because I don't want them doing that I want them to, I want it to be controlled. Let me just...

Q Yes of course, no problem at all. Got some flowers, got your stables in your horse riding...this is amazing. So was this an actual set Serena that he's got here?

A Yeah so we just got it over the course of a birthday and a Christmas I think.

D Mummy, can we open a double one?

A We've not set it up yet.

Q Essa, you're not showing me anything you can do with this.

D Mummy can I have your help please?

Q Oh yes, let's get mum involved. So if I film you I won't get you in the picture, I will go behind.

A Oh it's all right.

Q So do you always put the things in the same place?

D I put it like that. That's how I put it.

Q Yeah.

A Do they always go in the same place?

D Yes mummy, I said.

- A I don't think they do. I think this looks different to how you did it last time.
- D OK. Can I have the box?
- A You want to see the picture?
- D I don't know how to do the back of it though.
- A Well, you don't have to copy the picture.
- D Well, I want to.
- A This is just a recent thing that he's started doing. He's got a penguin one where it's like penguins, and he's just decided that he's going to copy the box.
- D You were about to say a penguin one.
- Q A penguin one, yeah.
- A You've got a penguin one with fishes in and everything haven't you? Same kind of idea, same kind of ??
- D They are playing ??? I'm going to show you.
- A Do you know where it is? Have you put it all back in the box because you had it in your bedroom? Go on then, if you want to go and fetch it it's fine.
- Q Thank you. Sorry we are creating havoc.
- A No it's fine. He'll play with this later because Mallison's going to the match so he'll come back and play with this.
- Q Oh so this is the penguin. But you were saying you liked to do the picture.
- D That. There.
- Q Ok. I would definitely need the picture to help me.
- D So we've got three fish, there's supposed to be four fish but one of them is lost.
- Q One of them swum away.
- D Where's the other one mummy? Where's the other one?
- A Well we'll be clearing your bedroom out because we've got...
- D Where's the other one?
- A I don't know.
- Q There it is, you're sat on him.

D Oh.

Q Are you all right you're a bit squashed there.

D I had three of them.

A Keep looking then. Keep looking.

Q You've got three.

D No.

Q I thought you did.

D Two.

Q Have you? Oh sorry, I thought you had found the third one there because that was the one you were sitting on.

A Keep looking Essa.

D I've got it. ?? I knew where it was, I knew where it was. So I've got to copy that.

A Right go on then.

Q I like the way young children talk to themselves like that, I think it's really interesting actually.

A What when they talk to themselves?

Q Yeah and also singing in a way, you know humming and sort of, you know.

A He does that a lot. ??? he'll help him set it up, Mallison. Sometimes he will play but he's more likely to play to be fair.

Q Essa, thank you for showing me all of that. It's been fantastic.

A You feed all your animals then, yeah?

D Yeah I'm going to ??

Q So I just wanted to just follow up a bit on the play and technology idea here. Just thinking about each one of them, I mean we've kind of talked about the specific ways but how would you say the technology comes up in their play?

A Well, when they're playing with their LEGO there'll be references to other things like Minecraft or ninjas or, there'll be some things that...

Q Right, they talk about them, yeah? They mention it verbally you mean?

A Yeah as they're playing with something that's not based on that maybe, you know, like maybe it's a, so if they build something they'll build it and then they'll say 'It's my Minecraft house' or something like that so it does...

Q Obviously referring to it, it comes across, that's really interesting. And out of the two of them would you say they've each got a favourite device that they like to play with?

A I think if you gave them a choice Mallison would always pick the Switch.

Q Yeah. Tying up with Alex's findings over there, and your big smile, Mallison!

A I think Essa is very, he's an all-rounder really. He'd do a bit of everything really but he would equally get bored. I wouldn't say he's got a short attention span or anything like that, but he would play with this, he would play on the Nintendo, he would play on the iPad, he'd play football. He's just an all-rounder; he'll just play everything. I don't think he has a preference really. I think if you gave him a choice of what he was to actually play with he'd always pick the horses. But whether that's a horse on a device or a horse in real play or going to see some horses, it's whatever it is as long as it is a horse he's happy.

Q Right. It blends across all the areas then. If they were with their cousins, would that be a different dynamic then do you think?

A I think they're just louder with [boy cousin name], I wouldn't say that... [boy cousin name]'s probably got a few different interests to them but I still think that they play similar. I'd say louder ?? So they like dinosaurs, [boy cousin name]'s not as bothered, Mallison likes Minecraft.

D I don't like dinosaurs, mummy.

A Mallison likes Minecraft, I don't think [boy cousin name]'s as bothered. I don't think Essa's bothered about Minecraft really but Essa likes different...

D I really want to have a Minecraft party.

A There's just ?? on the internet, the Switch, he'd probably pick that or the Mario Karts. They all like football so they all generally go and...

Q So they all go and do that together, yeah. So on the devices are they playing mainly on their own would you say?

A I'd say with the iPad it's either individual or joint because they will often watch things together.

Q Oh you did mention about the videos at the beginning, yeah, sorry.

A I mean sometimes they'll look over each other's shoulder, but they'll know that the next time, like they will know that if they're watching... Yeah, so when they're playing on that they'll look over each other's shoulders, but they'll generally take it in turns. So I don't think...

Q Is this the Switch you mean? Yeah.

A Yeah. Mallison will play the Minecraft and Essa will look over his shoulder and tell him what to do but he won't have a go. He'll have a go on something else more than likely.

Q Oh I see. Oh that's really interesting. So he's holding it but he's not actually...

A No he...

Q He wouldn't actually press a buttons and do it is that right?

A No I don't think so. And with the apps, with the maths and the spelling, Mallison will let him press the buttons, so spell the word and press enter, but he's the one that's dictating what to press because he's the one that knows the answer if you know what I mean.

Q Yes of course.

A But that's just the way they involve each other with it.

Q And also that tabs up on Mallison's score at school doesn't it?

A Yes.

Q So he's got a kind of vested interest to make sure that it's right and...

A Yeah, but Essa doesn't know the answer so it's a, it's him saying 'Do you want to press the buttons and I'll tell you what to press' and he'll say 'Yeah' and then he'll say 'Press this, this, this, enter' and then Essa will love that because he's like getting a reward for getting it right but then he's the one that's actually getting it telling him what to do. It's like a big brother thing I suppose.

Q Yeah.

A But I do like him doing that because I feel like he's learning as well because he's actually...

Q I was going to say, do you feel like that's learning? It's interesting isn't it because he's passing on the knowledge.

A Yeah.

Q Yeah. That's great and so did I ask you before what types of devices do you think, do they sort of shut down or limit play in any way? Do you think the actual apps or the devices themselves would you say limit their play? Are there ones that you prefer them to use that are more creative, say?

A I don't know of any but I was a bit surprised when that horse one had that timer on it. I didn't know it did that. But I know that my mum has played different games on her phone before that you know once they'll help her with them and then it'll not give them hints for

another 24 hours or something like that but that's not stuff that they go on all the time. They go on a... Essa, do you want to show Julia this? Come here.

Q Oh yes please.

A Essa where's the one where you have to make up the words? I can't remember what it's called. It's the one that Nannan does.

D What, that one?

A Yeah that might be it, yeah.

C The block game.

A So they'll do this either by themselves or with my mum sometimes.

Q Will you show me? I'll come and sit by you if that's all right.

D I've got to get some words.

Q You've got to get some words?

A So this is probably one that's probably got things like that on.

Q Yes. So have you learnt this from, did you say your Nannan?

A So my mum had it on her phone and they asked for it on here. The words get harder over time but they basically, I think Essa does a bit of guessing in terms of which way he goes round with this. But Mallison will actually know the words to it and he will try and do it. When it first... it gets harder and harder so initially he's getting them all right.

Q Yes so it's the levels again isn't it?

A So he's jumped up a level now so he'll probably find this a bit harder. But they play on this, they like to play on this and I don't have a problem with this because I sort of feel like it's some way of learning.

Q Yeah. I mean a lot of these learning, when you see the learning that they're getting from these do you then sort of look out for it in another context like ??

D Mum, I don't know what word can I spell?

A Over what, sorry?

Q So do you see.....

D What word can I spell?

A Let me just speak to Julia.

Q Let me just have a look at mummy. Ah, that's the one.

Q2 There you go.

Q Oh do you like that?

A Can you think of a word that's got an 'i' in the middle?

D It.

A With these kind of letters in there as well?

D g,o.

A Do you think it could start with a 'd'?

D Yeah. d, o...D-it....

A d, i...what might it end in? D i....? Can you make a word out of them three letters?
No, you don't need a hint. Think of a word that starts with a d, i...oh he's used the hint.
Yeah, he cheated there.

Q So that's the one you do with your nanny?

D I cheated.

A You play with the medical set and I'll talk to Julia.

Q Yeah so I was asking, so when you see the stuff on the apps and the Spelling Shed thing from school, I mean are you then sort of then looking out to see how one is affecting another, like is it, are they learning and transferring any of the skills that they use on these apps into their everyday life like in their reading or...I mean you've definitely pointed out from the school, you can see their learning and the way they play with the apps.

A I think it's just the repetition of doing them that's keeping them remembering.

Q Yeah, just constantly coming to it.

A Before the summer he was doing the times table ones all the time.

Q Is this Mallison?

A Yeah more or less like every other day or sometimes daily, so his score got higher and higher and he really used it as an incentive and he remembered the answers. So if you asked him 16 divided by 2 he'd remember that it was an 8. But now because he's had a break from it I think that instant memory's kind of gone off a little bit so it's just trying to get him back into the swing of it.

Q Do you have any toys that connect to the internet, is there anything like that? We've talked about the devices but like a robot or something, nothing that would, like an internet connected toy?

A No I don't think.

Q None of the Paw Patrol things or anything like that? And you know when they're playing with the LEGO and so on, or say Essa's playing with the horses, does he ever use the device at the same time as say playing with the toys or anything like that? Or watching a TV programme and playing with...

A I think he might have the TV on in the background and play but I don't think he plays as well because he gets distracted so in the daytime I don't tend to have the TV on much to be honest.

Q But they don't do like a connected thing like watch something about horses and be then either looking at YouTube horses or...it's not mixing it together at the same time?

A I don't think so, not from the top of my head. I wouldn't say they watch a lot of TV, I reckon they do....like if they're playing with the Switch that's what they will do on their own. Like as in that will be the only thing they play with.

Q And do they play with the...have they got an internet hub or anything like the Alexa or anything like that?

A No.

Q No. OK.

A My mum has.

Q Oh has she?

A Yeah, Essa likes it when we go to my mum's house, but we haven't got one. Essa, turn your voice down please. Essa will ask her constantly to play different music that he's got in his head, stuff like that, and sometimes we have to actually unswitch it because it gets a bit much because out of all of them he's the one that likes to do it all the time, but he does like music so that's probably why.

Q Does he play with it in any way apart from asking ...

A Yeah he'll just talk to it over and over again like, 'Alexa, Alexa, Alexa...' like and she can't obviously grasp what he's actually trying to say. Or he'll say 'Alexa play this' and then two minutes later he'll be 'Alexa play this' so it's constantly I suppose as his mind's running away with himself but the...it gets a bit too much and a bit too loud and it gets turned off. We end up getting fed up with it and it gets turned off.

Q So what types of technology mediated play do you think are more likely to lead to enjoyment in your children than other types of technology media? So in other words, which types do you think they enjoy the most?

A As in like?

Q What's their favourite...well you've kind of answered it.

A Yeah. I think Nintendo for Mallison definitely

Q And the mixture of things...

A Essa's just, yeah...I mean he does like the iPad because he likes to watch stuff on it but I wouldn't say he would just have the iPad every day. It could be a week go and he won't ask for it at all.

Q So there's no regular time it's just kind of when he's in the mood to have the iPad.

A Yeah as long as he doesn't have it for too many, too much time. If he asks me every day and he was behaving then I will allow it as long as it wasn't for a, it might only be for ten minutes, then it might be half an hour, it depends on what we're doing at that point in time.

Q Right, yeah. Do you decide for him or do you, are you fairly open about letting him, what he'll play with when he gets the iPad?

A With Mallison I'll feel like I can control it a little bit more because I'll say to him, he'll say 'Can I have the iPad?' and I'll say 'It depends what you want it for' so if he'll say 'I want to watch YouTube' and I'll sometimes say to him 'Will you have a go on your Times Tables first?' and he'll say 'Yeah' because he knows he's more likely to get it then. Whereas with Essa I won't really do that because he's only four and he's only just started reception so I will allow him to go on it, watch some bits and encourage him to look at the Alphablocks or the Numberblocks because I feel like that's putting a bit of learning there without him even thinking about it, he thinks it's just a video or a game.

Q Do you think they're influenced by the adverts that they see on YouTube?

A I don't know.

Q You've not seen any evidence of that at all?

A Well the fact that he knew what adverts came on surprisingly, because I didn't really think that he'd know, that so yeah.

Q I was wondering about the flying car that you sent the photograph of as well because when I was watching TV the other day there was a LEGO advert, obviously getting ready for Christmas, the one with the bunny rabbit in, and the LEGO car turns into a flight...

A Oh I don't know that.

Q I just wondered if there'd been, if there was any connection there actually? There might not be but I just wondered.

A He may have seen the advert for it but he's not mentioned it.

Q Mallison, I just wondered if you could talk me through those things that you made the other day on the LEGO that you sent the photograph of the flying car [F1p_20190924_p001]. What do you want to tell me about it?

C Well, you've got two seats in there but people can't fit in it so I put a driver's seat in it.

Q Oh OK, where are the two seats that you can't fit. Are they inside?

C Yeah.

Q And why can't they fit in is it because of the lid at the top or...

C It's because people don't fit properly because arms...

Q Oh I see, so they're too wide. Yeah.

A So what made you think of making a flying car? Where did that idea come from?

C Nothing.

A Have you seen a flying car somewhere else?

C No but I just didn't want that in. Unless you put it on for no reason....

A What's that?

C The bumper I just put it on ...

Q You don't like the bumper?

C No.

Q Is that the bumper here? This white bit? Tell me, why don't you like it? Just tell me about that.

C It looks not good and I don't like it.

Q So it's about the appearance of it, yeah, so you could have taken it off. Well we can cut that off the picture, how about that? If I do that and you can't see it anymore? But what intrigued me was this at the back.

C It's a missile.

Q It's a what?

C A missile.

Q A missile. Ok, so this car is a pretty special one isn't it? So tell me, who is it aimed at, this missile? Who might these people be, some baddies I'm imagining, or are these the goodies?

C Out the window and it just goes outside.

Q Oh there's a window here and it's just firing at the window, oh I see. Did it really fire or was it in your imagination that it fired?

C No, imagination.

Q Ah, you've got a good imagination, I can see that. And who are these people inside here? Are they anyone particular in your mind or...in the LEGO sets?

C I just wanted to put people in there.

A Are they anybody? Are they you and your brother? Or is it just two random people?

Q Just two random people is it? Yeah. That's brilliant. Have you built a flying car before or is this the first time you tried it?

C The first time.

A ?? I don't think he's built one like that before.

Q That's amazing. Just tell me what this is at the back. Is that the wings?

C Yes.

Q Yeah, OK.

C No, they're the gliders.

Q Oh gliders, I need to get the right terminology here, gliders. So have the other bits got special names as well? Like this, what happens with this top? Is it just for keeping the rain out as I might imagine or is it there a bit more to it?

C It's to keep the rain out but then it folds up as well.

Q Oh does it? Oh like a convertible car? Fantastic.

C But it can just flap up.

Q Flap up, OK and it can really do that.

C Mm.

Q And you can make it do that.

C Like the LEGO helicopters where you have to put that thing on and then the flaps go up like that.

Q I see, so is it on like an actual hinge that you can do that.

C Yeah.

Q OK. And you've got these wheels, do they do anything special?

C Yeah, they actually roll.

Q OK. Fantastic. So the reason mum asked you about where you got the idea from, Mallison, is there's an advert, have you seen the advert for LEGO? I saw it on TV the other day, it's got a bunny rabbit in it, have you seen it?

C No.

Q No. Because on that advert the car flies and I thought 'Oh, I wonder if Mallison saw that' but you had it in your imagination already by the sound of it, didn't you?

C Yeah but I didn't know about that.

Q Yeah. Just tell me a bit about the next one then. I think it's this one [F1p_20190924_p002].

C Yeah.

Q What's happening in this one? Let's make it larger.

C So there's a cat there, there's a chicken there, there's a bear like I don't know what it is but ?? I don't know what that is, but it's just there. It's just like and then you have your monkey, your cat, your dog and then you have the tap and the grass in the middle and then if I slide it out a bit then you actually do have the ladders there for the bunny.

Q Oh is it a bunk for the beds?

C Yeah. The bunny.

Q The bunny, I beg your pardon.

C And then that's just a place where they can go and that's their pool.

Q Their pool, wow. So where is this place? Is it like a pet's hotel?

C Yeah.

Q It's amazing. Surely that didn't come out of your imagination, did it?

C Yeah.

Q That's incredible. I mean I haven't been to many pets' hotels.

A What's that there?

C It's just my ?? that I used, that I built once but now it's got broke ?? it's broke but it's still like that so I thought that could be like where they could jump in it and everything.

Q Oh I see so it's like a series of perches or steps that the animals could go on.

C Yeah and then they can like just go on the top of that.

Q OK. So when you played with it do you just look at the animals or are you moving them around actually putting them in the pool and putting them on the stands and putting the bunny in its bed and things?

C Yeah. And then there's food. Carrots, apples, pineapples.

Q What's this here?

C It's just a chair what they can go on.

Q Oh that's lovely. Where did you get the idea from for that?

C And then windows and then laptop.

Q They've got a laptop? Oh wow. That is amazing.

C ?? have it.

Q Yeah.

C ?? to get it

Q Sorry?

A ?? and then there's the stuff what people can just go in it and get stuff out for them, there.

Q So what's in here, this with the letters on?

C It's just a ??

Q It's a ?? wow, sorry I didn't hear you properly what is this here? Did you say the bunny?

C Yeah that's a bunny and then it can go on either ladder up and it can invite friends to his house.

Q Did you do this on your own?

C Yeah, my own.

Q All on your own. And when you play with it is it on your own too or is it with someone else?

C I play with it on my own.

A The idea came from that.

C Yeah that giant thing what my cousin had. Yeah that is my cousin's, Auntie [name] played with it because he liked LEGO and that.

A Shall we show what [aunt's name] made? [Aunt's name] was doing it, weren't she?

C Yeah.

Q Is that your sister?

A My auntie.

Q Oh your auntie. Sorry.

C And mine.

A Let's find what she made. She was really impressed with herself wasn't she because she made a house.

Q Oh lovely.

C Yeah and she made something else.

A Yeah and then the day after, it was two days of LEGO wasn't it?

C Yeah.

A And the day after what did she make? She made...

C This here.

A She made another house.

Q So how do you feel when you see grown-ups making LEGO?

C I feel good.

Q Do you feel like, 'OK, if they can do it I can do it'?

C Yes.

Q Is it inspiring? Do you think oh I can do that?

C Yeah.

Q Yeah, that's great and do they ever give you any ideas or do you just...

C I just do it.

Q You just do it, yeah. Oh that's great and do you think any of the LEGO things, like the pictures or the stuff that you see on TV or the Minecraft, does that give you any ideas for what you do? Is it in your head anywhere?

C No. On Minecraft I like to build, I build three houses but then I lost them because I didn't know where they went. And then I burnt some trees down before that and I went on ice and couldn't find my houses, just a few minutes ago when I did that and then I just build and build again. And I'm going to ??? with animals in it, it's a big pen.

Q That's great. Have you been telling Alex about this?

C Yes. Alex told me how to put the pen stuff out.