

Q Julia Bishop (researcher)  
Q2 Beth Nutbrown (researcher)  
A Katie (mum)  
B Matt (dad)  
C Stephanie (8)  
D Saskia (6)

Q2 ....you play with your teddies.

C Yeah most nights.

Q2 Yeah? That sounds really good, and what makes you want to play with them?

C We just like to do it like before bed, we normally read a book. And some nights when we have a bit of time before bed we'd do that.

Q2 Oh that's really nice. What kind of books do you like to read?

C Sometimes we read chapter books and we just read like a couple of chapters every day, but some.....and we have some poem books as well. But sometimes we just have little picture books.

D Last night we read Poppy Cat to the teddy bears.

Q2 Poppy Cat? And what's Poppy Cat about, I don't think I've heard of that one.

D It's about a cat getting ready to go to bed.

Q2 Oh that sounds really sweet, that sounds like a lovely story.

Q Yeah, what did the teddy bears think about it?

D Good.

Q Do you arrange them in any particular way or anything like that?

C Not really.

D We put them in different spaces.

C They don't have like a certain space that they go every time, but we just have a space for each teddy.

Q I see. Is that on your beds or anything?

C Yeah.

Q And are your bedrooms all done now?

C Yeah it's all done.

Q2 Are you pleased with it?

C Mmm.

Q And how has it been finding new places for the teddies and other things? Have you found somewhere for them all to go?

D Yeah.

Q Oh that's lovely, perhaps you could show us a little bit later.

Q2 Yeah, that would be cool, that would be great. Yeah, so anything you'd like to show me really, if you see anything that you like playing with?

D Yeah.

Q2 And how do you choose which teddies ???

C Like normally we just get the teddy bears altogether.

D We just ??? to all of them.

Q2 OK, so they're all the ones that are on your bed ???

C Yeah.

Q2 Oh fantastic, that's awesome.

*Dad enters*

Q Is it OK if I ??? you for a conversation now, is that OK?

B Yes of course yeah.

Q That's lovely, thank you. Because actually we find it's quite interesting to get a different perspective from the dads and the mums. Actually the families that we've been working with there's often a different relationship with technology and everything going on. And I know Katie mentioned last time I was here she was saying that you sort of help them perhaps a bit more with some of the technical things that they've had, you know the iPads and things like that.

B Yeah. They pretty much pick it up quick enough as themselves, only like going on Kids YouTube. Only let them go on that because with the normal YouTube there's no filters on is there, so basically they could end up watching anything. So we ??? Kids YouTube. We've actually had to pay for it for Stephanie because with the Microsoft one you don't have to, you don't get it for nowt like you do with the Google and everything. So they only go on

that predominantly, and the odd few games I've had to download, like CBeebies and that. It's just usually YouTube watching the Kinder eggs when they open and that and stuff like that.

I think she's just started getting into that RoBlox what you were saying.

Q That's right. Well it was quite a long time ago that film I made. So how did they get into the....is it Stephanie who sort of started this trend, and how did she get into those sorts of films, have you got any idea?

B I think it's just through watching random stuff on Facebook and then just ended up going toward that, watching people open Kinder eggs and getting prizes out. And I think it were like LOL dolls and all that kind of stuff. Just watching people open it. I don't know, I think there's one with a family, like a family of four....

Like they do all voice overs and stuff like that. Not my cup of tea.

Q I was going to say, I can tell from your body language that you don't think such a lot of that.

B No, I think they're pretty rubbish to be fair, but they enjoy it.

Q Yeah. So what's your sort of position on it? Are you're able to kind of....you know do you limit it in any way, or are you sort of happy for them to look at it? What do you feel about it?

B Yeah I'm happy, as long as it's on the Kids YouTube sort of thing, it seems to be a lot more better filtered, so you don't get all the rubbish what's on normal YouTube what people load up. So I do prefer them to go on....actually we don't even let them on normal YouTube. No they're always on the Kids one, and if they can't then they won't go on it. Just for the simple fact that there's no filters on so people can post anything.

B But yeah I try not....they do, I think every kid goes on it too much.

Q Is that what you feel?

B Yeah, I think we're probably guilty for probably letting them go on it too much, but they don't....the little one will normally take herself off, she'll get bored and everything. Where she would probably sit on it all day and watch it.

Q Stephanie? Yeah.

B Yeah, if you let her. No we tend not to let them go on them too much. But I mean I probably as a kid used to watch TV all the time, but it's just exactly the same really.

Q Yeah. So what sort of balance do you think you get between sort of screen play as it were and other types of play? Do you aim for a particular balance or are you just sort of....

B Oh I'm pretty easy going with it. They have got loads of board games, also we do do board games now and again, but I'm pretty laid back with it really.

Q And yourself, are you sort of a YouTube....do you watch YouTube at all?

B No, I might only watch YouTube as to like Google how to reset stuff like that, or anything with the car, fitting a bulb, go on YouTube and they'll pretty much show you how to do it.

Q Right, yeah, so it's a kind of How To thing.

B Yeah, I don't watch YouTube that much, just to find stuff out more than owt.

Q Yeah fair enough, that's good. So I think probably Katie sent me some photos and I just wondered if you'd...have you seen these, she WhatsApp'd them to me. So this is...I think Saskia was making something from the boxes that some of the wardrobe parts came in?  
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B Yes, she made like a skull? robo robot 1200 I think. I don't know if we've got it actually now, she was just going through pretty much a roll of sellotape sticking card together. She went crazy with it.

Q Yeah, yeah. Is that sort of typical, will she does that sort of thing a lot?

B Yeah, she'll just take herself off and go and play and start building stuff and that. And she'll sit at the table playing with LEGO – they both will do in fairness, but she'll always do it, just take herself off. Or she'll go upstairs in the bedroom playing, playing with her toys.

Q Is it the making that is the main thing, or does she actually play with it once it's created?

B I think it's more the making, she likes to take it to school just to show off. It was stuck on the table for ages, so I think after a bit they just forget about it.

Q Yes, it's served its purpose. Yeah, that's great.

B It's like a....well it's to pass time I suppose isn't it really.

Q Do you help them in any way when they're doing stuff like that?

B No, she did it all herself, created it. I think she did a sock glove, like an animal.

Q Oh yes, I know, yeah ??? thing.

B Yeah, but she like cut all holes into it, so she got the scissors herself and everything, so she's quite independent, well they both are, both really independent.

Q And do they like, Saskia particularly, I mean does she make stories around these things, will she kind of play with it once it's created sometimes?

B Yeah she'll play with it, yeah. She's always playing games with the LEGO and like talking as though the characters are talking to each other.

Q OK yeah, so they do like voices and stuff like that.

B Yes so they do all that. They're always doing rehearsals for dancing and that sort of stuff. They will go on the computer probably too much but they do go out and play as well. I mean they spent hours doing these rehearsals, dancing rehearsals and that, putting all the music to it and everything so... So they're using the computer to put music to the dancing.

Q Oh fantastic, OK. So where do they do the rehearsals, is that in the living room?

B They're usually up in the bedroom, in the back bedroom, I'm not sure. In fact it looks like an absolute bomb site.

C We tidied it dad.

B Oh have you tidied it.

Q So did you actually get to see this dance show in the end, this performance.?

B Yeah we saw it in the garden. Don't get me wrong, but it was a warm day. They said they were going....one went one way, one went the other way in the garden, so you don't know which one to watch. Doesn't seem like it's been much rehearsed this, but it were good, they enjoyed it, that's the main thing.

Q Do they like dancing and that sort of thing?

B Yeah because they both do....sorry, big one used to, she's doesn't now but the little one, she still does it, dancing.

Q Oh does she?

B Up at the local dancing school. Yeah so she does that. They both do....they're both active, they both do gymnastics through the week. The little one still does swimming lessons. They're both really active at after school clubs and that. So they are active.

Q Oh that's great. Are they sort of requesting to do those things or are they just....

B Yeah, well we obviously like mention it to them 'would you like to do it' and....we obviously did the swimming lessons, because I can always remember my dad teaching me, I'm like 'oh we'll teach them'. And then we go to the swimming baths and you can't really, they're not made for swimming are they, they're just made playing and you can't really do it. And they were never really grasping it so that's why we did the [local swimming pool] in there. Stephanie did really well, she's ended up going to [nearby suburb] and the bigger...is it a 50 metre pool or is it a 25 metre pool, are they 50 metres or 25 metre pool? 50. So she did really and started there swimming in that.

But they were getting a bit too much for you weren't they after a bit, it were every Saturday afternoon. But yeah she was....what else do you do? You do gymnastics and....

C Gymnastics.

B Is that it?

C I think so, yeah.

B Yeah she used to do swimming but she didn't want to do the swimming no more. But yeah they're both active.

Q Yes so they're doing lots, yeah, that's really great.

B They have a better social life than us. Also they do Brownies and Rainbows on a Monday one after the other as well.

Q Oh yeah Katie mentioned that, yeah, that's ??? maybe we'd like to make a visit to one of those organisations as well if they'd be willing to have us, so just to see, to get a more rounded picture of playing and you know if technology comes into it, either formally or informally. But I just want to go back to the dancing, because you were saying they use the computer to create....so they were using KidsTube to find....

B Yeah for music and everything, and then obviously assigning the music to the dancing what they were doing – climbing all over the swing frames and that and doing poses. But yeah they found the music off there, on the tablets.

Q Do you know where they searched for it, are they typing stuff in or are they using the voice?

B Yeah I think they type in the music that they like, or music that they know. Type in. You can just play the video music to it can't you?

Q That's right yeah. And were they imitating the dance off those videos do you think or...

B No not really, just doing their own thing, like twirling around and that. They weren't doing no twerking or anything like that. But yeah they were like twirling around, arms and that everywhere.

Q Their own thing, yeah. And did they dress up as well?

B No, no. I've forgot what day it were on. I don't know but yeah. We'd been out somewhere and we'd come back, me and Katie had come back and they'd been with their grandad, so they had like the settee, chairs up on the garden to....it was like a little show to watch them. But yeah they do it all the time. They used to do it with their teddy bears and that and they used to film it, like doing...

Q Oh yeah? Sorry, they filmed them?

B Yeah they filmed it, like doing like routines, and then they'd show us the routine and that and it would be all written down on paper on different places and that and scenes.

Q Have you still got any of those or....

B I don't know. I don't know if any of it will be on her old Android one, because I know this has been temperamental and it wouldn't switch on.

Q Yeah. Oh that does sound really interesting. So what did they use to do the filming with, which toys?

B Like the little teddy bears or the LOL dolls and stuff like that.

Q Oh yeah, oh because they've got some of the LOL dolls as well?

B Yeah, so it's pretty much what you'd see on YouTube with people doing it, so they've just reenacted what they've done, either the Kinder ones or playing there.

Q Oh that's really interesting. So which device would they use to do these filming with? They were doing the filming were they?

B Yeah they were doing filming with the tablet, the Hudl.

Q Right OK, that's Stephanie's one isn't it that you got. Is that the old one or the new one?

B Yeah, it's the old one. Yeah so I don't even know where it is to be fair, I think it's hit the dust. I'm sure they video-ed it. Did you video the LOL play what you put on once?

C I can't remember.

Q Is it quite recently or is that like....

B No, no I think it was some time last year, I'm sure it were, might have been even longer.

Q Oh that's fascinating, yeah you've done some creative things.

B You'd probably get more if we allowed her to have a phone. She keeps asking to have a phone but, no not yet, not a phone. Some of her friends have got them. I'm like 'you don't need a phone yet' ??? get a phone. Yeah. Like I say it's no different from what you do on your tablet so you don't need them.

Q Do you feel there's a lot of pressure to?

B No, not at all because I just say 'no you're not having it'. She might say it once...actually she doesn't go on and on about it. She's asked a couple of times, I just say 'you don't need a phone'.

Q Yeah, so you feel it's too soon?

B Too soon, yeah they don't need to have it, they don't go anywhere really to...if she was going somewhere and I needed to get hold of her, then probably yeah, but they don't go nowhere. They don't go anywhere we can...it's not like we used to go and play about and everything, but I don't think it's safe now. It probably is just as safe but nobody...you don't see that many kids out playing and that. They're probably just stuck on their computers and that, like we used to.

Q In their homes, yeah.

B But I said 'you don't need a phone, you don't need to phone anybody. You don't need to phone your mates, you don't need to phone us'. If you do want to go on your computer I'm sure it's better to watch it on a bigger screen.

Q So when do you think....or is that a bit of a hostage ??? and I don't want to put you on the spot with them being in the room.

B No, I would probably say when she goes to secondary school if anything, probably then with her, because obviously she'll be making her own way back and that. If you ever need to get in contact then you've got the option to. Round about 13 upwards. Whether that happens I don't know.

Q Is it OK if I just ask you a bit about play and technology sort of questions, is that alright? So we seem to be talking a bit about this, because one of the questions is how does technology feature in your child or children's play? So we've talked about them sort of using it to provide the music, we've talked about them filming stuff and playing on...watching things as well. Can you think is there any other things that we should have covered that we haven't there, any other ways that technology might come into their play?

B No I think that's pretty much it, yeah.

Q And do they play anything, do they play with technology or play while they're watching say telly or anything like that?

B No they'll either play on their tablet, or if the tablet's battery's gone dead then they take over the TV. And it's usually Netflix. But they will....as I say not long, she'll get bored. Sometimes we put a movie on and you can see she's getting bored with it and she'll just take herself off and go and play.

Q Right. And what sort of things would she do then, would it be something with her hands or....

B Yeah be something with LEGO, or she'll go upstairs in the bedroom and start playing with the dolls and that. Whereas Stephanie's probably enjoying the film more.

Q Yeah, she's got a longer attention span with her films.

B Yeah that's it, yeah. You can see her, starts getting bored.

Q That's interesting, yeah. Do they like to play with particular devices do you think? Out of the ones that they've got have they got particular favourites, or does it just depend....

B The actual app or the devices?

Q The actual devices yeah, the actual...

B Yeah they'll probably do....they'll watch their own devices predominantly.



Q Yeah, do you mean like their tablets?

B Yeah the tablets, yeah.

Q Have they both got one, I can't remember.

B They've both got one. She's got the Fire Kindle I think it is. The ??? because obviously...she never used to watch them but when we bought it you got a year's subscription for...I think it was loads of cartoons where you could watch all old ones as well as new ones on there. I think she was at an age where she didn't really know how to operate a tablet and it never bothered her, but we only got it because it come with a massive big case round it.

So yeah, so you could chuck it against the wall and it would survive. And yeah she had the Tesco Hudl ??? And yeah they both...unless one battery's gone and then they'll sit together and watch them.

Q I was going to say, so they're sort of doing this separately unless there's...

B Yeah they'll sit separately, and sometimes they'll sit bang next to each other with their own tablets.

Q Really? With their own thing?

B Yeah.

Q Any headphones, or have they just got the sound going?

B No, no, do it now and again, but no the music's on so you're for ever telling them like 'turn it down' sort of thing.

Q And are they like watching programmes and films, or little YouTube things?

B No it's just the YouTube.

Q It's YouTube, yeah. We were saying, yeah, what was their favourite app and that's what you were saying earlier.

B They do all that stuff. Oh she's started playing that RoBlox is it?

Q Oh yes that's right, yeah.

B I didn't want her to have it to start with because obviously you hear all the...I didn't know a thing about it at first, never heard anything. And then when someone told us about it, they were saying you could get all....well adults on it and everything, and also I was like in two minds. But you can have all these filters on it. So I went in and switched all these filters off where she can't add anybody and stuff like that. So she basically just...I think she just plays it. But yeah I don't really, I've never really looked at it, I don't understand it.

Q Is it like Minecraft or something like that then?

B I think it is summat like that yeah, where you just walking.....

Q A bit sort of blocking people and stuff like that?

B Yeah. She says she's got a dog what she's looking after and she bought it a food bowl and stuff like that. But I think you can actually build games in it as well. So I've never really looked at it to be fair.

Q Did Stephanie find out about it from friends then?

B From a friend, yeah. My mate's daughter had had it for a while, and she'd been banging on about it and then Katie agreed to let them have it.

Q Is it something you have to pay for or is it a free download.

B No I think it's free, yeah it's free but you don't...she's not really been on it that much. She downloaded it and then she never bothered with it, and then the last few weeks or so she's started going back on it again.

Yeah, you can build all sorts if you want. But I think you have to collect credits, then you spend the credits, or you can pay money and do it.

Q Oh yes, get the short cut as it were.

B Yeah, won't do that.

Q I was going to say, presumably you're not....

B No. I had to switch my....to set up her Kindle I had to...I had a Fire Stick, you know the Amazon Fire Stick, I had one of those and I had it as my....she could pay? for stuff on it. And then I had to switch the billing account off on her Kindle.

Q Which one?

B Saskia, because obviously she could buy....

Q Oh, did she accidentally....

B No, but I think she was trying to download something and it was going to cost and I realised 'oh I need to switch all my billing address off' and everything.

Q Right yeah, just in the nick of time.

B Yeah.

Q Does Stephanie ever sort of look, in terms of say RoBlox and knowing how to play it, will she use her friend as a source of information do you know, or is she just doing it intuitively.

B I think she did initially when she did it, but at the minute I don't know if any of her school friends play it, I've no idea. So I've just seen her playing it now and again because she's just found little bits how to do it yourself, just like playing it.

Q Yeah, I just wondered if there's anything on YouTube as well, on YouTube Kids as well.

B Possibly, if she's seen it on there as well, I don't know. Because we've got the YouTube Kids on and it's filtered, I probably tend not to watch what they're actually watching, because obviously you trust the YouTube Kids itself.

I mean I've not come across anything, it's only with the YouTube one that she had you come across....it's only when your ears prick up and you hear noise and you're thinking 'what were that', so you go over and you're like 'no, come off it'.

Q So you set the filters, and I'm not really familiar with the filters on the YouTube Kids, so what did you do, is it like an age, or is it about rating thing?

B I think with the filters it comes pre-done with the filters for the YouTube Kids. Yeah so basically I think it is just children channel filter sort of thing. I think they must monitor it somewhere I'm guessing, the content what goes on.

Q OK so you didn't actually have a choice. I was thinking, you know is there an age, is there like....they have those PG? ratings for apps and things don't they?

B I think if you sign into it then you probably can put a certain age rate in. You can do with most stuff can't you? So I think I made a mistake when I was signing up to her new tablet and I thought 'oh because it's her tablet I'll set it up to....because it's hers I'll set it up for her'. And I got her an email address and we put her age in, and then I should have thought, and then it says 'oh she's under age you need adult consent'. Consent for this, I'm like 'you're joking me'. So I was going round the houses, all, everything, because I already had a Microsoft account, couldn't remember it, couldn't log into it and everything. So I'm like....I ended up resetting the computer and starting again, set it up in her name but I think I put Katie's age down, just so she can use the tablet in fairness.

Q Use the tablet, yeah. Yeah that's interesting. Do you ever get advice from school or is there anything like that on offer, have you ever used anything like that, or watched anything to help you?

B Only thing....they used to do the Time Table Rock Stars and stuff like that. She really enjoyed that.

Q Stephanie?

B Yeah. She's good at maths, really good at maths. Yeah she loves that. So I think her aim, just she went a bit....what do you want it to be Steph? To be a Rock Star?

C Hero.

B Hero, yeah, when she was the top one. And then they'd have classes against classes as well. So you could....

C I've already been a Rock Star.

B Yeah, so she's already been a Rock Star. So you could like play against classes so you'd accumulate points and that for ??? her class or Year 1. So she was really good at that – too good at it actually, she used to try and get us going on it. And like I ain't embarrassing myself going on there! Where she can just think of the number, it just pops straight into her head, because she's obviously doing all the times table and everything. And we'd know the answer but you're still having to work it out in your head just to make sure, because obviously there'll be a correct answer and then there'll be like....well it was a keyboard wasn't it, so it was 0 to 9 and you'd have to type in the answer in the time.

Q Oh gosh yeah, really fast. Yeah I know it counts down.

B And she'd just go pop, pop, pop with the numbers, and I'm like getting stuff wrong and all sorts. I'm like I'm not doing that no more! I'm getting embarrassed.

Q Yeah. Is there any technology type play that you play with them at all, are there any sort of games or anything that you do together?

B No, like I said I used to have all the....I used to have a console and everything. Yeah, before we had kids. Well I just stopped playing. And where some of my mates still play the consoles.

Q Do they?

B And they still play with it I think probably more with their sons. No we've never had consoles. We've not got a Nintendo Wii so long, and no we just never really bothered. They don't seem that bothered. Whether they would be if we bought one I don't know. But I'm not particularly bothered, predominantly the laptops or tablets.

Q Yeah, so you don't sort of share in that way across anything?

B No not with games. We might play like that occasional Rock Star, or she'll show us what she's doing on RoBlox and what she's got and that but....they've done a few other things from school, I can't remember, I think there's one called Duolingo or something like that. I can't remember what it were that one, but that might be all different languages and stuff like that, learning. But no, I would say it's probably board games that we play together.

Q Yeah. And how about the rest of their play, I mean stuff in the garden, obviously you were the audience in that show and everything so that's a kind of joining in isn't it? How about say with the LEGO and stuff like that, have you ever played with that with them?

B Yeah played with them, we helped them build it as well. We let them try and do as much as they can, but it's hard following....it's hard enough for yourself like trying to follow the instructions.

Q Is it following the instructions?

B Yeah, you've got to count your blocks where you stick them when you put them together and that, but yeah we set them all up. And we did all...she's got like a jigsaw Eiffel Tower – no it's not, it's a building in....I've forgotten, a famous building, oh Empire State Building.

Q Oh it's the Empire State, yes.

B Yeah, that 3D LEGO one. So we put that together. So that was a stressful time.

Q That was challenging.

B Oh, I'm not very good putting them together.

Q Did you play with LEGO when you were a child, or is this a kind of new thing you've done as a parent?

B Yeah, yeah, we just played LEGO when we were kids. Used to have a big box with all mixed up, which is pretty much what theirs is like now.

Q Yes Katie was telling me. I've seen it, yeah. And do you ever sort of, you know, just al fresco with it and just build whatever the things are, you know you don't bother with the instructions?

B Yeah. But they've still got that ??? together, when we were kids we used to try and build all sorts with it. I don't know...they might build little things and play with characters and that. That ??? probably still ??? together ??? isn't it?

C ??? mine together though.

B No, all the top's missing. Yeah they probably do their own thing with it.

Q Yeah. So it sounds like you're sort of fairly on the edge of that sort of play now, maybe it was different when they were younger as well.

B Yeah.

Q That's interesting. Do you think that there are certain types of apps or devices themselves that support play better than others, you know do you find some more open-ended or more creative, or more supporting of any kind of play than another would you say?

B I think the ones that they'd have on the CBeebie ones, they both enjoyed them, I don't think Stephanie plays with it that much now. But she's downloaded loads – well not loads but she downloaded one, Colour By Numbers. So it's like a massive picture and you've got numbers from 1 to 12, and each number represents a colour.

Q Ah, so like painting by numbers.

B Yeah. So then they have to pinch in and out of the picture to colour the numbers in. And it gives you a tick when you've coloured like green, number 1's, on all the picture.

Q Are they colouring by doing this.

B Yeah, yeah you move your finger round the number.

Q You have to use your finger. Oh I see, yeah. And does it automatically fill the rest then or do you have to....

B No, no you've got to find every number on the thing. So they'll go round obviously pinching in and out of the picture to find all your 1s. But once you've found your 1s and you've coloured them in it does a tick, so you move on to your next number. So they did a lot of that. I'm sure they might have had crayon ones where you could use your finger as well.

Q Yeah. So do you feel it's because it's artistic and stuff, and educational maybe, that it's a good app, or supports them?

B I think it's just summat rather than just sat there watching TV like a zombie.

Q Yeah, so you feel it's about being active.

B Yeah they're actually using their brain doing something, rather than just sat there staring at the computer.

Q And did you have to sort of help them with that or have they got the idea?

B Oh no, I think it's summat she liked and she sort of downloaded. I think she plays one called...is it Helix? It's like a tower. It's a game at the end of the day but it's a tower and you swipe your finger from side to side and the tower spins, and you've got a ball, and the aim is to get the ball to the bottom, it has spikes and that. Obviously it's like the action times you're moving and stuff like that. So she plays a lot of stuff like that.

Q Yeah. And how do you feel about that?

B Yeah I don't mind. At least it's a game what they actually play and interacting with, it's not just staring at people opening Kinder eggs – which I find absolutely mind numbing. I've seen them watching it – it's a load of rubbish.

Q Yeah. I mean do they watch them repeatedly the same ones, or are they always looking for a new one would you say?

B Oh there's loads of different ones. You probably don't find.....well it depends how it's listed, I don't know but they might watch some same ones. But there's that many.

Q Yeah. So it sounds like you like to sort of feel there's some kind of learning, some sort of skill or knowledge or practicing going on here?

B Yeah as long as they're doing summat. I think a lot of the time they probably will just be watching YouTube, but we're all probably guilty of doing it at some point or other.

Q Yeah that's true. Do they mind showing you stuff that they...I mean do they offer to show you stuff, anything on YouTube?

B Yeah she shows me that RoBlox, she shows me what she's doing, she was showing you like 'this is my dog' and 'I bought it a bowl, we can get it some food' and that.

Q Yeah, so there's a willingness to share what they're doing and....

B Yeah, I mean it's probably not a lot if they're watching the Kinder ones and stuff, and LOL dolls, they'll sit there watching. They've been watching one called Boss Baby on Netflix, which is a TV show what we probably used to when we were kids. But they don't mind watching that, and stuff like that.

Q Yeah. So do you find stuff that they do on a tablet or watch on telly, do you find it ever transfers over into their play sort of more generally? Or have they ever tried to....

B It probably does do with the LOL dolls from what they've watched, and they're probably re-enacting it upstairs on their own.

Q Yeah that's what you said, they were filming, yeah. And do you think....have they tried some of the things, some of the more like skill things, have you ever seen those skills transfer to anything that is offline as it were? Have you ever noticed any, I don't know, transfer of reaction time, or the number skills, do you think they're transferring across to other contexts in their lives?

B I don't know.

Q You can't really think of an example of that?

B No.

Q We are really interested in, you know sort of seeing how some of these things might be generated during play but do they ever kind of get taken across anywhere else, or are they used in other contexts, do children apply them in different contexts, that sort of thing?

B Probably have done with Saskia with the cardboard, and building stuff with the cardboard. Yeah they're always doing collages in the conservatory and stuff like that, making a mess and cutting stuff up, building stuff. Yeah it probably does cross over in that sort of way when they're playing.

Q Yeah, that's really interesting. So they don't do any video games you were saying or anything like that?

B They don't play any console kind of games.

Q No, because they don't have the access.

B I mean the only one she probably plays is the RoBlox one or the CBeebies one where you can....

Q Yeah. But there's no console or anything is there, it's just on the tablet is it?

B No, it's on the tablet yeah, we haven't got no console.

Q Do either of the girls have any sort of internet-enabled toys, or toys that like connect? Actual toys rather than devices?

B Erm...no they don't, no.

Q Nothing like that?

B No not that I can think of off the top of my head. They might have had teddy bears, like they used to have a teddy bear what used to hover across the books and he used to read. In the book it used to read different letters. But they wouldn't have been able to operate it, you used to have to connect it to your laptop. You could download the books to the bear to match the hardback books that you had.

And he used to like read the books, and you used to be able to put the bear on different parts of the book and he used to read the letters to you. Yeah, you could slide it along and it would read the book to you. I think that's the only thing we ever had really.

Q Right. How did it go over with the girls, can you remember?

B Yeah, it was Stephanie that had it, I think Saskia did have a go with it. But yeah obviously it helps them to read or understand what's going on. Because you could put it on different parts of the picture as well and it said like different things about the page that you were on. It were good. I can't think of owt else what they used to have. It was probably more summat to play with and then if you needed anything you'd plug it into your laptop to download more stuff. I think there was only that bear what we had. Might have had a teddy bear what we used to have where you could download different phrases and stuff like that, and you could rename it like 'Stephanie'. Yeah they've never had anything else apart from the laptops, tablets.

Q No, and they haven't asked for anything like that obviously.

B No. I mean the closest thing she's got now is the tablet what she's got, which is more of a laptop because she's got a keyboard with it. Because their grandad give her a choice what to have – or he said 'what would you like', and she chose more for the laptop.

Q Yes, something a bit more laptop like. Do you think that's influenced by anything in her choice there, homework or....

B I think she just had a choice. Whether it's just a case of growing up a bit more and she wanted....because she does actually do stuff with the computers, log into something, and she does all like little like A4 pieces of paper with like headings on and stuff for school. So she does use it for school work and we'll print it out at her grandad's, because our printer's a bit temperamental. Yeah, so we email it to him and he prints it off. But yeah she does use it for school work and that.

Q It sounds like....is this Katie's dad, your dad?

B Yeah Katie's dad, yeah.

Q He's sort of quite encouraging of their....

B Oh yeah. Well he ??? with Amazon so we just did a....it's obviously with her tablet dying and not working. He just said 'oh what would you like', he'd researched it saying



‘there’s this or there’s this one’, so he like gave an option of two choices and she picked that one. So I don’t know what the other option were.

*Pause – Katie arrives home; Matt goes out*

Q So we’re now with Katie who has just come in from work. So yeah we were just going through really about how technology featured in the girls’ play, and he was telling me about I think fairly recently they’d done sort of like a little show in the garden and they got music off Kids YouTube and you know sort of done a little performance and things like that.

A Yeah bless them, they were playing that for ages. So they were having rehearsals, and they picked their own songs, and just playing off my phone or whatever and you know that’s it, watch it.

Q Oh OK so they used your phone as well?

A Yeah.

Q Was that over the course of just one afternoon, or was it like a slightly larger kind of project?

A Yeah, it spanned a few weeks. Because they wrote down like a rehearsal schedule when they were going to rehearse and then when the show was going to be. So it was all very planned.

Q And obviously they were doing it together?

A Yeah.

Q Did they have like different roles in it or....

A Yes. Saskia was supposed to do some singing but then she got a bit of stage fright and she didn’t want to do the singing, so it was just dancing instead.

Q Yeah. Does she sing, is she that way inclined?

A No not really! Or perhaps she does when no-one’s listening, but she went a bit shy.

Q Do they have like favourite pop bands or singers or anybody that they listen to?

A We just have like the normal radio on a lot, so they like Little Mix and Ed Sheeran, and I think I told you before we got them an Alexa so they can just ask her to play whatever songs they want.

Q Right, so they’re sort of aware of those performers, or they would be able to request something by Little Mix or whatever?

A Yeah, just ask Alexa for whatever song they want for her to play.

Q Yeah. And are they like just aware of it from hearing what's....are you listening what sort of.....

A Spotify?

Q Oh Spotify is it, yeah and things like that.

A But where they have the Spotify or just the normal Capital [radio station].

Q Capital, yeah that's what I'm trying to think of, sorry yeah.

A Radio station yeah, they just pick up.

Q Do you have it on in the house then or is it in the car, or...

A In the car mainly, or if I'm doing something in the house I like to have music on, when I'm just ironing or whatever.

Q So you just listen to the latest thing?

A Or the music channel, yeah.

Q Yeah. Because with our children they have to listen to us, part of the time stuff that we used to listen to, mind you it all comes back anyway doesn't it, but of course....yeah, I just wondered whether it's your taste they're picking up on or...

A Possibly, yeah. But they've got their own few little CDs in the conservatory as well what my brother give them, which is called Cheese Party and it's just all the like party songs, Macarena and all that. So they'll go in there and have a little boogie to them!

Q Oh that's fantastic. So they do listen to them do they?

A Yeah.

Q And do they always dance and stuff?

A Yeah.

Q Oh that's great. And the dancing that they do, do they like copy anything, or pick it up from friends in the playground, or just doing their own thing?

A No, a lot of the dances to the party songs are from when we've like been on holiday, you know your traditional like Macarena and....

Q Oh right, is that like evening organised events for families and things like that?

A Yeah. When we go to the caravan they always get them up to ??? So they really like it there because they have like two little...they're called Fun Stars now, like your blue and your yellow team depending on what age you are, and they like compete against each other doing

all like dancing competitions and stuff like that, and other competitions. So they love joining in with that.

Q So they meet other children as part of that?

A Yeah.

Q Are they generally, because they're different ages would they be in the same one, or would they be in different teams?

A Well they have an odd and an even, that's how it works. So at the minute they'd be in opposite groups now that Steph's turned 9. So at least one of them wins each time!

Q Yeah. Do you think that's had sort of an influence on them sort of liking dance and stuff, or do you think they would have done it anyway?

A They've always wanted to join in with stuff like that. But we have took them to like them Haven sites since they were younger, so it's summat that they've always grew up with really. And when we've been on holidays and stuff it's always been places what have that traditional 'kiddy disco' you know.

Q Is that something you'd choose those sort of holidays for, is that something that is important for you?

A Yeah.

Q Do you like a good boogie too?

A We'll get dressed up, yeah. There's always one of them isn't there what wants to 'go and get your parent now and we're going to do the Parent Party Dance'.

Q Of course, that's right yeah. But you're happy to join in at that point?

A Yeah.

Q Oh brilliant, yeah. And do they have any like favourite songs or performance, you mentioned Little Mix, is that a group they like at the moment or something?

A Yeah, definitely like Little Mix. They like Ed Sheeran. It's hard to think of the names off the top of your head isn't it?

Q Yeah. Taylor Swift or anybody like that?

A Erm...not I'm not sure about Taylor Swift. There is a girl's name who are quite popular at the minute what Stephanie likes, but I've completely forgotten her name.

Q Ariana Grande?

A No it's not her, it will probably come back to me.

Q No I just wondered. So is that the kind of music that they used in their performance outside that time that they.....

A Yeah, but also a few from like Disney movies, they had Ariel in one of them, they did an Ariel song.

Q Oh right. How was it sort of structured, can you remember anything about it now, you know how did they put it together. It was obviously...

A A lot of it was based on the garden around the swing set that we've got, so involving climbing across there or doing a few like pull-ups on there, and then going across to the trampoline and doing a bit on there.

Q Oh OK so this must come from their gymnastics presumably, because do they both do that?

A Yeah.

Q So if they were using the swing seats where were you two sat?

A We were just...well my dad was here as well. They lined seats up for us and we sat on the patio so we could see, with that bit and that bit.

Q Oh fantastic. And does one of them tend to take the lead in that sort of thing, and are they good at negotiating it at all?

A Stephanie's probably the co-ordinator and the boss of it all. Because they had a little bit of a spat when Saskia decided that she didn't want to do the singing bit, because that's what she was supposed to do. We said 'well if she's got stage fright then don't force her'. So Stephanie had a bit of a strop because it's not gone to plan.

Q So she obviously had very clear ideas and had got it quite organised.

A Yes the written rehearsal things, so yeah. It's being the older one.

Q I mean I presume they've done that kind of doing a show for you thing before, but do you think anything particular had prompted that one, anything that you'd done?

A I think it was just from spending lots of time on the garden during the summer, and probably just they like to think up stuff like that to do. And so we've had one before which involved the LOL dolls what we had to go upstairs and watch. But yeah I think just because when it's been nice over the summer we just tend to chill out on the garden and have music on on my phone or whatever, and then from asking....I remember them asking for that Little Mermaid song and then I think that prompted some kind of 'oh let's do a routine to this' and then they've obviously gone off and thought about it and decided to do a show.

Q That's really interesting. I mean would you say it was sort of...

A It's just how the mind works.

Q And do you think once it was over that was it, you know and it's forgotten. Or do you think it sort of them morphs into anything else, you know is there any sort of follow on from it in any way?

A They'll probably still....even though they've performed it now they'll either be on with....I don't think they've got any other one in the pipeline but normally that's what tends to happen, they'll just move on to the next thing.

Q Do they watch anything like that, those sorts of shows on TV, you know with dancing and music and stuff?

A They haven't done yet, they've not really got into like X Factor and stuff. Stephanie started watching like Britain's Got Talent at one bit, but just because it tends to be on a bit later at the weekend they've normally gone up to bed by then so they've not really watched it. But yeah she did get into the Britain's Got Talent and quite likes watching that.

Q Can they get anything like that on Kids YouTube do you know?

A I would have thought so, I've never tried looking, but yeah they can probably watch the auditions and that on there.

Q Matt was mentioning they got quite into the unboxing type films, or the unwrapping films, the LOL dolls and things like that.

A Yeah I think that was probably one of the first things that they started to watch. I don't know how popular it is now, but yeah I used to look over their shoulder to see what they were watching and they were just watching things get unwrapped, like Kinder eggs, or LOL dolls has been a big thing. And to you, you're thinking 'this doesn't look very exciting' but they love it. And that's where they pick up all the American accents, because a lot of these children what are doing it have all got American accents.

So I noticed when Saskia was playing, and she was playing with her LEGO and she'd got the GoPro on, and then I said to her after 'why are you talking American', she's like 'I wasn't'. It's whether they know they're even doing it.

Q Yeah, that's interesting isn't it, yeah. Matt was saying they sort of, I think you mentioned it as well, they were sort of re-enacting some of those unboxing....

A Oh yeah, yeah, lots of re-enacting of the LOL stuff because that's the big....they haven't played with them as much recently but they've got a big collection of the little....I don't know if you know what they are but there's been a big craze over the last few years.

Q I've only seen them online and encountered them, they're very popular with quite a few of the families that we've been visiting, but I don't know a lot of detail on them. And I think each one is....

A They're a pain, because you find that many pieces everywhere. The little shoes are about this big, so you find them everywhere.

Q Oh right, sort of half a centimeter, yeah.

A You can put different outfits on and accessories. They're only tiny things. But you can put water in them as well because some spit and some cry.

Q Oh spit? OK.

A And you put them in water so their hair changes colour. There's a lot of things you can do with them, so you find them all over the bathroom as they've tried to change the colour hair and stuff. But yeah they can hours of fun with them.

Q How did you get into the LOL dolls, or how did they get into them, what led to your buying them the first time?

A I can't really remember. Probably just the latest craze and whether one of their....I think one of their friends started off getting them, and so they perhaps got a couple for Christmas and then it just carried on and went from there. They've got quite a few between them but not like....there's that many different series, and some parents go crazy thinking they have to have like every one from every series and spend a fortune on them. Because you don't know which one you're going to get – so it's called LOL Surprise. So there's some....it's a really clever idea, some are ultra rare, 1 in 100 or whatever, it might even be more than that. Others are fancy, they've got different ones. You get a little piece of paper with it, so you've got your rare, your ultra-rare which everybody wants, which people will pay like 100s of pounds for off eBay. And then you've got all your normal ones, glitter ones, chick ones, rare ones, sporty ones. So they really know what they're doing.

Yeah. But you get some parents what will just want their kid to have them all, and then as soon as they've got all of them it goes on to the next series and it will start again won't it?

Q So how do you feel about that and how do you manage that in terms of sort of parenting?

A Luckily, like I said before, they're not very demanding, I'm quite lucky that they're not 'I want, I want' kids, so they've never like kicked up a fuss that they want the latest or the rarest one. If they've ever got....they've never been lucky enough to get one of these rare ones but....they'd have been happy about it but they wouldn't ever kick up a fuss. Like you can have some children what just nag, nag, nag that much so that you give in.

Q Did you have any way of selecting...I mean obviously you can't really can you presumably? Are they different prices for the different types that you might get, or do you just....

A No it's just pot luck.

Q You just have to take pot luck what you get.

A Yeah.

Q So I wondered whether they had seen the films before they....like the unboxing on YouTube Kids?

A Well I would have imagined that's how it started, they probably watched it on YouTube first and then thought 'oh yeah these look good'. Because there's no TV programmes or anything about LOL, it's not been made into a movie or anything like that, it's literally just a craze that started, probably internet, yeah. And these LOL people are now millionaires because they've got LOL doll house which I think they brought out last Christmas what they charged something ridiculous, like nearly £200 for.

Q Wow.

A I know, yeah. And each of the little dolls are about £10 or £11, they're not bad, but then I say, because they want you to buy into the whole set – there might be like 20 dolls in the set – that's how they....and if people are paying over the odds. I've seen like bidding wars on eBay for ones going for ridiculous amounts.

Q Gosh. Have you just stumbled across them or have you done a little bit of research around this yourself would you say?

A Yeah, just from having a look. Like there's some what match with each other, so I might have thought 'oh I'll have a little look see if I could possibly get one', but then you think 'no I'm not paying that'.

Q Does that inform your approach then with the girls, if they were to become more demanding or want more would that obviously affect how you handled that?

A Yeah definitely.

Q Do you transmit any of that sort of....you're slightly skeptical about all this I can see, would you transmit any of that to them, do they know that you've got these like reservations about sort of Mattetisation of this stuff, or would you not comment on that sort of thing in front of them?

A No, probably not, I'm not sure.

Q Fair enough. Also, one of the questions we wondered is, do they have any internet-connected toys, you know actual toys as distinct from the devices which are obviously connected to the internet.

A Yeah I think Stephanie might have showed you last time, she won this big teddy thing on a raffle that's interactive and it lights up different colours and it plays stories and stuff.

Q Oh yeah that's right, yeah.

A So they've not got loads. I think they had a few when they were younger, you know like the Leap Frog things what you can have as interactive and put their voice on and stuff like that. So I think probably that might be the only one they've got now, that teddy what you can plug it into your computer and download a bit of stuff to it.

Q Yeah, I'd forgotten that you mentioned that, that's exactly right. And Matt actually mentioned something about, I think it's a different teddy some time ago, where it would read stuff from a book, it was sort of connected to a book?

A Yeah that was one of them VTech ones. Where you can....sort of stuff that's grown with them really. We had a little one where you would put batteries in it and you'd press that along and that would read it. Then I think one when they were a bit older where that might have actually read the book. We've had all sorts. So VTech and I think Leap Frog are big on stuff like that aren't they, the interactive books.

Q Yeah. And did you find them sort of useful, did the girls engage with them, either of them or both of them?

A Yeah they did for a while, and I think it's one of them things that gets forgotten about and chucked to one side when the batteries have run out or whatever. And then eventually they outgrew them. Because they had the little...probably before they got their tablets they had one of them little Leap Pad ones which are like the very early like interactive sort of tablet things for computers.

Q Yeah. And have they done anything with augmented reality, or virtual reality play at all?

A No not that I can think of, no.

Q That's fine. And have they done any – I can't remember if I've asked you this so tell me if I have, but I wondered if you'd used technology in outdoor spaces at all, like Pokemon Go or something like that maybe?

A No, I've heard about that but I've never really got into that Pokemon thing.

Q No? I think Geocaching is another type of one isn't it and things like that.

A No we've not done that.

Q That's fine. And who decides which digital toys or games or devices that the children will use, and what guides those choices would you say?

A In terms of like buying something new?

Q Yeah, or their use of them in terms of, you know in the household. Is it a joint decision that you have, or are you more or less on the same page do you think? How does it work out?

A Yeah, I mean they know they've got their tablets which are their pretty much 'go to' thing. But they're pretty good when we say 'right, that's enough now, you've been staring at that long enough, go and do something else', they don't kick up much of a fuss. And me and Matt and both pretty similar as to like how long we want them to spend on it.

Q Is that an actual length of time, or is it more a feeling of 'you've been on there long enough' a kind of intuition.



A Yeah, we don't have like a timer or anything. But you think, like at a weekend they might get up and chill on it for a bit, and then you think 'yeah right it's time to do something else now'.

Because sometimes, Stephanie more so, whether it's just because she's that bit older, I think she would sit on it all day if you let her. Whereas Saskia will play on it for a bit and then she'll go 'right I'm going to play upstairs', she's still more into her toys and she'll just go off and play on her own.

Q Yeah. So when Stephanie plays on it for a while do you have any sense of whether she's on the same thing all of that time, or whether she'll be flitting between a number of different apps or games or whatever on the same device – so between a number of different things that the tablet might do?

A Well most of the time so it's just, I was going to say 'watching rubbish on YouTube' but then lately she has downloaded a few games since she's got on that one. And then since they've come home from school with all their new stuff for the year, they've got logins for various different things. So I've been nudging them and like 'well, what about your Time Table Rock Stars, go on that for a bit', or 'what about...' they've got another one called Spelling Shed, so just reminding them to go on stuff like that as well.

Q But that's coming from you, they don't perhaps choose that of their own freewill?

A No, unless there's a....they have like battles at school between certain classes and stuff, then they want to be on it all the time because they want to win.

Q Yes, I gather Stephanie did very well with it.

A Yeah. She's been playing on this RoBlox game, which we had reservations about at first just because we'd heard some things about it, because it can be where they can link up with other people and chat to people and stuff, so we've been a bit wary. But we've monitored it and let her have a go, and she's joined like one or two friends from school who they can like play against. But as far as I know I don't think they've had any conversations on it.

Q So is that virtual world?

A Yeah, yeah. And she keeps being excited about her different character and where it's got to now, her avatar.

Q And in terms of setting her up with that, how much input did you have on that?

A I didn't do owt. I think Matt downloaded it and did what he needed to do, and she did the rest. I don't think I'd have a clue how to do it.

Q Yeah. Yes the film I made of her at school [in a previous research project], it was her in a group and they were pretending to play RoBlox on the ground.

A It seems to be very popular doesn't it?

Q Yeah, several children mentioned it. Do you know, does she talk about it, does she show you anything to do with it?

A Yeah, she just comes up and 'ooh I'm excited, look it's my....' I presume it's a game where the higher you get the better sort of character you get or the more things it can do. So she just comes up and shows me 'oh look I've got this, this and this now'. And I'm like 'yeah, great'.

Q So how do you think she feels about that, again what's the sort of emotional story going on there would you say?

A She seems quite happy to be playing it, and good that she can like add her friends on it and stuff. But as I say it's just one of them things that you've got to keep an eye on isn't it in case there's other people who can somehow add themselves on. I don't really like that whole world where they can like talk to each other and stuff through games and things.

Q Yes, so you are worried about the sort of data privacy and communication possibilities of these games.

A Yeah. But it's a hard one isn't it, because when everybody else is doing it....

Q And is that sort of more or less that you leave it to Matt to sort of set the filters or do things?

A Yeah. I mean my dad was the one who sort of picked that tablet for her, and then when we first got it we made sure it was all set up with the right privacy settings and stuff. But yeah that's Matt's domain again.

Q Yeah. So do you feel that buying a tablet has really supported Stephanie's play would you say? Well for both of them actually, they've each got a tablet haven't they?

A I think it does in a way, but then I do think they spend too much time on it. And like I say you have to tell them sometimes to go off and do some real playing rather than playing on the computer.

Q Yeah, and they sound quite biddable, they will do that, that's not too much of a tension?

A No, you don't have to drag them off it or owt.

Q So we're interested in exploring the link between play with technology and children's emotions and well-being, and I just wondered if you had any thoughts on that topic that you'd like to share, or stuff you've observed. For example, I was wondering when you said that Stephanie would sort of stay on it whether she appears passive, or is she displaying any emotions when she's sat with the tablet do you think?

A Yeah I think they do go into a bit of like a trance don't they? Because I'll often say just as like a joke 'come off the computer now because you're just going like....mmm' just because you do don't you yourself, when you're glued to your phone you go into that kind of

trance-like state don't you? Or if you're shouting her from another room – same as like when men are watching telly isn't it and they just zone out, and you're like 'hello'.

Q Yes so there's that incredible absorption in what she's doing, yeah.

A Yeah.

Q Is that the same for Saskia as well?

A No, not as bad, but still kind of, yeah.

Q And you said it's for a shorter time span. But when she's engaged with it is she very...

A Yeah, go into their own little world don't they?

Q Yeah, that's interesting. One of the things that LEGO wonders is whether you feel there are any particular kinds of toys or games or products – so that's not just...I mean it could be films or anything to do with the LEGO brand – they wonder if there's anything you feel they should be developing for children in this digital age. Is there something that isn't in that portfolio that would be good that you thought 'oh yeah that would be good for my kids, they'd enjoy that' or 'if that could speak to that' or 'we could do that with that'.

A Not something I've really given much thought to. But I think there's definitely enough out there at the minute sort of technology wise, I don't think we need any more. I'd rather it be more like your traditional things that LEGO do, just like all the LEGO stuff, rather than it being more technology based because I think they've got enough of that kind of stuff, it's kind of.... Some kids you can imagine, I've heard a few friends say that literally they will, boys in particular, like just not see them for hours on end because they're just upstairs on the Xbox or whatever and not doing much else. It can't be good for you can it?

Q So if it were non-digital is there anything in the LEGO that you....or is what they're doing at the moment sufficient as well in that respect would you say?

A Yeah, I would think LEGO have got it pretty covered haven't they, they've got everything haven't they.

Q There is a lot certainly, but you may as a parent and a user have seen other things?

A No not that I can think of.

Q My impression is that you really value the sort of actual LEGO stuff, the stuff they can put together, they can create with and so on. How about the TV and film type stuff or the other branded stuff, maybe bags or lunch boxes or, I don't know, do you have any feelings about not necessarily LEGO but any of those sort of branded goods that go with those sorts of toys?

A What, whether they're a good idea?

Q Yeah and how they are for your family and with your children, yeah.

A Yeah well definitely the Disney brand is one that we've been doing a lot with, and they like that.

Q Yeah, you're comfortable with that?

A Yeah. You're always going to have branded stuff aren't you? I don't think you're ever going to get away from it.

*[Recording is paused]*

Q Let's go to the end of this section if you're OK with that, we're nearly there, I've got about 4 or 5 more questions there. What types of technology mediated play do you think are more likely to lead to expressions of joy from your child or children than other types of technology? So we've mentioned that on their tablet they're perhaps a bit absorbed and there's no outward expressiveness, but are there other types of play – I don't know with the, gosh is it an Alexa or a home hub or something you've got – or you know the bear or...you know those things, do you think there is anything that makes them more outwardly expressive and...

A Yeah, and even like some things on the tablets that they watch, they'll go on GoNoodle which is a thing that they use at school and that gets them dancing about. Or like I said they can be quite engaged when, if it is like a Time Table Rock Stars things and they can battle against other children at the school, they'll probably get excited about that. So that's better than just the one-sided 'oh I'm just staring at the computer watching rubbish'. Alexa definitely, because asking it for music and then probably dancing about to it.

Q Yes. So when they're doing that do they get quite excited and dizzy kind of thing would you say with the dancing and things, do they..

A Yeah.

Q Do they watch themselves at all or film themselves doing that, or are they more kind of just....

A No not really, not that I've noticed.

Q Do you do anything like that, or do you preserve any record of shows or stuff they create?

A We've got sort of pretty much everything they've ever done at school wise, like brought it home from when they have like....what do you call it....at the end of a topic they'll do an exhibition and all the work that has been put on they'll do. I've got lots of videos obviously from different phones and stuff. There's a really funny one of Saskia when she's about 2 singing Frozen in the bath, and she'd only just...I might have mentioned it before, she'd only just pretty much learned to talk, but just her expressions and everything, it's hilarious. She's not saying the words right or anything, but we'll just watch that and just laugh so much. And she even laughs about it 'look at you'. It's just called Saskia Singing Frozen in the Bath, but she's just like doo-doo-doo but you can tell what she's trying to sing. It's so funny.

Q That's lovely.

A I know, that was just from around...it came out around the time that she was like 1 or 18 months, so it was really like 'oh wow' Frozen was crazy at that point weren't it when it first come out.

Q It was everywhere wasn't it for a while, that's right. Are those the sort of things you might keep on your phone or something like that?

A Yeah. And when you put stuff on Facebook, they have a thing called Memories, so every year the thing that you've posted like the previous year, or 5 years before, will pop up. And they'll be like 'oh look, this is what....'

Q So will the kids look at that sort of thing, or you'll show them?

A I'll show them, yeah. So if it comes up on Memories I'm like 'oh look, little baby photos of you' or 'this is that time when you did this'.

Q Yeah. How do they respond to that?

A They like that. Like 'is that me?' So I do like Facebook for that, because it can be sort of like a timeline of your life in a way depending on how much you put on it. And I like putting a lot of like photos and stuff on it just so, like I say, you can look back, have a look and remember everything that you did and when. And they like looking at photos a lot. My dad's very....when he first got a computer, which was probably, I don't know it might have been around the time Stephanie was born, and then I think when he retired you've got too much time on your hands and then the next thing he's like scanning every photo that we've ever had and putting them into albums on the computer. So he's got literally everything. And they'll go up to his and they'll be like 'oh let's look at some photos of mummy'. And he's got a folder what's just called Katie and there'll be every photo of me in there. It must have took him hours.

Q So this is pre-digital. So he's scanned ones when you were a child say or something like that?

A Yeah. And then now, when I take my photos I have to save them to his hard drive so that he can organise them and add to his collection.

Q He's like the family archivist.

A Yeah. He loves it. And then they'll just be like 'oh so let's look at some photos of this holiday, that holiday', he'll be like 'hang on' get them all up. And he can even do it where you put a slide show on the telly. So yeah. They like looking at themselves don't they children.

Q Yeah.

A 'Look, me again'.

Q Yeah.

A And then you realise all your photos are just of the children, you're like 'there's none of us' just spend all your time taking them of the kids, don't you?

Q That's right. They'll have the most amazing record won't they when they're in that position with their own children.

A My dad said something ridiculous, like between Stephanie being born and up to her being one, like so many photos, like thousands of photos, because you just go a bit crazy don't you?

Q Well yes. I don't know if that's his first grandchild, she's his first grandchild?

A No but it was our first, yeah. And just around the time of like you say where cameras and computers....

Q Yeah, yeah phones and things, yeah.

A It used to just be the days of buying a disposable camera and what have you didn't it, and having them developed. Now you can just take millions and millions and millions.

Q Oh that's really interesting. Do the children ask you to take photos of them and film them and do stuff?

A Yes Saskia does. So this morning – I'll send you the picture actually – they had a day at school that was Times Table Rock Stars.

Q Well I was there this morning so I saw them in their Rock...because they could dress up couldn't they?

A Oh yeah, Saskia's got changed.

Q Yeah I just saw that, yeah.

A They were really excited about that. And then it was like 'will you take a picture' and I've got a crazy video of Saskia doing a bit of headbanging this morning what I sent to Matt. That was quite funny. [F3p\_20190920\_v017]

Q Oh that's brilliant. Thank you by the way for the photos you did send, they were great. I just wondered if you wanted to sort of comment on them at all or talk a bit about them. There was....

A I think I meant to send you the finished article, did I not? Which was just the cardboard one?

Q The cardboard one, yes, how did it turn out in the end?

A It looked....she was calling it Robobot 2000 – it looked a bit like a gingerbread house. But I'm sad to say it was on the kitchen table for a while, and then it's got recycled. So I

can't remember if I took a photo of it. I'll have a look. I remember saying that I was going to take a picture of the finished article for you didn't I?

Q So that Robobot....

A Robobot 2000, she came up with that?

Q Where has that come from?

A No idea. I said 'what is it'.

Q Is she into robots or anything like that?

A No I don't think so, but then there must be something in the pipeline because Stephanie keeps asking for this robot thing. It must be again something they've seen online. And the Smyths magazine came the other day, and as they do they flick through it. And Stephanie started writing ideas down for Christmas and one of them is like a robot thing.

So who knows, this might be the next latest craze, something to do with robots that I don't know about it.

Q Yes you'll have to keep us posted. And then you said it's absolutely lovely one of them at the library.

A Oh yeah. They did the little reading challenge, got their medals, and then from that they've still be getting books out from the library – I think we've got one to take back actually. They do enjoy going down to the library, and they always take part in that reading challenge every year and get a little certificate from it.

Q And from what you've told me books are quite a big part of their lives.

A Yeah they absolutely love books, both little book worms. So they'll just, like I said before, we've just always had like technology free bedrooms, so all they do is go up and read. And even in the morning, Saskia always comes in first and I'll say 'is Stephanie up yet', 'yeah she's just reading'. And I'm having to be like 'Stephanie come on, you need to get ready', 'I just want to finish this chapter'.

Q Does he have particular favourite sorts of books, or particular....

A She's reading a lot of Diary of the Wimpy Kid at the minute and David Walliams books, yeah.

Q And does she read anything on a device, or is it always a book book?

A She hasn't really, no. My dad's got a Kindle but she's not really read any books on the computer. But a lot of people don't, I've not really got into that, I just prefer an actual book, yeah.

Q Are you a bit of a reader as well would you say?

A When I can yeah, but it probably takes me like 3 or 4 months to finish a book, it's having the time isn't it? Try and take one when we go to the caravan. That's my book reading time.

Q Yeah that's right, in half term, yeah that's right, you've got something to do if the weather's not good.

A Yeah.

Q And then the third one you sent me was this absolutely brilliant one of Stephanie getting the scrapbook together. How is that going?

A She's still doing that, yeah. We had two lots of photos printed out, and then I think we still need some more, because she was going through it day by day. But yeah it's still in the conservatory, she's just working on it sort of as and when she wants to. It will be lovely when it's done. I'm sure she'll want to show you.

Q And is that an idea coming from her that she wants to immortalize the trip like this, is that her idea?

A Yeah. Because she got the scrapbook for her birthday and then I kind of say 'oh you could use it for Disney', and so there were saved bits, we saved the tickets and the passes and photos, and she's kind of writing her favourite bits. And she's done it really nice.

Q Have you been helping her at all, apart from encouraging to save things?

A Not really, just putting the photos. And then Saskia wanted to help her a bit, but Stephanie's a bit precious about it and didn't want her doing it wrong. So Saskia wants me to buy her a scrapbook for her birthday so she can do one.

Q Oh lovely. OK so there could be two productions there.

A Yeah.

Q Oh that's great, thank you. Two more questions then. Do you think that any particular types of technology might lead to more social play, sort of interactive with other children, each other, with yourselves, compared to others? So are certain types more interactive than others would you say?

A I suppose like what we were talking about like the games on the computer, there seem to be more and more now don't they where they can interact with others and play against others.

Q But you're not so comfortable with those I'm picking up, because you're not sure who those others are.

A Yeah you've just got to be careful haven't you, yeah.



Q If you felt confident that they could only be in touch with friends and people who were proper friends, people they knew face to face, would you feel more comfortable with those forms of play and you'd be happy for them to do that?

A Yeah, I don't mind, I think it's a way of them connecting with their friends outside of school isn't it and promoting their friendships a bit more.

Q Yeah. And finally, can you think of any skills or knowledge that either of them have developed through playing with technology?

A I think they get so much from it don't they? As much as you sometimes dislike it because of the amount of time they spend on it I just think they are really good for just learning them so many different things through, like I say, the things that they've got through school now, everything seems to be 'log on to this, that and the other'. So schools use it all the time don't they? And Steph's learnt how to use all the Google Docs to prepare like homework things and stuff.

Q Thank you Katie.