

Q = Main interviewer (Cath)

Q2 = Second interviewer (Beth)

A = Mum (Ria)

B = Dad (Miles)

C = Zander (boy)

D = Greta (girl)

Q OK, so if I could just start by asking some questions about how Zander sort of plays and how Greta plays, how they play together and what kind of things they like to do when they play. So what kind of play do they sort of usually use, what's their day to day play like?

A I would say Zander does play with quite a lot of LEGO. Zander tends to be quite independent in his play, like he'll go into his bedroom and set up a train track, or set up some kind of track you know where the cars go round by themselves, or he'll do LEGO or....what else? Just making things from Duplo, or like building blocks or....and then Greta tends to come in and obviously wants to be part of it. So, whatever is going on at the time she will just happily, you know. And obviously there's that thing of Zander's trying to build something, obviously he's got a vision of what he's trying to do and there's that kind of thing of, you know she's trying to take....you know, or she wants to just be part of it. So yeah it's kind of a....yeah it's just kind of sort of helping her a bit more I guess, like distracting her with something so that she can, you know do the same but....

Q Yeah. So what kind of...when you say like train tracks, are those things that have sort of like, are they like electric trains or battery powered?

A Like Brio, tend to be Brio tracks, yeah.

Q Oh yeah, so the wooden?

A Yeah. But I've noticed, you know he's now like building a track himself, he's making more complicated tracks himself, whereas before it was like helping him build them. Now he'll just go and....and I'll come in and there'll be dinosaurs all over them or....do you know what I mean, just kind of obviously more creative play where he's thinking 'there's a volcano and there's a dinosaur' you know he's kind of creating a scene almost.

Q Oh right, oh that's really interesting.

A A lot of the time he will be doing colouring or....

Q So he likes sort of art and creative?

A Quite arty, yeah, yeah definitely. And so does Greta, so I think that's...yeah, sometimes quite often I'll come in and he'll be doing dot to dot or colouring or....

Q Things like painting and things like that?

A Yeah. Definitely Greta is more, yeah.

Q So those are some of their sort of, his and Greta's sort of favourite things to do.

A Yeah. Hi babe. What are you getting?

Q That looks really snuggly, is that a whale?

A What is it?

Q Can I have a little look? What is it? Do you wear this?

D ???

Q Yeah? That's amazing.

D ???

Q Oh is it like a little snuggly blanket? It looks like you're being eaten by a big fish.

A She likes blankets, she also likes to...it's funny, I do find that everything is Zander. I sort of see her almost copying, yeah copying, whatever he does she wants to do as well.

Q She wants to do as well. So their play styles are quite sort of similar and they like...does Greta play with LEGO, or is it...?

A Yeah definitely. I mean I think she struggles to put it together and break it apart, but it's more she'll pick out bits and put them in box, or do you know what I mean, it's kind of....

Q Sorting?

A Yes, sorting, and picking out the animals and people. I mean Duplo definitely she will build....

Q You're going to vanish!

A Where's the top?

Q So thinking about kind of LEGO and things like that, Zander's obviously got a lot of – well from what I can see he's got quite a lot of LEGO building blocks and things like that. So what kind of things does he make when he's playing with LEGO?

A A lot of it's quite transport-themed, say planes, cars, you know he often builds very, very long things or very tall things. He's got quite a few like dragon and dinosaur bits so quite often he'll do some kind of dragon or dinosaur.

Q Ah yeah, he was building a dragon car when we got here. I really like the dragon car, that was quite fun.

Time 5:00

A But yeah, and it's funny he used to be quite into superheroes and stuff and I feel like that's not so much....don't know. He used to be really quite heavily into all the superheroes, especially superhero LEGO, but now I notice it's more dragons and cars and planes.

Q Oh right. Was that sets and things like that, superheroes, that you could get?

A Yeah, quite a lot, you know like Batmobiles and Spiderman vehicles and stuff. But not as much, like he won't....yeah, it tends to be more free building, like big cars or long things.

Q Was that from like the LEGO Movies and stuff like that?

A Yeah I guess so, but even before he really knew them, it's just things that he was bought.

Q So has he seen the LEGO films and things like that?

A I think he's seen a LEGO film, yeah. Yeah I think so, yeah.

Q So does he have kind of other sort of LEGO brand items?

A Like the....what do they call it....the brick...as in like....what, aside from the bricks, or just like....

Q Yeah, just like sort of t-shirts, or toys or films or things associated with it?

A Yeah, I mean he's had a couple of t-shirts and stuff. And yeah he had quite a lot of figures, you know like Superman and Batman, like big plastic figures. But again I wouldn't say he really plays with them that much.

Q OK, so his play is sort of developing away from that and getting more sort of with the technical building side of....

A I thought it was quite interesting, actually in the holidays, it was the first time he'd played like a big castle, like a fort and like soldiers and stuff like that, and he played with that for quite a long time, like placing all the figures and stuff and like he set up like a bit of a scene. And yeah he was quite into that. But I wouldn't say just normal, big plastic figures, not really.

Q Has he played on any of the LEGO games, do you have any of the LEGO games at all?

A I don't think we do, no.

Q No?

A As in like on tablets, or on....

Q Yeah on tablets, and on like consoles and things like that.

A Not that I....unless he's done some of them, you know showing him stuff, I don't know. No. So we did go to Bricktropolis in the summer. That was really fun and they really enjoyed that. We went with some friends and it was like a challenge to build a spaceship, yeah.

Q Oh yeah, we went round the trail, did you go round the...

A We did, we did it last year actually, but we didn't do it this year. And it was brilliant.

Q It's quite long isn't it?

A It's quite a walk, but yeah he did really love that. Last ??? we just didn't get round to it [but?] he definitely loved the building challenge. And I think seeing the groups and then seeing at the end everyone's different things, they really enjoyed like just seeing different people's visions and obviously....

Q Oh yeah.

A And it was funny, because him and his friend I think they had to build something really tall, so they built the tallest rocket or something and they did like a space station, and it was really large, not tall, but I just thought it was quite interesting that it's like....

Q Takes a lot of the moon.

A Yeah, so it was like they had their idea, it wasn't kind of on the brief, but it's still like really good. But it's just interesting to see them all like thinking....

Q Was that at the workshop thing?

A Yeah.

Q We didn't go to the workshop but we went to see the massive mosaic, did you see that downstairs at the....there was kind of like a contribute to a big mosaic of space. That was downstairs in the City Hall Ballroom. I think when we got there they'd finished the mosaic so we just sort of admired it. But there was that as well.

A No I didn't see that.

Q What sort of thing were they doing at the workshops then?

A I mean it was literally just they had massive blocks, really big ones and they were really good, especially for Greta. And then it was just a bit like free play. But then it was just literally the challenge kind of to build the tallest spaceship. And I think it was something like you had to have an alien on it, so you had to build an alien as well. So yeah I don't know, 50 minutes or something like that.

Q So because this project's looking at sort of play and technology there are quite a few sort of technology related questions. So does technology feature in Zander's play either on his own or with Greta much would you say?

Time 10:00

A I guess with definitely like TV, they have like film night on a Friday night.

Q Oh, film night is Friday night?

A Friday night is like film night ??? And I think just recently Greta has started sitting with Zander and watching a bit of the film, but I don't....you know not very much really. Definitely like obviously with the tablets, with Zander's tablet, he will play that. And I think it tends to be the same games, it tends to be like a football game and a racing game. I've got to be honest, my husband like downloads the games and I don't really know that much about it to be honest. What else does he do? He does like things on the computer, but it's more like CBeebies games and MyMaths, it tends to be more like...

Q Yeah. Do some of those suggestions like come from school, like MyMaths and things like that?

A Yeah. And that is probably the only time he really uses the laptop, it is for MyMaths and anything....there's a few things like from school, like websites that we do use, like for phonics and stuff like that.

Q Oh yeah. Is there like Time Table Rockstars at all?

A Oh I don't know.

Q That might be for an older age group.

A I think there is....like a lot of the maths and phonics stuff has been, it's been OK, but again I don't....

C Mummy, can you just stick that in there?

Q So what sort of films do you.... when it's film night do they pick the films, do Zander and Greta pick the films?

A Zander, it tends to be Zander to be honest.

Q Do you have like Netflix or....

A Yeah we do yeah. I mean he's really into dog films. So like....(whispers) Yeah, like really. So that's been the latest. And what's that other one called....Air Bud, like the dog who is like a Labrador and just saves the day all the time, and he plays for football teams. So it's kind of footballing dogs.

Q Ah, I might have seen it. Is it a retriever?

A Yes. And it's a really sweet film. So that's like his current favourite. But that's what I mean, it's changed from being things like LEGO, so he's kind of gone off those kind of films. And it's almost like he's discovered real....not real life but he gets the real life thing, if that makes sense.

Q Ah yeah. I think I know what you mean.

A Like dimensional.

Q Yeah, the more in-depth story telling with like real actors and real people, yeah.

A Yeah.

Q Opposed to like CGI and stuff.

A Which that has only been quite recent. So that's definitely something like, you know these dog movies, that's like his first choice. But obviously some of them are PG and I'm never like...I don't....yeah I'm not sure about that, there have been a few PG films that he's seen but I don't really put them on at all. I'm trying to think what else he....it tends to be like all the Cars movies and things like that.

Q Oh the Cars movies, yeah.

A Yeah, and things like Frozen and you know the Disney films.

Q Yeah, Disney films, yeah. I think last time you mentioned that he'd got a race track or something like that to do with the Cars?

A Yeah that's another thing that he loves, but that needs building, you see that's like....so we have to get that out and have it out because it is quite...and it takes up a lot of space. But yeah that is like one of his favourite toys.

Q So does that come out sort of like at weekends or holidays or something like that?

A Just whenever....sometimes if we know like we'll be playing stuff on there like they'll all want to....

Q Oh OK, so this is a thing he would play with his friends?

A Yeah.

Q Would he ever play it on his tablet with his friends or anything like that?

A No. I don't think. No. It tends to be....yeah, crazy ??? eights where they're just all upstairs just building LEGO or playing with, I don't know, teddies or, you know in the den, like just...

Q Yeah.

A And we play quite a lot of games as well, we do play quite a lot of board games. That tends to be when it's just Zander and I or...like you know obviously when Greta is around it's....we do try but obviously it's....you know. It's easier when it's just when me and Zander still have time together that is something that we probably would always do.

Time 15:00

Q And so what would you say the balance is of indoor and outdoor play?

A I mean they do play in the garden. Like I think in the summer I was conscious about setting things....because our garden's quite small and it's not like it's grass where they can kick a ball around or anything like that, so it's like I almost have to set an activity up, do you know what I mean, and then they will be out there for a while doing something. But they wouldn't necessarily just....I mean they do go out and like run around and stuff, but it's just the hazards of steps and like, I don't know, you know and like walls and things, it's not kind of....and I do feel an activity is like better. And then obviously we....and then we go to the park and stuff like that.

Q Yeah, because you're quite near a park aren't you?

A Yeah, so we do spend quite a lot of time in say the park or [location name] gardens, and then when we're outside it tends to be something that....like it's something that I have set up for them.

Q What sort of things would you sort of set up?

A Probably...over the summer I did like dinosaur slime and stuff ??? and we had like a mud thing as well, we had all the cars out there and they were making some tracks and stuff like that.

Q Oh that sounds really fun. So sort of like....

A It's quite sensory for Greta, but actually Zander loves it as well. You know like we've made like volcanoes and stuff like that.

Q The slide's been a bit of a hit hasn't it?

A I just find ??? the better, but I think that's something about the ??? they kept, you know it's not ???

Q Is it mostly paved?

A Yeah, it's easy to maintain, we've got one of those...is it Tub Trays or whatever, so it's quite easy to like keep things in there and....we did like chocolate mud and they had all their cars like going down the slides ??? playing with that. But yeah I find that's....and they will play happily for like an hour, an hour and a half. Whereas if the door's just open and Zander's kicking a ball around, that's basically what he does with his friends, but obviously when it's just him and Greta it doesn't last that long, you know I think it just doesn't really lend itself to....yeah, like a game of football also, it's just....Yeah, we do tend to go out to the parks for more. Just like playing, running around kicking, like we take a little ball into the park and stuff like that.

Q And you mentioned playing board games and things like that, so....

A Yeah.

Q So do you play sort of together as a family quite a bit or....

A Yeah, like Zander and I tend to play... you know in like Greta has dinner at nursery and stuff we'll often play like a ball game together. Yeah we do play as a family, like I know Greta does like sit by me and play as well, sometimes it's just...you know if it's a long game, if it's like Junior Monopoly or something like that, you know it's a bit different. Or like the Frozen game he loves.

Q Yeah. So you would say that sort of like play involving technology is quite low level do you think?

A I would say. I mean like with tablet time, because he's quite....

Q How long does he get sort of tablet time?

A It tends to be like he'll probably go like a week ??? without any tablet, and then he may have....I don't know, like an hour or....it tends to be on journeys really on the whole, like on long journeys when we're going somewhere to see family, or like on an aeroplane. And sometimes, you know sometimes it will be like we say he can have 20 minutes or something, but I wouldn't say it's....it's not ??? all the time, it's really not. It tends to be a bigger chunk at.....

Q At a sort of appropriate time.

A Yeah, basically yeah.

Q What about Greta, does she do anything sort of tech related?

A I mean she has a tablet, but it's more she will watch a Peppa Pig or something. Obviously she's just playing, and then she gets frustrated I think when things don't...you know when she can't....if something comes up that she can't get off, or she's gone on to a game and she doesn't know....

Q OK. How does she have Peppa Pig on the tablet, is it like through YouTube or...

A No it's ??? it's just on...I don't know, my husband....I'm so really not techy. My husband must have uploaded certain episodes or something. So there's a few on there. Press one ??? Are you tidying?

Q So all the green ones.

A Are you tidying?

Time 20:00

Q Something good. So they both sort of play on tablets. Do they ever play on your phone at all or is that....

A I think Zander probably does play on Miles's phone, I don't really let them play on my phone. I just don't know. Zander sometimes takes photographs and things.

Q OK, what does he like to take?

A I'm worried they're going to delete videos. That's the main thing that I worry that they might do, like videos and photographs by accident or something.

Q Yeah. Do you have quite a lot of photos on your phone and things like that?

A Yeah, and they're not like backed up.

Q Are they like family photos or things like that?

A Just like family photos, yes, and photos of them, and they do go back. I mean obviously it is backed up but, I don't know I just...I don't know.

Q I think we're all a bit like that aren't we though.

A I don't know what it is, I just think it's quite like....I don't know. I just think that like he's got his tablet and he can take photographs with that. And he's got a cam...well I think it's broken actually but he used to have a camera.

A But I'd much rather him have a camera, you know that he can do, than using mine, I don't know, it just feels like it's....I don't know.

Q Yeah. Do you have anything like sort of an Alexa or Siri or...

A Yes we do.

Q You do? You have an Alexa?

A We do have an Alexa and it used to be on all the time actually, and now I don't ever have it on.

Q OK.

A I don't know. Because I heard something about it, like Big Brother stuff. I didn't watch the programme but I heard that it like... like we're putting ??? in again and just like....I don't know, it just feels like an intrusion of privacy. So I don't know. Like I do turn it on like when we want music or something, but I wouldn't just have it on like all the time. I don't know, it's really just what I heard from someone else about that programme and I was like 'oh God'.

Q OK, what was it sort of saying, was it about.....

A It was just that people listen in to your conversations. And it's fine, they can listen, like it's going to be boring, but it's just more...I don't know, it feels like quite an intrusion of privacy that someone can just log on and like listen to you, and then they can start...I don't know how, it's not very technical, so I think it's....I don't know, it just feels a bit wrong.

Q So it comes out sort of occasionally and...

A Yeah, and if they want music on and Zander wants to like...because they do request songs and stuff, so I will put it on like, you know. But it's just I wouldn't just have it on constantly all the time, and I wouldn't be like asking Alexa for different things, it's just....I don't know.

Q What kind of music do they like to ask for?

A It was Baby Shark a while ago.

Q Oh yeah.

A That was the thing. I don't even know where that came from. But that was a bit of a...you know.

Q Did Zander ever see the videos of it on YouTube and stuff like that?

A Yeah, yeah. And again I don't know how. I don't even...I think it was just because it was Greta's tablet and they obviously found that video then. So they were asking for that for a while, Poo Poo song, that was one.

Q Ah! This has only just come on to my radar, the Poo Poo song!

A All the best songs! But then he does ask for a lot of Disney songs as well.

Q Does he hear about the songs from like friends or...

A I don't know, I honestly don't know. I think the shark one was through Greta's tablet seeing as they both ??? But then the Poo Poo song I think was a mistake, that he was going through a bit of a pee pee wee wee phase and he just asked, and that came on. So obviously that was....I think that was how that probably came about. But yeah I ??? any Disney songs. And then occasionally there's like the odd pop song that obviously they've heard at like parties and stuff.

Q So when they ask for songs what do they do, do they....

A Literally say....

Q Do they dance or do they....what do they do, do they just sit and listen or...

A Mainly singing really. Yeah, in fact it's usually like when we're having tea or something.

Q So they like sort of singing along too.

A Yeah. But they probably never just ask, unless they were having like a bit of a disco, you know unless they have friends round.

Q Oh would they have a disco? That's really cute. Let's have a little dance-off!

A Yeah.

Q That's quite adorable. So as regards to...I mean do they notice when the Alexa sort of vanished, or do they ask for it to come out?

Time 25:00

A It's usually they ask for something and then I have to switch.....you know as in they're just asking.

Q Alexa sort of disappearing 'where's the Alexa gone'. What sort of things do they watch on TV and things like that? You've mentioned Greta likes Peppa Pig but...

A That's about all Greta will watch to be honest. Zander, I don't know whether Zander just takes it because that's the only thing that Greta....he'll just happily watch that. It's either that or it tends to be films. He did like a dinosaur programme, Andy's Prehistoric Adventures. That was a big favourite for a while, that was his go to whenever I said 'you can watch something'.

Q Is it a Smart TV that you've got or is it....

A Yeah. But yeah like he would know, he'd be able to find it on Love Film or like Netflix or...

Q Ah! So would you say he's quite got a grasp of using the devices around the house?

A I would say so. The TV probably but definitely I've noticed when we do like MyMaths and stuff like that on the laptop, and I don't know whether it's because it's maybe different to school, you know I don't know whether they have the mouse and stuff at school and obviously it might be different on say like an Apple. So I notice like with the search bar and stuff, I wouldn't say he is confident with it, he still needs help. He obviously knows like letters, but I think it is more from memory, recognising what it should say or where to go. I don't know, I just wouldn't....

Q Do they use touch screens and things like...are they sort of confident with touch screens and things like that?

A As in what, you mean with tablets?

Q Yeah.

A Yeah I guess, yeah. But I don't know whether Zander would be able to go online and find something. You know sometimes we have things from school saying 'do research on' and I don't know whether he would go and know how to get on to Google and to type, just that level of like....like if we do research it tends to be like we can input ??? at school, ??? school. Or obviously with me, which again I feel like that's not like you know his work, do you know what I mean? I think he wouldn't necessarily be able to go on to Google and stuff.

Q Right, yeah. So does he have like any sort of apps or anything like that that he likes to use on the tablet or anything like that? I think you said he doesn't....

A That's probably like a question....honestly I don't really.....I genuinely feel like I don't really know. Like when he goes on the tablet ??? things like ??? you know he's the one who puts the games on ??? But he will ask, like him.

Q What kind of sort of like....thinking about, because we were talking about creativity and things like that, what kind of sort of games and devices or things like that in your view sort of promote play, sort of get your children playing particularly. What kind of things do you think catch them the most when it comes to, I suppose, technological and non-technological stuff?

A Technological stuff?

Q Yeah. In terms of technology around the house is there anything in particular that they've....

A Do you mean, as like I said I think it's the ??? remote control cars and stuff.

Q Remote control cars.

A And like he's got a remote control helicopter and stuff like that.

Q Oh has he? Does that fly....

A Greta – please be careful my angel with that.

Q Does it fly outside?

A Yes.

Q Oh wow.

A It's only like a little one, I think it's gone out. But yeah he's quite engaged with that, those kind of things at the moment. And like the remote control car he will play with for ages. In terms of like, I don't know in terms of technology, I don't really know. I mean I never like....a while ago my husband got the Wii out and stuff and they did like playing with that, and I think he really got it, and like the sort of fitness ones and the bowling and stuff that they were doing.

Q Oh Wii, is that Wii Sports?

A Yes, it's like down there but we've not had it out for ages to be honest.

Q Did he get quite into that, did he get quite involved with it?

A Yes he was really into it. But I think that's like because it was like some time when like my husband....and like just....and just because Zander, because they were competitive

like, you know kind of like ??? and stuff with my husband, do you know what I mean? Yeah he did really like that. I don't really know what else.

Q Does he have any other games on the Wii that you play?

A I don't know, it is all the sports stuff again, like my husband, it's like Miles who was playing with it with him.

Q OK, I think we'll....

A It's hard to think off the top of your head isn't it, when you're just like....

Q Yeah, no, no.

A You take it for granted don't you like when they're playing and what they're doing, and you just....don't know. A lot of the time now like you can hear him in his bedroom, he's like making up scenarios and like voices and stuff and like that kind of thing.

Q Yeah.

A And whether it's like a dinosaur and something else, or a teddy or...

Q So it's like imaginative stuff.

A It's more imaginative play. And quite often teddies as well.

Q Yeah, any sort of teddy from childhood and things like that?

A Yeah, just like...and you know like a big lion and a shark and that kind of thing.

Q So they don't sort of get screen time, but how do you sort of feel about them playing with sort of tech and things like that?

A To be honest I feel like I'm not...I feel like I'm not giving them enough opportunity to play online with apps and stuff like that because I'm not really into it. I feel like when they do play tablets I worry that he's just playing the same games, because they do get quite into the same thing don't they, and I think.... I know he likes his football game and his racing game, and then anything that he does on the laptop really is, apart from CBeebies, which are more like platform games and stuff, it is a lot more schoolie stuff. So yeah I don't really know. I kind of feel like I know there's a lot more out there that like he's accessed and they need access to, but I don't really know....I feel it's quite overwhelming to be honest. I don't really know where to start, and I kind of don't want to encourage it at this age, like having too much time on them. Because I think he does....I feel he has enough screen time and tablet time. It might be convenient you know because we're on a journey or whatever, but I don't know.

Q OK that's fine, thank you.