

Q = Main interviewer (Cath)

Q2 = Second interviewer (Beth)

A = Mum (Halima)

C = Child 1 (Ahmad, boy, 14 years)

D = Child 2 (Samir, boy, 12 years)

E = Child 3 (Hanif, boy, 8)

F = Child 4 (Kamal, boy 2)

Q OK so back to recording now. So just as part of the second visit we're going to look at a few more of the case study questions. I think last time we were talking about things, like we were talking about YouTube and sort of the kinds of technology that you sons have and like to play with. So I think we talked a bit last time about sort of things like over use of technology and stuff like that, but I think some of the questions that I'd like to look at today are kind of like about sort of technology and devices, perhaps some toys, and sort of things that are creative, OK? So if I just start off with a few questions just about sort of perhaps Hanif, what he enjoys playing. Would you say that technology features in his play a lot, or how does it feature in his play?

A It features quite a lot.

Q It features quite a lot. Is that sort of on a daily basis or....

A Almost, but I try and limit it.

Q Yeah.

A So if it was just him he would be playing....he would not be playing, he'd be watching, he's not a player, he will just sit down ??? as much videos as he can. So he will....you've seen my kids stream from one thing to another, so with YouTube it's quite good, he searches something and it will give you all the things that he will be interested in.

Q OK.

A And he would watch certain cartoons, and some of the cartoons I will say 'no, you're not watching that, it's not suitable'.

Q OK so....

A Like Four For Tunes. {Four four two?}

Q What's that sorry?

A I think it's Four For Tunes.

Q Four For Tunes?

A I think that's what it's called.

Q OK.

A And it's basically a sketch of footballers and they'll talk about recent games that they've done or they haven't done, but with a lot of adult humour that he doesn't get, and it's quite rude as well.

Q Ah right OK, because 8 is he?

A He's 8, yes. But the trouble is, I think most of the.....I'm assuming most of the....

A Yeah, so yeah some of the things would be advertised or on the screen, but he'd watch it because he thinks its football and he thinks it's funny because they've got pictures of like cartoon figures of a particular footballer, it looks quite funny. And it's got catchy song lyrics from other songs.

Q Ah right, so it's sort of like popular songs, tunes that they know but they change the lyrics.

A It's proper songs but they change the lyrics to suit the football thing that's going on.

Q OK, so it's kind of mixing up different sort of media and....

A Mixing of lots of media, lots of things that's happened in football, lots of things that happen in reality. It's funny I think if you're an adult, but I don't think it's suitable for him so I'm always saying 'no you can't watch that, you can't do that'.

Q Do his brothers watch it?

A I think he found that because of older cousins.

Q Ah OK.

A [Nickname?] do you want to build some things with him over there. Get the building blocks, yeah?

Q So does he watch much television or does he watch....on balance is it YouTube videos or is it television that he watches?

A He will watch television, he will watch ??? And he'll watch Grizzly and the Lemmings, and he'll watch Alvin and the Chipmunks. He'll watch all them. And when it's his turn to play on the PlayStation he will choose not to play Fortnite, which is fantastic because it's not for his age. We've got FIFA, we've got other games that he can play, but even when his brothers were still playing FIFA he wasn't into it. He's more into watching them doing.

Q Oh right, so part of his play is sort of to watch other people play?

A To watch other people play and watch cartoons or things like that.

Q And so are there any video games or computer games that he did play, or does play, or does like to sort of take part in?

A No, I think he's mostly influenced by A....[Ahmad?]?

Q Oh OK.

Time 5:00

A So when there was a certain game, I've forgot what it was called, but.... Ahmad, [name] he's ??? there was a certain – again another person in the house - there was a certain game that he wanted, I can't remember if it was on....it was advertised quite a lot on TV, and he just wanted it. So I got it for him. He played with it probably twice.

Q Oh right OK.

A And didn't want it. OK. And now he wants a Nintendo Switch because that's something that they're pushing quite a lot on Pop.

Q OK.

A Why does he want it? He just wants it.

Q Aha.

A And then there was a time when he just wanted an Xbox? something, again, and I think that was mainly again because the advertisements are 'this is cool, this is the best thing to have'.

Q OK.

A But he's not a gamer.

Q Right OK. So what kind of play does he enjoy would you say?

A He's quite content. He loves climbing, he loves playing football. And he's playing basketball, he's quite good at throwing a ball – for his age – I think he's got a good aim. If he's outside he will play, he will play, he will do everything that kids should do outside. If he's at home somebody has to play with him in order for him to play, it has to be a two-way game.

Q Oh OK right. So not so much of the solitary play. No.

A No. If the TV is off or there's no internet then they will play together.

Q OK. I think you were talking about, last time we met, about Nerf battles and things like that.

A Yes Nerf battles. Hide and Seek.

Q Oh cool, Hide and Seek.

A They are like....they will talk to each other and, you know get to know each other, and create games and do things with each other. And sometimes they'll move the furniture, especially upstairs. If he's got time on his hand he will move and re-arrange his room.

Q Yeah.

A And I allow him with this.

Q OK that's fairly kind of creative isn't it?

A It is really creative. So I think his older brother, because they are room sharing, he's moved the bed out sometimes, he will move it to different places. At first I used to resist and say 'no' ??? things like that, ??? do what you want now.

Q Oh right, so it's like designing their environment sort of as part of play. So what kind of creative activities, talking about creative stuff, what kind of creative activities does he do either on his own or with his brothers or cousins?

A In terms of creativity he would love to...he would love to, not creative play but he will try and make things. For example, it wasn't creative play but he made it into creative play, he had an idea where he thought that if he was to empty all the toothpaste.....

Q Aha!

AOK, and once he had emptied the toothpaste he would insert some water and see how hard and how fast it squirts, you know the power thing.

Q Oh right, yeah.

A Because he's messy and he doesn't know how to do things discreetly. When he's at his grandma's house and his auntie's quite strict, he left a mess everywhere. So you know his fingerprints were everywhere, his toothpaste was in the shower, it was down the loo, it was outside. He actually went and played, he thought that he could draw with that toothpaste outside on the floor and not get caught, OK.

Q Ah right.

A So when we left my sister's like 'toothpaste is everywhere'. She goes 'could it be Kamal the 2 year old, and I'm like 'no', because he would have ate it. It doesn't taste nice so it's not Kamal. She goes 'what sort of kids do you have?' I was 'I think it's Hanif, and she was like 'what's he doing, why is he being wasteful'. She didn't quite get it. It was 'he just wanted to see how fast the water would squeeze out of it'.

Q Yeah.

A She was 'could he not get a bottle and do that'. And I was like 'no'.

Q But that's really interesting, the idea that it kind of like it must have come from somewhere else, because it was an idea that he sort of spontaneously had and decided to....

A And decided to do it, yeah.

Q Find out if it worked. How has his play, all the boys' play I suppose, developed over time? I know that's a bit of a vague question, but have you noticed any particular sort of changes in the way that they play maybe as they're getting older, or maybe as they have access to different things?

A Erm....I think the older boys were more hands-on in terms of toys and wanting to buy lots of toys and playing with the toys that they had. But as the iPads and the PlayStations were introduced they are no longer interested in toys. Hanif is interested in toys, he would see a toy advertised on TV and would want me to take him to Smyths Toys Superstore or he'd go there and he would just like 'I want this, I want this, I want this'. Again, highly influenced by advertisement, he saw that bin that operates on battery, you put it on and you have to throw a screwed up paper – almost like a basketball.

Time 10:15

Q Oh right, was it like a sort of mini basketball thing then or....

A No it was just a mini bin, and it opens and closes, opens and closes.

Q Oh. So he has that, or had it?

A He had that and he pulled it apart, he likes to pull things apart.

Q Oh, so he likes to try and find out how they work?

A Yes. So yeah, you can go on to do construction and engineering, do what you want, but try and break things and put things together, but he knows how to break them but not put things back.

Q Right. So does he like gadgets then?

A He does to an extent, yes. And he'll talk to himself, he's quite creative in terms like he will play and he'll be talking to himself. Or when he does draw he will draw, and they're quite nice, I'll try and get him to draw something. He will draw like small faces with different facial expressions, and he will fill the page with so many. Almost like small creatures but....I can't make sense what they are, but they're nice to look at.

Q OK. Oh that sounds really unusual.

A Yeah he's an unusual kid, but really special.

Q So you were saying that as the sort of technology came in, sort of the screen technology....

A There's less play.

Q Maybe there's been less play with sort of physical toys.

A That's right. So once that gets taken away, even the oldest will say 'oh let's do this' or 'let's do that', or 'mum, we'll go and play basketball but you have to come with us'. There would always be 'you have to do this'.

Q Yeah. So when was it do you think when you started introducing....or technology started getting introduced more into the house?

A Samir, how long have we had the PlayStation for, how long have we had the PlayStation 4?

D What do you mean?

A PlayStation 4, how long have we had it for?

D 2 years? You mean when we got it?

A Yeah, it wasn't 2 years.

D 2016.

A 2016?

D Like 3 years.

A 3 years. And before that we had PlayStation 3, right?

D Yeah.

A And how long did we have that for?

D I don't know.

E Like 4years, 5 years, 6 years.

D I don't know.

E Yeah, yeah, 4 years.

A Who bought you the PlayStation 3, where did you get it from? Where did it from, me or from [Dad's name]?

D I don't know. What, this?

A No PlayStation 3. I know that's from [Dad's name]. Yeah it's their dad. Their dad introduced them to PlayStation 3, and then got them PlayStation 4. PlayStation 3, when they had the PlayStation 3, PlayStation just recently came out and PlayStation 3 was still relevant, if you know what I mean?

Q Yeah.

A And then they just got an upgrade and then PlayStation 3 was like 'we don't want it'. 'Shall I give it away? What shall I do with it?' 'Do whatever you want'. It was almost like it had no value whatsoever to them.

Q Why did that happen?

A Because they had an upgrade.

Q Oh OK. And how did they find out about the upgrade?

A Well it was out, and their older cousin bought it....and no, before then his cousins.....his cousins were gifted it and they were the first ones to have it. An 18 year old cousin had it. Another 15 year old cousin had it. And they didn't ask for it but when they got it it was like 'yes, we're normal, yes'.

Q Ah, the idea that....

A We're the poor....we're no longer left out kind of thing.

Q So they're really aware of what other people have got.

A They're really aware of what other people have, yes.

Q What kind of types of technology are your children sort of more likely to get bored quickly with? Are there some things that last more than others? Thinking about the PlayStation and they decided almost overnight that....

A ??? they will not. I mean PlayStation 3 was irrelevant because they had an upgrade, OK. Our normal TV will be irrelevant. If I had two TVs in this house and one was a Smart TV and one was just normal TV, this will no longer be used.

Q Oh right.

A So as soon as they have an upgrade in technology they will disregard the one prior to it, do you know what I mean?

Q Yeah. But you would say they don't ever get bored of sort of technology?

A No, never get bored.

Q Why do you think that is?

A It's....I used to be a TV junkie so I can understand where they're coming from. So when I was little I think there was probably PlayStation but we didn't have it. There was the SAGA [SEGA?], again I didn't have it, so I was likewise I loved watching TV. So I would get 3 to 4 hours of my daily dosage, if you know what I mean? And I never got bored. We

only had 5 channels back then but I'd be watching Home and Away, Neighbours, Fresh Prince of Bel Air, and then I'd go to Eastenders and Hollyoaks, all each half an hour.

Time 15:15

Q I can remember those.

A I can show you the schedule here, this is what it was. And then it was like 8 o'clock and then you would sometimes watch the 10 o'clock news, or the 9 o'clock news whatever was the ??? I mean before satellite came, so we were only restricted to four. And with time I kind of weaned myself off the TV. I think in a year I would only probably watch....I would never watch TV. I would never sit down and watch TV.

Q OK.

A I do watch on my phone lots of Ted Talks I don't literally watch them but I'll be listening to a Ted Talk while I'm cleaning, a lecture while I'm doing something, but not physically sitting down because I feel guilty, if you know what I mean?

Q Oh! Why?

A I know it's a waste of time and I could be doing other things like, you know all the laundry, all the dishes and stuff like that are all going to pile on and then I'll have to finish up like. That does really get me anyway, who is going to do all this for me. So I've changed my mentality kind of.

Q Right.

A But I do, like my kids, I have a Smart phone, I do like my kids. Sometimes I would get consumed by YouTube, so I try not to do it. But I think if I was to leave my kids from breakfast, especially him, until bedtime, he will watch one thing after the other.

Q When you say 'especially him', do you mean Hanif?

A Especially him. He will watch everything that he could get his hand on with the things that he likes.

Q Really? Does he when he's watching YouTube or television, does he play along as well, does he sort of play while he's watching or anything like that? Or does he just sort of sit?

A Yes he does.

Q He does play?

A He would play. So he would go and play football while he's watching. He'd use that as a football for example, the Lego.

Q Oh right, so the sort of blocks on the floor.

A The blocks, he'd used them as a Lego. I don't know, he'd get something. And he's quite fidgety with his hands. And I think one of the reasons why he's a TV addict is because when he was about 2, was it 2? When he was 2 I did a course, what course was it, I can't remember now, it was my PGCE course – I think it was my PGCE – yeah it was. And my sister was looking after him. And while she was working she would sit him down to watch TV.

Q Oh right, yeah.

A So I think she's the culprit.

Q Does he have any – or do any of them have any kind of toys related to TV or to online games or things like that?

A If I allowed it they would buy much.

Q OK.

A So I did, I used to, his older brothers, they had toys like when Ben 10 was cool they used to have the Ben 10 watch, they had the Ben 10 figures.

Q OK. Did some of those toys sort of talk, did they make noises and things like that?

A Yeah they did, something something something, whatever they were saying. So they had the Ben 10 watch, that was something every boy had to have. It was just based on the TV character.

Q I remember Ben 10, yeah.

A I was waiting for it to die off ???

Q Was he like a boy spy?

A He was a boy that could turn to different superheroes depending on what the situation was. So he could be an undersea superhero, he could be a slime, he could be something small, he could be something big.

Q Oh right, I didn't pay a lot of attention to Ben 10 though. I remember Ben 10 being big.

A Yeah he was a proper big person.

Q Oh yeah.

A He was proper big. He would be, when they watched the Ninja Turtle film they wanted the Ninja Turtle dress up. He's got lots of dress-ups and he would dress up and play with....

Q Oh, he's got lots of dress-ups. Oh what does he like to dress up as?

A He's got Spiderman, he's got Captain America, he had a sheep, he had...what things did he have? I got him most of the ??? He's got about 5 or 6 upstairs, I can't quite remember where they are. But he will dress up and you know he wants to be a superhero and jump off the bed. I'm like 'if you jump off the bed I'm not doing anything for you, you need to....' you know not do anything. But he's such a good climber.

Q Oh really?

Time 20:00

A He is the best. He's fearless, which is fantastic. So by the age of 2 he's climbing over the fence and my neighbour's next doors almost to the ground. No he's fine. And I'm saying he's fine, and there's concrete on the other side, and he would climb over and climb back. He's really good. He loves animals, so if he sees a dog he will be stroking it, it doesn't matter about the size. A cat, anything. He's quite good. We saw a dead squirrel and I wanted to pick it up because it was inhumane the way it was dead on the floor, and I went up to it, I had a bag. So I went to my older son, I went 'you know that you would get so much ??? reward (as in religiously) if you pick this up and place it to the side'. He went 'do you think?' I went 'yeah you would be really brave, it's the right thing to do, just go and do it'. Somehow ??? he went and looked at this dead squirrel and he was about to puke himself.

Q Was it quite an old squirrel – I have to ask if it was like....

A No it was freshly dead, if you know what I mean. It was just dead, you know run over, his tongue sticking out, so it was quite...he looked a bit...you'd feel sorry for it. But also like squeamish from it, you wouldn't want to pick it up.

Q Yeah.

A And he was like 'I'll do it'. And I was like 'no'. Before his brother, he went 'I'll do it', and I went 'no way you are doing it'. And his brother went 'mum I don't want to do it', 'I'm sure you can do it, come on, man up, go'. And he went, he tried, and he went 'no I'm not doing this'. He went 'mum can I do it'. I said 'yes, but you're not allowed to touch it, you have to touch it through the bag'. And he was picking the dead squirrel up, looking, and he was 'where do I take it', 'just where the bushes are, where the bushes are'. And he went in and he did all that. You should be a vet. You are amazing with animals. So he is really good.

Q So what is kind of the balance of his indoor and outdoor play, because it sounds there that he quite likes being outdoors?

A He likes....no he's good outdoors if there's lots of things that he can do. So if we were to go to a park that's basic in its resources and there aren't enough people that he can play with, he would get bored and be like 'mum, I'm bored'. We were invited to an outdoor birthday party, he went, he had his cake, he saw the kids, it was very basic in terms of you know swings, slide, that round thing whatever it's called.....

Q Oh yeah, roundabout.

A Roundabout. And he was like 'I want to go home, it's boring here'.

Q Oh right OK.

A But if I had taken him to [local park name] or somewhere that had better resources and climbing things, he would not just be on the climbing frame itself, he would be on top of it. So while normal kids would be, you know climbing and going through the slide, he will be climbing on top of the slide and trying to walk down the slide. And I'll just pretend that I didn't know him because you know all the other parents are like 'who is this parent, who does he belong to, he's going to fall' and he's like doing what he needs to do.

Q One thing I wondered about is, do you have any kind of...anything like sort of like Alexa or anything like that, or you know the sort of virtual sort of....the home assistant type things?

A He talks to Siri.

Q Oh he talks to Siri, OK. Does anybody else talk to Siri in the family?

A All of my kid have spoken to Siri, they've asked him rude questions, they've asked him stupid questions, they've asked him funny questions, interesting questions that you'd get an answer to, like 'Siri are you married', 'Siri do you like my mum', 'Siri how old are you'. And it's like ??? it's a computer, everything's not like that. So they have played with Siri and Siri has spoken to them back. And they thought it was quite cool.

Q Ah right. When was this? Was this recently or a while ago when it...

A Used to talk to Siri sometimes.

Q Oh OK. So they still chat, talk to Siri and....

A I think to be fair he's kind of like grown out of it, the 14 year old.

Q Oh right, so Ahmad?

A Yeah. So Hanif I don't think he's grown out of it. If, given the opportunity, he will still talk to Siri.

Q Yeah? Why do you think that is? Is it just that it's funny or....

A I think it's quite fascinating that they're talking to somebody, or you know a virtual reality robot that's quite intelligent and built to answer their questions. So if they were to say something like a swear word and he'll say 'this is rude, I'm not going to respond to you' kind of thing.

Q Wow.

A So it just blows them away a bit.

Q Have they ever got Siri to say anything really....what's the...

A Yeah they have. They did something where they made Siri do.....Ahmad what did you do, Ahmad what did Siri do, it did Boots, Boots and Bobs, what did it do? What is it?

C Boots and cats and boots and ???

A Yeah, he made Siri do Boots and.....

Q What's Boots and Cats?

A Ahmad, do you want to demonstrate how you did Boots and Cats?

Q Yeah, I would like to see Boots and Cats. OK so you've got your phone, so is this your phone yeah?

C Yeah. Hey Siri, can you please rap for me?

Siri OK, I wrote this one myself. A power ??? in advance to the Sugar Hill Gang. I said a hiphop, save me from the clippy, the peak, peak and pop and you don't stop. Space rocket to the pong pong adoogy. Say up jump the dizzy to the rhythm of the ontology.

Q Does Siri say different things every time?

C Can you Beat Box for me?

Siri Here's one I've been practicing. Boots and cats, and boots and cats, and boots and cats, and boots and cats, and boots....I can do this all day. Cats and boots, and cats and boots, and cats and boots, and cats and boots, and cats and boots.

Q Can I just ask, like how did you know to ask that question in the first place?

C I just got bored so I talked to her then.

Q Oh right OK. That's really interesting, thank you. I'm going to pause it now, I'm going to turn that off. OK thank you.