

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 going on 9)

F = Child 4 (Kamal, boy 2)

A Do you want anything else? Because he's [Ahmad] going to go ??? he needs to be somewhere.

Q Right OK, no worries.

A So I'm getting something for them to eat so they can go off.

Q Yeah sure.

A He does, it's a new thing that he's started from this week where he goes to a group to do English and Maths and it starts from 6 til 8. So he can make his way down because it's still light, and then at 8 o'clock I'll go and collect him.

Q Aha. Is that at his school or is it like....

A No it's a high school....it's a sixth form ??? base and it's near the Tesco's and it's a community led

Q So thinking about playing with technology, what kind of technology do you play on with the boys, if you play on anything?

A If I do play? They get me to play random games, so I try not to play with them – which sounds really weird that. The Piano Game.

Q The Piano Game?

A I think it's called that, The Piano Game. It's an app where you have to put the buttons in order for the song to continue.

Q Oh right.

A So you choose whatever song is out there and then you do that.

Q And are these just like songs that are being listened to....like popular songs that are being listened to at the moment, or....

A Yes. I played that once with them. There's another game that we played and I got really into it so I deleted it, and I think it was called Stacks.

Q Stacks?

A Stacks, Stacks, Stacks. I think it was called Stacks. Ahmad! I think it was called Stacks, I'll ask him. Basically you have to balance boxes. So you balance boxes on top of each other and you have to either move it left or right in order for the box to fit in perfectly. If it doesn't fit in perfectly then it breaks and then you have to start collecting the points again. I got really addicted and I thought 'no I'm not having that, I haven't got time for that'.

Q Was it a bit like Tetris sort of thing?

A I think so, yeah. Their ??? they've got Mario is a big thing now, and they've asked me to play where I just move my fingers left or right to navigate the car going ??? I have played Fortnite with them.

Q So the other games, were they on the phones?

A They were on the phones, yes. iPhones and then....iPhones and iPads, OK. I played FIFA with them before.

Q Aha, and is that PlayStation?

A That's the PlayStation yes, I played FIFA (speaks to child). So I played PlayStation with them, I played FIFA which is the football. I played Fortnite – and I can understand why they get angry because I got angry. Like I was playing with my nephew and I was like 'you need to carry me, carry me, take me, take me' he said 'where are you?' So it does get quite....you know you do get consumed by it. What else have I played with you? [name?], do you want another one? What else have I played with you? Games?

C Football?

A No, no, no, online games.

C Nothing.

A Clash Royale, I played Clash Royale.

Q Is that on the iPad, yeah?

Time 5:00

A Yeah. So what I do is, I would play because my kids are very....I've played Clash Royale. What I do is I, because I know that I'd get addicted as well. If I allow myself I will get, you know consumed by the game, so I try not to get interested. So they will let me play, I'll play, and then try not to play.

Q So how often will you play sort of on tech with....

A With them? How often do I play? Not a lot. Probably once a month.

Q Once a month?

A Maybe, yeah. And that's after them being persistently asking me.

Q Why do you want your mum to play?

C So we can play longer.

Q Oh right.

A Like I said, he [Ahmad] got me into Prison Break. Have you heard of it?

Q I've heard of the TV series but....

A Yeah the TV series. So he got me into it.

C No, no, my cousins started watching it, and then I was like 'I've missed a couple', so I got on ??? so I bought it from the ??? and then watched the first season, or season and a half. And she said 'what's this', sat next to me, and watched.

A And then what did you do though. You got me into it.

C And there was like an hour left, she said one watching ??? I said, come on mum, only 2 minutes, 2 minutes, 2 minutes'. And then like by me saying 2 minutes, 2 minutes it got her into it.

A Yeah he did get me into it. And then I had to watch all of it.

Q Does it come on Netflix, is it like a....

A It was on Netflix. It was a ??? wasn't it, it was about 10 years old.

C No it's not.

A It is, it was 2010.

C Yeah 2010.

A That's 10 years old, 9 years old. And it's still relevant.

C They're making a new one by the end of this year or January.

A He really did get me into it.

Pause

Q OK, well we'll see you again soon.

Q2 ??? Fortnite?

D Mr Beast.

A Who is Mr Beast?

D I've heard of him ???

Q2 ???

D He makes a lot, he buys everything from the shop.

Q2 How did you find out about Mr Beast?

Q OK so we were talking about you playing with the boys and things like that. Are there any sort of devices or games or toys that are better for playing together do you think for you with the children?

A I've always played hands-on games with them, like if we were to go to Centretainment, played that Air Hockey....air thing.

Q Oh yeah.

A Yes. So mainly....I can't play games for me to play with them. And I don't want to learn because like he said, my son knows that if I...he knows, the tactic is, and I think we both agree, is that if I get into it then there'll be more playing time. And it's something that I'm trying to resist. So we don't have a lot of technology time because I see the adverse effect it has on them in terms of if there's too much screen time they become very....almost zombie like, quite violent towards each other, there's no communication, they're like zoomed out. You have to literally like turn it off or disconnect the internet for them to engage with you, other than like they're somewhere else. So I try not to play with them.

Q OK. So you've never sort of played.....have you, I think you were saying you had a go at Fortnite did you say?

A I have yes. I think my kids would love it if I was to be a pro player or know how to play it as least.

Q Why do you think they'd want you to play it, is it just to get more screen time do you think?

A Maybe to get more screen time, maybe for me to understand why they like it and kind of like sympathise with them to be more lenient. And I think also because to be cool as well, you know 'oh yeah my mum can play Fortnite' kind of thing. There are....I think his older cousin, she's 21, and they class her as cool because she can play it.

Q Even though she's old!

A Yeah she's old, she's 21! So you need to be older and playing, but you know that's a miracle.

Time 10:00

Q I think one time when we came round you were watching You Tube with them, is that something that happens regularly or....

A I do watch You Tube with them, and mainly I would watch sometimes behind their back as well. So I use that, (1) because I can engage in conversation with them; (2) I know what's being said so I can trigger conversations to lead it to what I want to say to them rather than me preaching. So I can come about it in a cool way where, you know the Batman thing on Fortnite, I know it's done as a tactic to engage more people, probably younger viewers to like the fact that they know, they can recognise somebody on screen for them to say 'I'm playing Batman' you know. So I try and talk or raise awareness if you like as much as possible. So one of the things my son was saying earlier was like 'so and so's bought so and so' and then my son's like 'I bet you're going to go and read about it and talk to us about it tomorrow'. So they already know my tactics. But they still accept it because (1) I can add, not value but add more info to what they say, so if they do talk about it at school they have the same....and the kids usually have the same knowledge kind of, but when you add a bit more – I don't know if you add a bit more knowledge it's like people will listen to you.

Q Yeah.

A So sometimes I think that they use me for that, but not because they want that lecture, do you know what I mean?

Q Right, yeah.

Pause

Q So you were talking about times when you sort of turn off the internet. How often does that sort of happen?

A I'm going to say 'all the time' but according to myself....

D Every two days.

A Every two days? You're being harsh. ??? that means I swear.

D At least ??? it depends. I remember you used to do it every day and we used to go upstairs on our phones.

A It wasn't every day. I have to disagree. It would be maybe twice or three times a week. And how long am I turning it off for?

D Unless ??? you would take upstairs and hide it.

A I would turn it off because I'm calling you, you're all ignoring me. So how do I get you downstairs? I turn it off – right, from the switch. And then what do you do? You'd send....one of them would come downstairs, engage in a conversation with me while the other one would come and turn it on and then go back upstairs.

Q So there was like a sort of plan?

A There is a plan. They would send Hanif to come and talk to me about something completely random. And I already know it's scripted. And sometimes I just go along with it, sometimes...as soon as they go up and he goes up I'll go and turn it off. So it's almost like Tom and Jerry kind of thing. But they know, they're like cautious that 'we've triggered mum' and they know to what extent they can almost play with it where it becomes completely off and not having it. So they know how to...

Q But they can sort of turn it into a game?

A They can turn it into a game, yes.

Q So what sort of things, I think you said fighting was one of the things that can cause it to go off?

A Zombie, they become in a zombie state. When you talk to them they're not with you. They wouldn't talk to each other as well, everything would be just shouting and, you know almost like tantrums, outbursts. So when they communicate with each other it's just shouting, they just shout at each other, or they'll punch each other. Or one would shout so loudly that, because the other one's.....

D I don't shout.

A I said one, and I didn't say you.

D I shout all day now.

A You shouldn't though, that's why I turn it off most of the time to keep you thingy.

D Because I've got anger issues.

A No you haven't.

D Yeah I do.

A No you don't.

D ???

A Do you think I'd ??? for anger issues, or do you think we're trying to take it out of you so you don't do it?

D But I do have anger issues.

A Do you?

D Even the local doctor said that.

A Who said that?

D [male name].

A Who is [male name]?

D Local doctor.

A We don't have a local doctor called [male name]

D Yeah we do.

A We don't have a local doctor called [male name]. Where is your local doctor?

D ???

A But now he's taking the Mick. What was your question?

Time 15:00

Q Just about times that it was sort of...

A When I turn it off?

Q Yeah, because that was....

A ??? horrible.

Q So when you do want to play sort of together or if you've got....do you have any sort of games on your own phone or....do you have a phone or an iPad?

A They download it for me and I delete it and it gets downloaded again.

Q So this is on to your phone?

A This is on to my phone. What games did you download? You downloaded.....

D Tie ???

A No you didn't.

D Clash Royale, Clash ???

A I've got my phone somewhere, why am I asking you?

Q So these are not games that you've requested?

A No, not that I play, no.

Q So do the boys have your PIN number then?

A Oh yes, yes.

Q Right OK.

A I deleted them yesterday so that...I forgot that one, Clash Royale. There was the Mario game that I deleted, and another game I can't remember but I deleted it.

Q Do they put it on to play themselves or to try and get you to play them, or just as a game or....

A No. One of the things that they will say to me is, the eldest would say 'can I use your phone to read the news?' Say they'd read an article. And then after an article, or halfway through the article, he's playing....

Q Oh right OK.

A But what I've said is, I'm trying to...you know kids are always one step ahead of you, so I've told them that I've got history on my phone, my news feeds, so I know exactly what you've read and you haven't read, and I know what I've read last. So he will open random things and then I have to quiz him to see if he has actually read it....

Q Oh so you actually sort of test him to see that he's read certain news stories?

A No not as in....I wouldn't test him test him, but I know what the news is because I read it in the morning so I'd know roughly what he'd be talking about, if it's something that is quite ??? and everybody's talking about it I know if he's....

Q If he's actually....

A If he's actually looked at it.

(Speaks to child)

E She told me to be good.

A You do don't you? You're really sweet, you are. He's got so many....are you talking about your stamps? Yeah, he's turned on a new leaf – or round a new leaf or whatever the expression is – he's been really good this year. We were talking about it when you first came saying that you can't wait until your report comes back, because I'm going to be shocked. Yeah?

E Yeah.

A Last year....yeah your report last year wasn't that bad.

E Last term was bad.

A It wasn't that bad.

E The report's upstairs, I can show it you.

A It was OK, it wasn't that bad.

E 200 behaviour points, that's a lot.

A I don't think he had 200 behaviours points, but yeah, to make him cool. We do, we watch films together. I would watch with them YouTube things. Watching I'd watch. Playing, because playing takes time for you to understand it if you know what I mean, to get into it, so that would be like three times as long as the watching part. So I avoid that.

Q But do you have anything say on your phone that you might habitually use that they would join in if they saw you using it?

A That block thing.

Q Oh Stack?

A That Stack thing. I kept on deleting it, they kept on putting it back for me!

D Mum, ??? my best friend.

A Because you want me to buy you FIFA 20.

D No, because I love you.

A I love you too high? baby?. I'm going to get ???

Q So would you say are you more or less likely to initiate play with technology rather than without technology?

A I'd initiate play without.

Q Without. And that would be sort of...

A That would be because in order for all of us to play we don't have to have a gadget each kind of if it's online. If it's not online it would have to be turn taking and that would be more time consuming if you know what I mean, and nobody would be talking to each other, we'll just be waiting for somebody to kind of like die in order for it to be passed on to the other person. So it's not kind of...I think I'm old school.

Q Yeah.

A Try and get rid of technology as much as I can.

Q But do you get involved in...I think they were talking about Time Table Rockstars and things like that earlier.

A Yes.

Q And you were saying that you do that as well.

Time 20:00

A I sat down and I was helping him but he had to do it himself.

Q Is that Hanif?

A That's Hanif, yeah. I didn't like the fact that he would just sit happily next to his brother and his brother was doing everything for him.

Q Oh right.

A But having said that, I can understand where my son came from because I met a girl that is his age yesterday, my friend's daughter, and because she was a lower school I didn't mind playing for her just to top her up slightly. So I kind of get that, you're playing for each other to top each other, but I genuinely want him to learn his times table so he can do it himself. So I was a bit more nasty to him.

Q Have you got any kind of like, apart from Time Table Rockstars which come through school I think, are there any kind of apps that you help the boys with, or do you sort of prefer them to figure them out on their own?

A The reason why I got the iPad to be disabled is because I re-bought IXL and IXL is...I'm not sure if you know....it's an American app that caters for several countries' curriculum and it starts from Reception, pre-Reception, all the way until I think Year 13. And it caters for maths and English. So I disabled the iPad so when I'm learning with one child, especially Ahmad ??? needs my help, I've got them two doing something that I think is useful without Ahmad saying 'it's not fair, they're playing'.

Q Oh OK.

A So they're kind of learning at the same time. IXL is here. So you've got the names, the characters and then you've got the parent. So Ahmad is there, and then he did prime numbers and composites. So basically he got to 60, is 52 a prime number or composite, he'd say 'a composite' and it scores you each time you've got it right.

Q Oh right OK.

A 67 – prime number I'm assuming.

Q Do you know what IXL stands for at all?

A I can tell you but I'm not sure.

Q So they've all got like....

A They've all got their user names and it tracks their progress and it sends almost like weekly, or daily depending on how much usage they've had, they send certificates. So last week I got an email saying Ahmad practiced 5,000 things. But it's not 5,000, because we were members 2 years ago they've still got their records, so it just added on.

Q Does that cost anything?

A That cost me 100. But I thought for 3 of them for the whole year, the work ??? it's a good game, rather than buying £50 games that ??? doesn't do anything for them.

Q OK, so it's sort of supporting their learning and....

A Yes.

Q Do you encourage them to go on it, or do they go on it on their own choice?

A I encourage them. But I know when they're on it is that they will not always be on it. So they have to be on it in the room while I'm present, while I'm teaching somebody else, so I can hear the 'ding'. Other than that I don't trust them because I know they'll wander off somewhere else.

Q So when you say 'when you're teaching somebody else' is that when you're at work or is that....

A No, no, teaching here.

Q Oh right, so you teach at home, yeah.

A I try and support them. It's difficult because they will not voluntarily do the reading or do what they need to do, they are not as independent as I want them to be. And Ahmad needs more support. And because Samir and Hanif are learning Arabic I have to literally sit down with them, re-read everything that the teacher's done with them, answer the questions with them, get them to write and stuff like that. So it's almost like home learning on top of that learning. So it's a bit daunting.

Q Oh OK. Do you use like any tech when involved in learning Arabic?

A Erm....I try. So because the school that he goes to they have Arabic lessons and they have like religious lessons. And the religious lessons they have to learn versus of the Koran so instead of me parroting the same verse over and over again for them to do it I would go to YouTube and I would select whatever he is learning and get it to be repeated several times.

Q Oh right, that's fascinating.

A Somebody else is reading for me, he is reading afterwards. That saves me time.

Q So that they can memorise it.

A They can memorise it. But again, if they're upstairs by themselves they're not going to be on that particular thing because they'd rather be somewhere else, because there are so many apps that they can download or so many YouTubers that they'd want to watch who are more interesting than, you know a verse being repeated several times. So that's why I play almost like Big Brother on them.

Time 25:00

Q OK. I've just got one final question actually, and it goes back to I think when we were talking the other week and you were talking about Hanif being very creative. And I think you mentioned something about the toothpaste, and also the big silver ???

A Yeah I never got round to... I had to go and buy it. And you said you weren't coming, I was 'OK'. And then I completely forgot. It is something, and my kids do hold me accountable if I promise them something and I don't do it. 'You promised, you said you'd....' because I never want them to say 'you promised and you broke your promise', I always try and fulfil it. So I didn't give him a time zone for when I'm going to buy it, other than that I would have had it, you know he'd have like said 'you promised on that particular day that you'd buy it for me'. So I said to him 'I'll give it you', he says 'when?' 'When I can'. So I haven't been able to. But we do go to Asda. If he triggers me and reminds me it would be given to him. But I think he's gone off the phase. But I'd have to keep a promise for my own conscience.

Q Is that something that, the sort of experimental type things he does, is that something he....does he kind of watch things like that on YouTube, or where does he get those ideas do you think?

A I think he got that ??? from YouTube, and bless him he was just asking for small fragments of silver foil.

Q Ah right.

A I'll get it for him. I'll buy it you, I'll do it. And he used the remaining roll that I had, but that just made a small ball, so I said 'I promise you I'll buy you a whole one and you can do it'. But that one hasn't been ??? yet. He does watch and he does.....sometimes it's on his own initiative.

Q So does he tend towards those types of videos, or are there particular channels that he watches that the other boys don't watch?

A Yes it's a tractor, it's a blue tractor. Erm..I think it's things that he's heard his friends say that they watch at school that he will watch. Again enclosed by his brothers, so he's almost like in a divide, he's got his friends with his own mental stage, and he's got his brothers and older cousins and he's all hearing stuff. So I just think he's trying to explore everything that he hears sometimes.

Q OK thank you.