

Q Emilie Scholey (researcher)
R Y7 boy
B Y7 girl
S Y7 girl
C Y7 girl
L Y7 girl

Q I'm just going to go round and if it's OK I'm going to ask you just to tell me your names.

R [Y7 boy R].

B [Y7 girl B].

S [Y7 girl S].

C [Y7 girl C]

L [Y7 girl L].

Q Nice to meet you all, I'm Emilie. So the theme today is technology and play and learning. Now when I talk about technologies I'll give you some examples, because I've had a group this morning and we talked about this. Digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets, cameras, game consoles, computers are examples of technologies. Also things like media such as apps, websites, digital games are technology. And things you might have done in school, like coding, creative coding, robotics, Scratch IR, Scratch, making and tinkering such as digital artefacts and 3D printing. Building virtual worlds, if anyone has ever done that. And exploring virtual reality and augmented reality. And also we're interested in what kinds of play you do that involve those things but perhaps when they're not even there with you, they're not present with you. So this morning the first group answered some questions and you're going to answer a few more questions and we're going to do a little activity as well. OK. So when I ask the question, whoever wants to speak just, you know put your hand up and I'll record what you have to say. Is that alright? So the first question I've got for you is, do your parents ever join in with your play on technology, and if so think about what it is that you play with together, when it might be that you play it, where, why and what do you do and what do you think about doing that. OK. So [Y7 girl L].

L So me and my mum normally like play on a new console that we got for our birthdays, and it's normally like special occasions we all play together. She normally buys like party games and we play like all together.

Q So is it a console that you've got?

L Yeah.

Q OK and how do you play it all together then, do you all have your own....

L We all have our own remotes, or it's a game where it's two remotes and two family members go up against each other at different times.

Q Fantastic. So it's special occasions. And how does it make you feel, do you enjoy doing that?

L Yes.

Q OK, that's interesting. And what kind of games, can you give me some examples?

L So like dancing and stuff, and also like Whack Them All and things like that.

Q OK what's that, Whack Them All?

L Whack Them All. So like if they pop up you've got to whack them all.

Q Fantastic. That sounds good fun. Anything else?

L It's good, it's just like a party game and it's timed and whoever gets the most points at the end wins.

Q It's good fun is it then?

L Yeah.

Q OK. Anybody else got any examples of anything they might do together with parents where you play something or do something together that's involving technology, all those things I just mentioned like apps or technological toys or anything like that, websites you might go on, I don't know computers you might....something where you interact with your parents. Think about when you might do it, why you might do it. [Y7 girl C]?

C Like when we've got a new video game for Christmas me and mum normally test it out to see how things go.

Q OK. And what do you have to test it out on, what kind of....is it a computer did you say?

C Yeah.

Q What computer is it?

C It's a game console.

Q OK. And is that to test it out before anyone else uses it, or just before you use it so you can try it?

C Yeah, just so we can try it out.

Q And what do you think about doing that? Do you enjoy doing that?

C Yeah.

Q OK, great. Anybody else got an example? [Y7 girl L]?

L I've had a Hatchimal before and me and my mum take care of....we've taken care of one before together.

Q And how did that go?

L It went alright, the head went coo-coo though.

Q Did it? So did you have it like in the morning and after school, or did your mum have it....

L Yeah I had it after school and my mum had it like in the morning and during while I'm at school.

Q Did it cause any problems or was it all alright?

L It was OK.

Q OK. Anybody else? No? OK that's fine. Thinking about play and technology, all those things I mentioned, what kinds of play do you like best, why do you like them, how do they make you feel when you're playing them? So what kinds of play do you all like best? Do you mind if I go round this time? So think about technological kind of things such as computers, devices, tablets, cameras, game consoles, media such as apps, websites things like that. Or maybe digital design, things that you might have done. Think about which of those things you like the best and why you like them and how does it make you feel when you're playing with them. Is that OK if we go round? So is it [Y7 boy R]? Anything that you like playing?

R I like playing on my Playstation.

Q Oh you've got a Playstation?

R Yeah.

Q OK, what do you play on your Playstation?

R Fortnite.

Q Oh you like Fortnite. Tell me about Fortnite. Is this like the big thing, Fortnite?

L No.

Q I feel like I don't know anything about Fortnite. You don't like it. Oh. So why do you like it and why don't you...we'll come to you.

R I just like playing it.

Q What do you have to do on Fortnite?

R Just kill people.

Q Oh OK. And how often do you play it?

R Every day.

Q Every day. And how does it make you feel?

R Happy.

Q Happy OK. How long are you playing on it when you play it?

R Erm....mostly all the time when I get back.

Q And am I right in thinking that you can play against other people, or with other people....with or against?

R Against.

Q Against. With and against. OK. Do you ever do that, or do you play by yourself?

R Play by myself sometimes.

Q OK. And do your parents ever get involved or anybody else?

R No.

L ??? play games.

Q So you don't like Fortnite?

L No.

Q Why don't you like Fortnite [Y7 girl L]?

L Because it's a one-player game and other people can't join in. And also it's a bit gruesome and it's not really for girls.

Q OK interesting. And [Y7 girl B]....

L And it disrupts learning because boys are always talking about it in lesson when I'm trying to learn.

Q Oh really? OK [Y7 girl B].

B On my phone I have this game and it's like a Pixalot game and you have to like create different animals and you ??? them.

Q OK, how do you do that?

B You choose a colour and then you swipe the screen with your finger and you can create whatever animal you want.

Q That sounds amazing. What kind of animals have you made?

B I made a fox and a giraffe.

Q And how does it make you feel when you're doing it?

B Calm.

Q Calming, OK interesting. [Y7 girl S] do you have any games or anything you might play, any digital toys or devices or anything you might do at home or at school?

S Yeah my Nintendo.

Q You've got a Nintendo, OK.

S Yeah.

Q What kind of games do you have for your Nintendo?

S I have like animal games. Because my little sister has a Nintendo as well so like....

Q OK, so you've got two separate Nintendo's, yeah?

S Yeah, so we like play together.

Q Oh so you can play one game together? That's interesting. OK what kind of animal games do you have?

S Dolphin ones and horse ones.

Q And what's your favourite one?

S Horse.

Q The horse one. Are you into horses?

S Yeah.

Q OK. Any other games that you might play?

S No.

Q And when you're playing against your sister, do you play against or with her?

S Sometimes I play against, and sometimes I play with her.

Q OK, and when you're playing with her what do you do?

S We like...so we like mend animals and like help them grow and everything.

Q Right OK, that sounds great. And how does it make you feel when you're doing it?

S Happy.

Q Happy OK. Any other types of things you might play at home, not necessarily just computers or games?

L I've got something for school.

Q What have you got?

L I like making devices and things in DT, it's really fun and it's just exciting because you never know what the teacher's going to ask you to make.

Q And do you get like one lesson to make it, or is it a series of lessons?

L A series of lessons.

Q And can you give me some examples of things that you've enjoyed making.

L At the minute we're making a magnet which is like a zoo animal Christmas magnet. And I'm doing a zebra.

Q A zebra, so it's going to be a zebra that's magnetic?

L Yeah it's a beanie boo zebra and it's got like a turquoise background, and it's got a tag on it with a ring and it says Merry Christmas and then it's got the name of the zebra inside it.

Q Lovely. Anybody else done anything like that, anything made, or they might have created, or something they might play with that's technological that they enjoy playing with? OK. Let's move on to the next question. We're really interested to know what you think about this. What kinds of technology – so think again, I keep repeating myself but just so you remember, like mobile phones, tablets, cameras, game consoles, computers, apps, different apps, websites, digital games, robotics, creative coding, 3D, virtual reality and all that. What kind of technology do you think are best for playing with other people, and tell me about them. We'll go to [Y7 boy R] which ones do you think are good for playing with other people?

R Game consoles, because there's a lot of games that you can play with people and challenge them.

Q So there's a lot of choice there. Oh what great words. So lots of choice and challenge, which is obviously great when you've got somebody else playing with you. Lovely. [Y7 girl L] what do you think?

L I think the same as [Y7 boy R] but I've got another idea as well. Like just robotic toys in general because you can play with your siblings and take care of them together.

Q OK, have you got anything like that at home?

L I've had a Hatchimal and I have Furbies.

Q Furbies, ah OK interesting. And what about Furbies, how does it make you feel playing with them?

L It's really fun and it's exciting.

Q OK. And what do you do with your Furby?

L I play songs and it dances.

Q Oh OK. So you download songs to the Furby and...

L Yeah, and then I play them and it dances around my bedroom.

Q That's fantastic, great. Any other examples, anything you think that's really good to play with somebody else, not just by yourself, maybe somebody else? Do you think anything else? Have we mentioned everything, games and maybe robotic toys, anything else? No? OK. Next question. Do any of the games that you play such as imaginative – I don't know if you're still into imaginative or pretend style games – relate to what you might watch on television or a computer game that you might have played, or YouTube. So is there something that you might do at home or in school maybe, by yourself or with somebody else, that is maybe pretend or imaginative but it relates back to something that you've seen on YouTube or TV or a game? OK [Y7 girl L].

L On YouTube there's like challenges and things. Even if there's not a camera there I'll just play it with my sister anyway and challenge her to things.

Q OK, like what? Give me some examples.

L Last to leave my bedroom, which is a mess so she doesn't like it in my bedroom so I always win.

Q So what do you do, do you just stand there and go 'last to leave....'

L Yeah. We get some supplies, like food, blankets and stuff, and then we've got to see who is the last one to leave the bedroom.

Q Oh right.

L But that's mainly on weekends because you can't really do it if you've got to go to school.

Q OK. How does that work then? So you're in your room with a blanket and food and everything else, and you've got to try and sneak out the room? Or am I getting this....

L No. So me and my sister we get supplies, we have 10 minutes to get supplies and then we've got to be there by the 10 minutes have ended. And then we've got to try and get each other to go out of the room by scaring them and things. And then it's like last one to leave the bedroom basically.

Q OK I've got you. And you've seen it on TV have you, or YouTube?

L On YouTube. And also there's like food challenges where you've got to like taste the food and you've got to try and guess what it is.

Q OK, that's good examples. Anything else? [Y7 girl C] what were you going to say?

C There's challenges and then there's like you can pretend to be superheros and things.

Q OK, tell me more about that, that sounds good.

C So my cousin's into like superheroes and he's always like getting us to design like costumes for the superheroes ???

Q OK, so you actually design costumes for him?

C Yeah.

Q And how does that relate back to seeing things on telly, do you have to think about things you've seen on television then?

C Yeah.

Q Is that television, or would you say games or....

C Television, because there's some superhero videos on YouTube.

Q Tell me more about those, what kind of superheroes?

C There's like all sorts of different like....

Q Can you think of any?

C No.

Q That's OK, that's a really good example. Anybody else got any other examples? Yes [Y7 girl B].

B On YouTube sometimes I watch these like make-up tutorials and then I try to recreate them with my own make-up.

Q Fantastic. And how does that go, is it good?

B Yeah.

Q How often do you do that?

B Like once a week.

Q Once a week. And is there a special time when you might do it? Is it like after school or later on in the evening, or....

B Normally like after school.

Q After school. And do you do that by yourself or with other people?

B Sometimes I do it with my mum and I do her make-up.

Q Yeah, that's good. Anybody else got any examples. Yeah [Y7 girl S].

S There's like on TV you like see films and everything, me and my little sister dress up like Harry Potter and like fairies and everything and we like try and recreate our own like little film.

Q Wow that sounds great. And so you're massively into Harry Potter then?

S Yeah.

Q And what other things?

S Because we've got like horse riding clothes we like pretend to be like horse ride and everything.

Q So does it help seeing those things on television first and then thinking about them and recreating them?

S Yeah.

Q Give me an example of something you might have done then, have you got any examples?

S Like yesterday we did a Harry Potter one and I was like dressed up as Harry Potter and my little sister was like dressed up as like a fairy goblin.

Q And you play together?

S Yeah.

Q Oh that's great. How often would you do that then in a week?

S Every day.

Q Every day? So you come home from school and do that? That's fantastic. So anyone else got anything they want to say on that point? Anything else? No. OK. Can you think of

any kinds of toys that you would like to be invented that haven't already been invented? So have you ever like thought 'hmm, that would be a great toy' that's not been invented. Yeah?

C A real magical one that actually makes your sister disappear!

Q Right. Who else would like a toy like that? So most of you would like a toy like that? Is that for your brothers and sisters?

C Yeah.

Q What about anybody else?

R Yeah.

Q You never know, one day that might happen. Any other toys then that you think sometimes do you know what, maybe even for Christmas 'ooh I'd love that if that was a toy'. [Y7 boy R] you put your hand up second actually. Is it a game, or is it an actual physical toy?

R Erm....

Q It's hard isn't it to think of a toy that's not already been invented. There's that many toys isn't there? Shall I come back to you and let you think about it?

R Yeah.

Q [Y7 girl C]?

C I was thinking like when you're drawing it could be linked up to the internet and the actual thing that you design comes to life in the game.

Q Wow, comes to life?

C Yeah, in the game.

Q In the game? Or actually just comes to life if you draw something?

C Yeah.

Q So would it be in a game, or just not even in the game, just something you would draw?

C In a game.

Q Like what? What kind of game would you like that to work with for example?

C I don't know, like any sort of game.

Q So you're playing against somebody in a game and you've got to be able to draw something quickly and it appears?

C Yeah.

Q In the game, or outside the game?

C In the game.

Q Oh OK. Are there any games where that does happen? I can't think of anything like that.

C There's a sticker one.

Q A sticker game?

C Yeah. So you stick the sticker man to this mat and it comes up on the screen.

Q Oh. So you get some stickers given to you and you put them on?

C Yeah they're special sensor stickers.

Q And what's that, what's that?

C It's like this game on your tablet, and it were like this YouTuber that come up with it.

Q Oh right. So you play the game and you can put stickers down and it does certain things.

C Yeah.

Q OK, interesting. [Y7 boy R], have you thought of yours?

R I would want a Spiderman LEGO game because there hasn't been one yet.

Q Has there not? There's no Spiderman LEGO game?

R No, just one with all of the Marvel characters in.

Q That would be great wouldn't it?

R Yeah.

Q Would you play that on your, you've got a Playstation haven't you?

R Yeah.

Q So would you like that on your Playstation?

R Yeah.

Q What would you want to do, I think that's a great idea but what would you want to do on the game with Spiderman? I mean obviously he's climbing things and swinging from things isn't he, but what would you want to do in that game?

R Just complete it.

Q Just complete it. What would he do though, would he actually be saving people or...

R Yeah.

Q Fighting with people? What does he do Spiderman, I don't really know.

R He fights people and saves the city.

Q So he'd be doing lots of things like that.

R Yeah.

Q How do you envisage, imagine, I'm getting really into this idea. How would you envisage that game working, would you like have to do levels and each level becomes harder and harder and harder?

R Yeah.

Q Til you eventually get to the very end?

R Yeah.

Q I wonder what the end would be. Interesting. I like that. [Y7 girl B]?

B Robotic arms that do your make-up really well.

Q Oh, can you imagine.

B Yeah.

Q So you'd just put them on the morning and then...or whenever you want to go out and....

B It moves your arms and does your make-up.

Q So that would link in nice with what [Y7 girl B] said about the tutorials. So you could watch a tutorial and then put something on, or something would happen where you just get the same thing done straightaway. Although would that take the fun out of doing it yourself?

B No.

Q Do you not enjoy actually experimenting at home?

B Sometimes, although it's really hard and it kind of gets a bit annoying.

Q So you'd like it to be done exactly the way they do it. OK interesting. Anything else, any other games or toys? [Y7 girl S].

S Like if you had like a headset with Nintendos and it actually came to life and you feel like you're inside of the game.

Q So that's like virtual reality isn't it?

S Yeah.

Q But do they have that for Playstation?

S Yeah.

Q But they don't have it for Nintendo – or do they have it for Nintendo.

S No.

Q No OK, so you'd want that invented for Nintendo. So what would you like it to do, what kind of games would you like it to work with?

S So like, say like horse riding, it feels like you're actually on a horse.

Q That would be great wouldn't it?

S Or like say if you have like Pokemons you like have to run around and explore for Pokemons.

Q Yeah. Because with horse riding, I mean it's very expensive isn't it, so you could just put your thing on, whatever it is, and start horse riding yourself. That would be great wouldn't it? Anybody else got any other examples, anything else? No. OK. Do you think there should be any limits on how children play with technology? Any limits on how they play with technology? [Y7 girl L].

L Time. I think they should only have a certain amount of time because it can fry your brain.

Q OK and how long do you think they should have per day, per week, per month?

L 15 minutes to half an hour a day.

Q OK. Anybody else got any views on how do you think technology should be limited, or should there be any limits on technology? [Y7 girl C]?

C So if there's a game that's over 18 it means that it's for a certain age group. Because if you get a game that's not your age level it can be extremely hard or it can have some bad things in it.

Q So it needs to be rated.

C Yeah.

Q Anybody else got any views on technology, and should it be limited in any way, any restrictions put on it with children? I mean think about your own circumstances, do you have any kind of views on that yourself? Because you mentioned 15 minutes to half an hour, is that something that you kind of practice at home?

L Yeah. Me and my brothers and my sister are only allowed 15 minutes to half an hour. The minimum is 15 if we've been naughty, but if we've been really good it's like half an hour.

Q OK. Any other things you might think of with technology and how children play with it? Any safety things, anything else you can think of? Yeah [Y7 girl B].

B It's kind of like what [Y7 girl C] said with them being too old for you. Kind of like on YouTube you can put a different mode on, but they're really easy to turn off, like little children would be able to do it so it could be like make it harder so little children won't be able to turn it off.

Q OK, so at the moment it's quite easy to turn off.

B Yeah.

Q Is that from your own experience you know how to....

B Yeah.

Q OK interesting. Anybody else got any views? Yes [Y7 boy R]?

R With the virtual reality had set some Playstation they limited the age to over 12 or over.

Q Really? I didn't know that. Right.

R Because if children use it they could damage their brain.

Q Oh that's interesting, no one else has mentioned that.

R And ???

Q So there's an age restriction on that? Did you all know that? I didn't know that, virtual reality?

S Yeah.

Q So obviously yeah, I mean younger children could be quite scared by some of what could happen with the virtual reality mask – is it a mask? Yeah.

C I have virtual reality but like you put your phone in it and download an app, and it's like loads of different things in one app.

Q And how easy to download the app? Is that something that you would want restricted for certain children or....

C Yes, because there are scary things on it and it is a 12 rated. I've only just got it for my 12th birthday, so it's like you don't really want it for younger kids. Because my brothers got hold of it and I caught them screaming in the middle of the night because they'd put it on and they'd put something scary on thinking they can handle it.

Q Right, and he was upset.

C Yeah.

Q OK. Right we're going to move on and we're going to have a look at this quick activity where we've got some examples of digital technologies, different devices and things. And what I'd like you to do in pairs, you're going to get a piece of paper and I'd like you to put a title 'good for play' and 'not good for play'. And in your pairs I want you to discuss what you feel is good for play and what you think isn't good for play. OK, in your view, and think about the word 'play' what you think play means. Now I've done, as you can see there's two images there the same, but this one has got....it's been printed on front and back, so just take one sheet and do the cut at the front, and there's another one exactly the same and cut out the back, does that make sense? OK, so you should have like 8 images there. Alright.

S But different. So that's on that side of the sheet, that's on....

Q Yeah. So when you're working in pairs you can take one each. In fact we've got three haven't we, so if you want to work in a three, you three, and then just cut them out to make sure you've got all the different ones. Is that alright?