

Q = Main interviewer (Cath)

Q2 = Second interviewer (Beth)

A = Mum (Diane)

B = Dad (Julian)

C = Child 1 (Simon, boy, 8)

D = Child 2 (Harvey, boy, 6)

Q All right, I'm just asking Harvey about Lego Masters, okay?

D So Lego Masters is about these grown-ups and their little boys or their grandsons. They take part in a competition, and what they do is, if they get to the finals, they will win a Lego Masters trophy that's made out of Lego from the judges [unclear].

A I've filled that in as best as I could.

Q That's brilliant.

A You keep having to flick back, don't you, because the...?

D [?]

01:30:54

Q Tell me a little bit more about Lego Masters, Harvey. Where do you see Lego Masters? What is it? Is it a programme or is it a video?

D It's a programme.

Q And what channel's it on, can you remember?

D It's on...

C You'll find it easier if you [unclear].

D I can't really remember.

Q Is it on the TV?

D Yes, it's on the TV.

Q Uh-huh, and what time is it on, do you know? Is it evening, or can you watch it whenever you like?

D Whenever we like.

Q Oh right, okay. I've never heard of Lego Masters, it sounds really...

A Haven't you?

Q No. I'm obviously missing a trick.

00:01:26

A You'll [overtalking] like Lego, [unclear] a little bit, because there's an adult one and there's a kids one, isn't there?

- D Yes.
- A Was there a kid's one or was it just...?
- D No, it's just adults and kids.
- B I'll go down and get the stuff, so do you need anything from town?
- A No, I'll nip to the shops later, it's fine.
- Q Could you tell me about something that somebody built on Lego Masters that you can remember?
- D Yes, I remember in one of the episodes that they had to build some miniature wild animals. And what they had to do is, you had to make tiny animals in the first round, and then in the second one, you had to make some big animals, and then you had to put them outside. And then after that they decided who was going home, and then these two pairs went home. I can only remember one of the pairs, Guy and Abraham. Those two went home.
- Q They went home. So they didn't win. What do you win if you win, do you know?
- D A Lego Masters trophy, which is made out of Lego.
- 00:02:48
- Q Oh, wow.
- A Oh my God, but some of the kids, like your age, they were earning [?], like, the people were unbelievable. They were making, like, moving fairgrounds and things.
- Q Really?
- D Yes, they were.
- C Yes, the kids were both my age who won [unclear].
- B On the Ferris wheel.
- A They took [unclear].
- D Well, they made a USA rocket ship.
- Q They made a rocket? Did it actually move?
- D No.
- Q No. Did it light up or anything like that?
- A No, because it was [overtalking].

00:03:11

- D I know what they did make that moves. They made a massive fairground where they made some spinning ones, they made some up and down ones, they made some...
- A Kind of ice cream [overtalking].
- D They do that one, they did all kinds of them, and they were just amazing at doing Lego.
- Q What are you building? Can you tell me about what you're building?
- D I'm going to try and make a dragon after this.
- Q A dragon?
- C Because I'm making a spaceship.
- A See if you can make a minivan [?].
- D I'm just drawing [overtalking].
- Q Is this the dragon that you're making right now?
- C No.
- Q This is the spaceship?
- C Yes. And then I'm going to do a DS.
- 00:04:02
- Q You're going to do what, sorry?
- C I'm going to make it a DS.
- Q Make it a DS?
- D So what I'm going to do is...
- A A Nintendo DS.
- D I'm going to make...
- C Treat [?], this is going to be an armchair.
- D I'm going to make a Nintendo DS after I make, I've changed my mind to a Godzilla.
- Q A Godzilla, okay.
- C And I'm making the Godzilla after I made the spaceship out of the DS, and then I'm going to try and make a miniature fairground.
- Q Oh, wow.
- D So it's quite a big workout.

00:04:42

- Q I can't wait to see the DS, that sounds fantastic.
- D I have made one at school, with Emily [*researcher on project*].
- Q You made a Nintendo DS?
- D Yes, at school, with Emily, and it had a winding mechanism on it?
- Q Did it?
- D Yes.
- Q And did it actually move? Was it moving parts?
- D Yes, it was going like that.
- Q That's great. And what are you making, Simon, sorry?
- C I'm making a throne.
- Q A throne? What's your throne going to be like?
- A Harvey, have you seen the ideas in here?
- D Yes.
- Several [Overtalking].
- 00:05:25
- C I'm going to put some eyes on it, somehow. My eyes are here. I need to find the piece [*overtalking*] house, the rock on the outside, which I can't find.
- Q Where'd you get your idea to build a throne from?
- C I was halfway through doing the TV when I figured out it didn't work out.
- Q Oh, right, so you were going to make a TV at first?
- Q Okay, so we are watching Lego Masters. I am going to record a little bit. You can tell me about it as it happens.
- C So these are just the adverts.
- Q These are just the adverts leading up to it.
- C Of going on a holiday, if you want.
- Q And how often would you watch Lego Masters?
- C [*Overtalking*] a lot. Once when I was watching it, my brother made a person when I told him to, because I was testing him.
- Q That's fantastic, so you've got a throne there and it's got a remote control attached to it.
- 00:06:28
- C Yes.

- Q Is the remote control for the throne or is it for a TV?
- C No, it's for a TV, which is up.
- Q That's brilliant. I think I will take a photograph of that, if that's okay?
- D I haven't finished mine.
- Q You've not finished yours. No, well, there's plenty time.
- D Right, just after this.
- Q Okay, yes. We'll have a break and we'll just watch Lego Masters. So how often would you watch Lego Masters? Do you watch it weekly, or...?
- D I don't really watch it much, but...
- C [Overtalking] wants something [unclear].
- A Well, when you first recorded it Harvey, you and Simon watched it constantly.
- D Yes.
- Q Here you go.
- D Lego Masters.
- 00:07:10
- Q So this is like an annual competition [unclear].
- D Yes, like an annual. Yes, I died.
- Q Look at that, that's amazing, isn't it?
- D Yes, one of the groups made it.
- Q Is that like a monorail?
- D Yes.
- Q And what are the little boys [unclear] bit?
- D They lost, but they weren't very good.
- A One of the parents was an architect with his daughter. It was all like...
- C Son.
- A Was it his son?
- D No, [overtalking].
- A Good [?]. It wasn't really advertised, and I just happened to turn the telly on one night and it was on, and thought, oh the boys will love this, I'll record it. And since then they've watched it obsessively.

00:07:57

I'm surprised they haven't advertised it more. Like if it's on a bit earlier. It's on at 8 o'clock at night.

Q Oh really, was it?

A But they did this children's special, didn't they, last Christmas time?

D Yes. There's a war, it's [unclear].

C But it was a celebrity rematch with a child.

Q Have you broken up the throne Simon, before I took a picture of it? No, it's my fault, I should have been quicker.

D The humble [overtalking].

Q The humble brick?

C No, this is this one here.

D No, the humble.

Q Can you imagine being a Lego historian?

A That's quite a nice job.

Q That would be an amazing job, wouldn't it, to be a Lego specialist?

00:08:49

A Well, because it must be the one toy that everybody has in their house in some way.

Q I think so, yes. I mean, we've got Lego, and we've got Lego we've inherited. We've got, sort of, you know...

A So have we. That castle up there was Julian's when he was a child. I mean, he built it.

Q Really? Did he? Oh yes.

A That one.

Q The one with the flags on the top, and the knight?

A Yes, and we've got some ships, eventually have Lego [unclear].

Q You've got some, that's like a period piece, isn't it? It's beautiful.

A So this was Julian's, and we've got, I see that big, the bottom books, that's all Lego and old Lego books out. So we've kept all the books out, and whenever the kids get sets we keep the books.

Q Oh do you?

A So they can redo them.

00:09:44

Q Oh, that's interesting. Yes, so you've got a sort of library of things to...

A That's bad, isn't it?

Q Oh no, I think it's probably quite sensible, really.

A So yes, so Julian redid that one afternoon. The kids tried it but it was finding all the bits.

Q So is that old Lego or did you find the bits from, was it like in a box again?

A [Overtalking] in a box that we had, yes. We went to his mum's and just put it all through the dishwasher to clean it, scrubbed it. It was filthy, because it had been out in, like, the outhouse for 30 years. And we scrubbed it all, and brought it back.

Q Yes, that's amazing.

A So yes, interestingly, that's what Harvey's asked for again, for Christmas, more Lego.

Q [Overtalking] Father Christmas'...?

A We don't need any more Lego, so we've got to try and have another think, But Simon's been playing with them at school. They take in different people and battle with them.

00:10:33

Q Oh, do they?

A Don't you, Simon?

C What?

A I mean, I think we had a lot more; there's some gone missing. These are just the people and there's animals, there's sharks and things around. I don't know where they are.

Q Oh, well look at all these, oh, like a totem pole of Lego heads, a bit strange.

A A dog.

Q So Simon, you took them into school and battled with them, didn't you?

C Yes.

A I don't even know where half of them are, but yes. I think I recognise some bodies. I think some of these look like Star Wars [overtalking].

Q That looks old, doesn't it?

A Yes, it does, actually.

Q That's like a military figure, that's what looks like an old-style astronaut, doesn't it?

00:11:12

A Yes. So some of them are definitely in an old doctor [?] or something. They're old.

Q Yes, I think some of these look quite familiar, actually.

A That's definitely old, you can tell. I don't know what he was supposed to be.

Q That looks like it might be from Lego city or something like that.

A Yes, some of them are modern; they're all a mixture. Like look at that monkey. How cool's that?

Q It's got a little yellow hat.

A I don't know where that's come from. I don't know [overtalking].

Q And is that a snake?

A I think so. But yes, so Simon, did you put all those ones back?

C What?

A That were in that pouch? Yes, so they vacuumed them.

Q Can I ask you what you do with the Lego at school, Simon, if you take your figures in?

00:11:58

C We play with them.

Q Yes? When do you play with them?

C At playtime.

Q And do you battle with them, your mum was saying?

C Yes.

Q Yes. What kind of battles do you do?

C So we use the weapons, and pretend they're alive.

Q You pretend they're alive and you use the weapons?

C Yes.

Q And you've made a...?

D I'm making another spaceship, because I'm going to make quite a few Godzillas.

Q You're going to make a few Godzillas?

D Yes.

Q Do you ever take your Lego into school?

D No, we're not allowed to take toys.

00:12:40



- Q Oh, you're not allowed to take toys in.
- D Yes, which is quite horrid.
- Q Which is quite what, sorry?
- D Which is quite boring for us.
- Q Do you play with the Lego at school though?
- D Yes, it's so good, the Lego at school.
- Q Is it?
- D Yes, it's like the best one in history.
- Q Why is it so good?
- D Because what you can do with it is, you can make stuff.
- A Shall we turn this off, because you're not chatting while this is on, are we?
- D Yes, it doesn't matter.
- Q I'm quite enjoying seeing what they're building. It's really incredible. Would you ever like to go on something like that?

00:13:28

- D Yes, I would, because I've got this friend, well, sometimes we fall out, but he's still my friend. His name's [boy's name] and me and him, we made really, really cool models.
- Q What sort of things do you make with your friend?
- D Well, we made an X-Wing once.
- Q An X-Wing?
- D Yes.
- Q What's that from?
- D Star Wars. And also what me and him have done, we've done some models with some different things on them, which was quite good.
- C Yes, now seeing who does it.
- A Is this how they find the people to do the competition?
- C Yes.
- D I'm very good at making Lego.
- Q Are you? You're very good at it.

00:14:31

D Yes. First I made... But me and [boy's name], I made the first biggest model, and then there was [unclear] one was, and then [boy's name] was inspired by it, so he wanted to start making it like me, and he got better.

Q Oh, wow. So he learned from you.

D Yes, to make really cool models.

Q That was excellent. Is there anybody that you learn from to make really cool models?

D No.

Q No? Does it come out of your head?

D Also we made imagination. We did our imagination too.

Q Did you? And what did you imagine? Can you remember?

D So sometimes you make things from films and things like that, and sometimes you make things out of your head. This is the build, more than one of 1,000 bricks.

Q More than 1,000 bricks?

D Yes, in there.

00:15:40

Q I'll start recording then. So I'm going to ask some questions, just about Harvey's play in general, and then some questions about his particular sort of favourites when it comes to digital toys and games and apps and things like that. And then just a few of the questions that we haven't touched on yet, if that's okay.

So how would you say that Harvey's play, specifically, has developed over time? I think you were saying just now that he's started showing more interest in...?

A Yes, Lego in the last year, he loves it. He's always played a lot with toys, and with his imagination. He'll get out different toys every day, like his cars or his animals, which I think he's shown you before.

Q He has shown us his animals, yes. He really likes animals.

A Or his cars, he's obsessed with cars as well. So he's quite specific with, he'll have a different group of toys every day, but then obviously if he's allowed his DS, that would take priority over playing with toys or watching telly. That's why I restrict him.

Q When do you think he started getting interested in, sort of, digital games or online gaming, not online gaming, he doesn't do online gaming yet?

A I think [unclear] he's got an older brother, but I think just as he's got older, the last couple of years. But I think all kids, if you let them, are interested by it, because it's something they're probably not allowed.

00:17:14

- Q So it's the fascination.
- A Yes. But also, their world's more digital, isn't it? Like at school they use interactive whiteboards and things. We didn't have anything like that, so I think it surrounds them so it's normal for them, and maybe that's part of my problem, because it isn't normal for us. Well, it is now, but it wasn't.
- Q Just like a generation gap.
- A Yes. Hiya.
- Q Hi, Harvey.
- D I did something at school.
- Q You did something at school?
- D It's the Beaconsfield Mile, and I did all three miles.
- Q You did three miles? That's incredible.
- D Yes, so I did ten of the football yard, 23 of the...
- C Oh, of both playgrounds, 23 of the...
- D Football yard, then 18 laps of climbing frame yard [?].
- Q And did you do them all on the same day, or did you do them [overtalking]?
- 00:18:11
- D Same day.
- Q The same day? Were you very tired that night?
- D No.
- A Were you very sweaty?
- D Well, I was sweaty, but I actually did do quite a few. I think I actually did it in about...
- A Did it take the whole of lunchtime?
- Q Did you do it all in one lunchtime?
- D I think the ten one was 20 seconds. That one was about...
- A 20 seconds? Wow.
- D No, I mean 20 minutes; that one would have been about 50 minutes. That one would be about 18 minutes. I'm not sure though.
- A How did you feel when you'd finished the Beaconsfield Mile?
- D Happy.
- 00:18:54

- Q Happy.
- A So were each of those a mile?
- D Yes.
- A Okay, and you did all three? Wow.
- Q Three miles.
- D But if I did five miles I would have died.
- A Go on, go and build. I think five miles in one lunchtime would be beyond anybody.
- C I [unclear] 15 [unclear]. That is a UFO entering the atmosphere.
- A Wow.
- Q That's really cool. That's a UFO entering the atmosphere?
- C Yes, the red bit's the UFO. The yellow and the red little stubs are the fire.
- A Do you want to take a picture of it on there?
- Q I'd love to take a picture of it, if that's okay.
- C [Unclear] clear orange and red is the fire on the top.
- 00:19:45
- Q Okay, I think...
- A Just try and put it back [?] [unclear] to... There we go.
- Q That's great, Why did you think you wanted to build a UFO, do you think?
- C I don't know.
- Q Did you start building something and it turned into it?
- C No.
- Q No, you set out to build a UFO?
- C Yes.
- Q Okay, that's brilliant.
- Q So you're saying it's, like, more recently he's started showing an interest in things like Lego and the DS and stuff as well, and I think you were talking about the idea of the generation gap.
- A Yes.
- 00:20:28
- Q So you feel there is a difference that you've noticed with the young children generally, sort of with technology and things like that?

A No, I think, because it's at school, they use computers at school, I think it's normal for them. So yes, whereas obviously for us, it wasn't until 15 years ago, 20, I don't know. I mean for us it feels like not that long ago, but obviously it is.

Q No, it doesn't feel like it. But yes, it is, I suppose. And so why do you think play is important to Harvey? What do you think the value of play is for him? What does he get out of it?

A I think he watches things like The Hunt [?], the natural history thing that he likes on telly, and then he'll make his game about predators and prey. So I do think for him it does cross over. Like his Octonauts, he still likes Octonauts and he's got some Octonauts. So I think he gets some of the ideas from TV, but then he's happy just to play. In fact, this week he's been playing with Marble Run every day.

Q Has he?

A Yes, just because he hadn't played with it for a while.

Q What do you think he gets out of play? Just generally playing, what do you think? How important is it for him to be playing? And does he play a lot, what you would consider play?

00:21:54

A Yes, definitely.

Q He's quite a playful person?

A Yes, definitely. He's happy. It makes him happy, playing, definitely.

Q Yes, so it's important to him.

A Yes.

Q Does he, sort of, put time aside to play? Have you ever noticed?

A Well, I think because they don't automatically have TV in the week every day, then he'll go and find something else to do. Whereas I think if I let them just have TV, that would be all he'd do. So they do need a bit of persuasion. No, not persuasion, they just know that they don't have it, so they just go and find something else to do.

Q Do you ever, sort of, initiate play, make suggestions for them about what Harvey should be doing? Do you ever, sort of, suggest games that he should be playing?

A Yes, but they never agree to it, so there's no point. Sometimes we'll play cards or a board game together, but actually they do play... Simon, stop it please, I can hear you rustling biscuit wrappers. Sorry. But actually they play quite well together a lot of the time.

00:23:00

Q Do you ever initiate play using technology with Harvey? Is it ever your idea to get the DS out or the Wii or anything like that?

A No, never. I might, like today they're going to get their hair cut, so because it's not appointments, they have to sit in the barber's, I'll let them take the DSs with them.

Q Yes, so if they're waiting.

A Yes, or last time we actually took a book, and they were quite happy with that.

Q What was that?

A The book was Beast Quest, like he's told you about Beast Quest before.

Q Yes, he told me about Beast Quest on the last visit. He really likes Beast Quest, doesn't he?

A Yes, yes.

Q Has he ever been on the website or anything associated with Beast Quest? I think there's a website. On the back of the book I noticed there was a website.

00:23:40

A No, he hasn't, actually, because Harvey's reading's not great. I think he's fine playing games, but I think something where he'd have to type something in, I think he'd find that hard. So I probably wouldn't ever initiate it, so... I mean, if he asked me, I probably would let him have a look, but it wouldn't be something that would even cross my mind.

Q Yes. So when he's playing, and he's sort of playing either with technology or TV or with toys, what we think of as non-digital toys... I'll just pause it.

00:24:20

Can you tell me a bit about the Godzillas? How do you know about Godzilla?

D It's just when I go to the shop, I see this film called Godzilla, King of the Monsters, and I thought, if I really want to make, and then when the [unclear] would come round with some Lego, I thought I can make something about Godzillas.

Q That's brilliant. Did you see it in a magazine, Harvey?

D No, it was a film, and I think it's like a 12 or 15.

Q Oh, so you might have a while to wait.

D Yes. But I do want to watch it. If it's a 12, I can watch it with my mum or [overtalking].

00:25:05

A Mmm, we'll have to see what it's like.

Q So, if you can't watch a film, do you imagine what happens in it?

D Yes, I just imagine what happens in it, and I just think, like, what is going to happen in it.

- Q Ah, right, so why have the Godzillas got a snake?
- D Because it's their pet.
- Q It's their pet. Oh, that's really nice, the Godzillas sound very kind, don't they?
- D Yes, they have a pet snake, but the problem is, there's going to be some people.
- Q There's going to be some people? Are people not so good in your games?
- D Well, I'm going to think about my build. Like just come and see what's happening on the TV right now, because they're making the banquets [?].
- Q They're making banquets.
- D Yes.
- Q Am I okay just, two minutes, just to go and see what's on?
- A Yes, that's all right, Julian's just rung me to say he's locked himself out at work and left my car keys in there. So he's got to get somebody to come down and let him in. Rather him than me.

00:26:08

- Q Ah, so we're back to Lego Masters.
- D Yes, they're making a banquet and they're making a chair with adult weight.
- Q Adult weight?
- D Yes, and they're making...
- Q So is this a chair a grown-up person could sit on?
- D Yes, they're going to make a miniature...
- Q Is that what they just said? A single piece of Lego can take the weight of a grand piano?
- D Yes. They're making a miniature food store with food. Guy and Abraham, that I told you about, those two are them. They're both nine, and they were making a rocket chair.
- Q They're making a rocket chair?
- D Yes.
- Q What's your favourite thing that they're building right now on Lego Masters?

00:27:11

- D I think the rocket chair. But these guys, they're making a toilet.
- Q Making a Lego toilet?
- D Look, see, a toilet.
- Q What would you do with a Lego toilet?

D Sit on it and do a poo, but pretend to.

Q I'd pretend. That's Simon's, that's his UFO I think he was saying, and you finished a snake, and can you tell me about this?

D Simon, here's your UFO.

Q Ooh, I've just knocked that Lego brick off, I'm so sorry. That's very clumsy of me. Okay, so this is your space...

D One of the spaceships.

Q Where do you get your ideas for your spaceships from?

D When I discovered that spaceships, you can make them, I just wanted to make them, so I did this. I started to make them, and I was inspired by them. So I kept making them, and now I'm very good at thinking about spaceships.

Q Where do you see spaceships? Where do you get your ideas from for building spaceships?

00:28:25

D Normally from either a film or my imagination.

Q What sort of films have you watched with spaceships in?

D Transformers.

Q Transformers?

D Yes.

Q The ones with Optimus Prime and...

D Bumble Bee.

Q Bumble Bee.

D Bumble Butt.

Q Is that what you call him?

D No, I just liked him.

Q That sounds really good. So when did you watch Transformers?

D Last year.

00:29:10

Q That's meant to be a gun is it?

D Yes.

Q How does it shoot? Oh, from that side.

D Yes. There's a sound that makes a noise, and what it does is, so if it hears danger coming, it makes...



00:29:52

Q Okay, so can you think of any kind of creative activities that Harvey does, either the building Lego that we've been talking about this morning, so any other sort of things you could consider creative?

A I'm a bit rubbish at doing crafty things with them. I mean, he does like colouring and things like that. I don't know why, because I like that sort of thing, but we just never seem to get round to it. So yes, it's more the imagination with his toys and the Lego.

Q Yes. Where does he get his ideas from, do you think?

A I think a lot of it is TV and from his friends.

D Mommy, I'm just shutting [pet dog] out because she tried to move [?] the Lego.

00:30:34

A I don't care if she does his Lego.

Q Does she?

D Okay, Mommy?

A Yes. So I think friends and TV and yes, games he plays.

Q Yes. What's he watching at the moment that he's drawing on for his ideas, do you think?

A Well, as I say, he likes all the natural history stuff. What's he watching? I try to avoid what they're watching. They're watching something on CBBs about some kids in a foster home.

Q Oh yes, is it The Dumping Ground?

A Yes, I don't think Harvey really likes that though. But obviously I make them compromise because I'm sick of the arguing over what they watch on telly, because they both want to watch different things.

Q What about, sort of, YouTube channels and things like that? I think last time you were showing us Ryan's...?

A Oh yes, so we used to watch that but we've banned it. So actually they don't go on it anymore. Because they've got the DSs, it seems to have stopped the need to go onto YouTube.

00:31:32

Q Is it Ryan's Toys?

A Yes.

Q So why did that get banned?

A Not for any other reason than it was just annoying. The child's annoying or I think he's annoying. And he used to watch him just unwrapping presents. Anything that he could have, everything that Ryan had.

Q Oh, right, okay, so it was a show about, did he unwrap and then review the products and things like that?

A Yes.

Q Did Harvey or Simon ever played at doing that themselves?

A No. He used to watch unwrapping eggs, like Kinder eggs and different eggs, and he wanted that, but you can't get that anywhere. They had little plastic toys in. And I did think about making him one, but then I just thought, oh, actually it's a lot of money for just tat, isn't it, that's going to go in the bin in about two days?

Q Does he like, sort of, drawing and things like that? He showed me some fantastic pictures in the play diary.

A Yes, he likes drawing, if he's in the right mood for it. So it depends what mood he's in, but yes, he does like drawing.

00:32:38

Q And what are your thoughts on the value of creativity for children?

A Well, I think it's important, but it isn't just drawing, is it? I mean, it's playing outside with the friends, isn't it, as well? They play a lot of, like, the playground games that they all make up. So last year Harvey used to play something about rabbits and foxes, so I suppose it was prey and something else. I never really understood what they were actually doing.

Q Does Harvey tend to lead the games? Is he somebody who takes control?

A I think he's quite bossy, yes, but so are some of his other friends, so I'm not sure who leads them. They have a lot of falling out, the boys and girls. And then they're friends again straight away, but yes. So I think a lot of his creation is the games, and like Simon as well at school. Both of them, like taking those Lego figures to school and battling.

Q Yes, it's a really cool idea. So when you say traditional playground games, are we talking games like chase or Tig or things like that?

A Yes, I mean, they can play football but I don't think he plays it every day. And obviously that excludes half his friends, because probably a lot of them aren't bothered about it as well.

00:33:57

Q Right. When it comes to some sort of questions about your views, what types of devices or phone apps or game apps and things like that, or toys, limit play, in your view? Is there any sort of devices, technology which actually limits the possibility of play and creativity?

A I think it all does, to a certain extent, in one way, because they're just looking at a screen, aren't they? If they don't go on apps because they haven't got a phone, sometimes they'll get mine, there are a couple of apps on it, but they wouldn't...

Q What do they ask to go on, on your phone?

A They know I wouldn't put anything on, so it's only, there's a Hungry Caterpillar one that I've had on it for years, from when they were very little, that they have to feed the hungry caterpillar. You wake it up and then you have to feed it, and it does things like paints and stuff. And then it goes in its cocoon and emerges into a butterfly, which I paid for that, years ago. So Harvey will still occasionally play that.

Then I had Scrabble game, like Scrabble on my phone for a while. But in the end it got annoying, because I think the words were made up. But basically he started. It was easy when you started and you had to form words that fitted in a grid, but the kids really liked that. And then I've got, like, a little Tetrisey game at the moment, but you don't have to do it as a speed. So occasionally they'll go on that, but as I say, they don't really have access to any apps because their DSs are so old, they can only play games on them or text each other.

00:35:44

Q Right. Would you ever think of upgrading them or anything like that?

A Well actually, we are buying them a Nintendo Switch for Christmas. I thought it's about time I give into it. They don't know that. We've told them they're [unclear].

Q Is it something that they've asked for?

A No, because they know they wouldn't get one. Well, Harvey said, that's all I want from Father Christmas, and we said, Father Christmas won't get you one of those, it's too much. And he said, well, it's fine, because he makes them. So we have decided this year, we've told them that we're going to get in touch with Father Christmas, and he's giving them less, and we're going to buy them a present. So we're going to buy them that.

And we've bought them actually, because they run [?] off and maybe they're rubbish, but there's some games that they're more interactive. So you make like a cardboard robot and a car. I don't know how they work, but they make something as well.

Q Oh, right, yes, so is it kind of, like, and it connects up to the [overtalking] Switch.

A Yes.

Q So it's like the physical and the...

00:36:42

A And we have bought some extra controllers, so that some of the games you can have up to eight. We haven't bought up to eight, we've done it up to four. But over Christmas we'll obviously let them play it, but then once school's back, it'll be being back to strict, only weekends and they have to earn it.

- Q How do they earn it? Is that doing household chores or things like that?
- A Just behaviour generally, I think, and doing homework.
- Q Doing homework. That's really cool, so that's kind of, like, quite, how do you think they're going to react?
- A I think it's going to be their favourite present.
- Q Really? Have they used one before? Have they got friends who've [overtalking]?
- A Yes, they've seen them before, I think.
- Q Has Harvey had a go on one?
- A It's more because of Simon, because he's nine, and I think if they were both seven, I probably wouldn't be buying one yet, but I feel like, with Simon, most of his friends have got computers. As you know, we've got those old ones, but they're never allowed to... But a lot of the games aren't appropriate, I think, so these are all, like, family-friendly. But I think you can get on the internet, on them, can't you? To be honest, I don't know that much about them.

00:37:55

- Q I think so, I think you can. And I think that was something as well, about whether you've got any sort of, like, thoughts about toys which do link up to the internet, that are sort of internet-enabled, whether you've got any thoughts, or do you have any?
- A I mean, that would be the only thing they've got. Nothing else does that they've got.
- Q So that would be something...
- A Oh, apart from that, Alexa, but they've been told off about that in the summer because they managed to spend £30 on it, downloading some children's stories.
- Q Oh, the David Walliams stories.
- A Yes, they didn't realise they'd done it and we didn't realise they'd done it.
- Q So can you think of any kind of, like, toys or games or devices which promote play in your view?
- A Ban [unclear].
- Q Oh, about that, actually, because that's quite interesting, and I have been thinking about what a fantastic opportunity it is to do this project near Christmas to ask about some Christmas things. So you were saying about the Santa Tracker?

00:38:59

- A Yes, so because we've not always been in Sheffield for Christmas, so it's quite important. They like the fact that they know he's coming and we discuss it. He just knows. He just knows where you're going to be. But yes, the Santa Tracker gets a lot of excitement. It is quite cool, isn't it, to see?

Q It is.

A I can't remember where he starts off, Australia or...

Q Is it the Nasa one or something, isn't it?

A Yes, what's it called?

Q I can't remember. Is it something Rod or something like that?

A Yes, but you can just track it and it shows you how many presents he's delivered and everything. So yes, the kids love that. And then we always watch a food Christmas film on Christmas Eve, or I read them The Night Before Christmas in their Christmas pyjamas, which I bought in Home Bargains for nothing. They're elves this year, they haven't seen them.

Q So they enjoy tracking Santa?

00:39:56

A So yes, yes.

Q Have they got any kind of, like, what Advent calendars have they got this year?

A Last year they had Lego and all sorts. This year they've just got chocolate, but actually my auntie's bought them a 3D one that they put, like, a little sticker, like a bauble or an animal around the tree. It's quite cute. But she actually sent me a computer one.

Q A computer Advent calendar?

A To show you on phone.

Q Is that like an online Advent calendar? Yes.

A Yes.

Q And so is this something that they're using as well?

A No, I haven't showed it to them. It's nice, but I'm really bad because I won't use it every day. Like, she's retired, so she probably sends time, but you ice biscuits and you, where is it?

Q Oh, so it gives you a sort of Christmas task?

A Yes. So actually I haven't showed them, because they would want to do it every day.

00:40:49

Q Okay, I suppose that's quite creative. I would probably be feeling quite a bit of pressure. It's a lovely idea though.

A Tomorrow we're going, my mum does jewellery classes, and she's pinched the boys to go and make a copper reindeer each. It's quite expensive, but it'll look so sweet, so one of them will make one for me, and one will make one for my mum,

because she's actually [unclear] away this weekend. So we're looking forward to that. So they're missing football to go.

Q To go and make copper reindeer.

A But they're going to be using, like, blowtorches and things, and hammers and stuff. So I think they'll quite like it. It's not particularly girly, is it? Oh, this isn't loading. I'll show you these reindeer we're going to make though. They're so cute. I think that's nothing to do with technology, but it's creative, isn't it?

Q It is very creative, yes. Oh, they're fantastic.

A Yes, so we're going to make those tomorrow.

Q Oh, I really like those. They're really stylish. Yes they're great.

A So yes, but actually, back to Christmas, neither of them have asked her for anything to do with technology for Christmas.

Q Have they not?

00:42:05

A No. Simon wanted a penknife. I said no, you're too young for that. He's asked for a music stand, a Sheffield [unclear], nothing really. Harvey doesn't even know what he wants. So yes, neither of them have asked for any technology.

Q You said that Harvey had asked for some more Lego. Has he asked for any sets?

A He wants Lego City. He wants to build some houses. I'm trying to quash that, only because, as I say, he won't let us take them apart, so he's already got a lot in his room. But my mother-in-law probably will buy him one, actually. The other thing he's asked for are these little round things. They look like plastic balls, and when you throw them it moves into an animal. Bakugan or... So he's asked for some of those, and you can play a game with it and battle.

Q All right, where's he seen those? Do you know?

A Well, he's got a few. He had a voucher for his birthday from Argos, so yes, that's what he chose. It took a long, me and him when we were in there for about an hour. So yes, he'd like some more of those.

Q Is it related to any sort of TV show or anything that you know of or...?

A I don't know, actually, because obviously the Pokémon cards are, aren't they? I mean, he did ask for some cards, and I said no, I'm sorry, Harvey, you're not having any more cards. He's got so many. And I don't really understand what they do with them, apart from argue over who's got the best power.

00:43:30

Q So can you think of anything else that sort of helps Harvey to be creative, any toys that he's got, [overtalking].

A He's got quite a few remote controls, different sort of remote controls. So he's got cars, he's got, like, a centipede, a crocodile. And then he's got a really cool, like,

wheelie thing that spins and stuff, so I think they quite like those. They battle with those, or they'll set an obstacle course.

Q Oh right, where will they set the obstacle course?

A Well, somewhere in the house usually. Probably where you're sitting, under your feet or something. They have done it on the table.

Q And what do they do with the obstacle course?

A So they race the cars and see which one's the fastest and things like that. Or race the remote control thing.

Q That is quite interesting.

A And actually, I've bought them in their stockings a drone each, but it's not remote control. You do it with your hands. It must be sensors. They weren't that expensive. Obviously I can't get them out but I bought them one each, and apparently they can go quite high. But I don't understand how you do it with your hands.

00:44:47

Q It must be, yes, it sounds like it's sort of sensitive to where you are. It would look quite magical, wouldn't it, sort of juggling with it in the air or something like that?

A Yes, so they've actually got one of those each. So yes, I mean, I suppose I do buy them a little bit of technology, but it isn't technology sitting in a computer, is it, in a computer that you sit and type at?

Q Has Harvey, to your knowledge, ever sort of played with virtual reality or augmented reality equipment? Has he ever had a go on sort of the VR helmets or anything like that?

A Not that I know of.

Q Not at Bean [?] Park or anything like that?

A No, I don't think so.

Q Okay, I just wondered because I know that, one thing that I did mean to ask you a little bit about is the visit to the National Museum.

A Oh yes, I don't think there's a VR there, actually.

Q I can't remember, to be honest.

00:45:34

A Have you been?

Q I have been, yes, it was really good.

A Yes, even I played on a few games. It's quite a good setup, isn't it, how they've done it in that massive room?

Q Yes, I think so as well.

A Yes, Harvey loves that. The game they got obsessed by was this one, and apparently it was made in Sheffield. And I don't even know what you were doing, but you were these cool little characters, and that was the one that they all seemed to fight over, and I don't know why. I don't know what was so good about it, but I liked playing the snowball game with them.

Q Oh yes, the snowball game, that's great.

A Yes, so I liked that, and I had a go on the dance one, which the kids won't go on it, but yes, they tend to like the actually battling-type ones that you're playing against other people, rather than the single.

Q Did you play with Harvey on any of the games?

A The snowball I did.

Q Who won?

00:46:27

A Probably Harvey. I think that was the only one I did with him. Oh, we had a go on the music one where you get your guitar and things. It was really hard.

Q Like a rock band type thing?

A Yes, it was hard, so we had a go on that but he lost interest fairly quickly because you had to follow it. Did you have a go on that one? You have to press the keys to the colour and stuff.

Q I don't think I had a go on that one, no, because I'm a bit uncoordinated.

A It was rubbish, but they were probably they only ones I had. I tried to persuade him to play some of the older ones with me but he wouldn't. He liked the racing. There was a racing car. He spent a lot of time on the racing car.

Q Do you think there's any kind of devices or apps or toys, things like that that are better for playing with Harvey, if you ever do play with him? I know that you've played with, not ever played with him ever, but on technology. I know that you've played together on the Wii, I think in a previous interview you were telling us about the...

A Yes, the little DSs. Yes, I'll have a go occasionally with them, I quite like that, but they just think I'm rubbish and they help me. Harvey will wait for me. So he'll be winning and I'm like, oh, it's no fun when you win all the time.

00:47:35

And he'll be like, it's all right, I'll go back and wait for you. So he'll wait for me to catch him up but then he'll still beat me. So he's quite sweet [unclear].

Q They don't have tablets, do they?

A No, we have got them in the house.



Q Yes, do they have any apps on the tablets?

A Harvey's not that bothered. He's never asked me to really play on them. It's Simon who'd rather do that, and as you know, he likes the scratch and that.

Q Yes, the coding and...

A And the stop motion. I mean, he really likes that.

Q Does he make films quite a lot or code quite a lot?

A Yes, he goes to bed an hour later than Harvey, so normally he'll come back down once he's ready for bed and do that.

Q Yes. What kind of things does he create?

A He's made some little games that you have to, like it's a rocket that you have to hit on the scratch one. To be honest, he's next to me, so I can kind of see what he's doing. I know he's on it, and also my Microsoft account tells me what he's looked at.

00:48:37

So we have actually got a few things set up, so I know. And he's actually quite good, he doesn't go off it, because I think he realises that if he would, that would be the end of any privileges using a computer. So I don't totally pay attention to it, but it's always in a communal area. I wouldn't let him do it in his bedroom.

Q Yes. So you can see on your phone what he's doing?

A Yes, I get a weekly report.

Q Oh, do you?

A Yes. I don't know how my husband set that up, but yes, I've got a weekly report on my phone. But interestingly, it means that I can't... So maps [?] that I might want to look at, it won't let me, because it must have an age limit on it, and I probably can't remember my log in. But I mean, I don't really use the apps, so you know, but sometimes you need them don't you?

Actually, the only other apps that I have got on my phone and neither of them has used it really, again probably because I haven't let them, were those little robots they've got. You know those little square ones that were remote controlled? But you could do something. I didn't totally understand it, but we downloaded the app and it is on my phone.

Q Oh right, so they're kind of, like, internet-enabled or internet-connected?

00:49:56

A Yes. So they have had a go on it, but it was quite confusing. It wasn't very straightforward. I can't even find the app now.

Q So they were the little robots that we saw on the tech tour, I think, and when they showed us [overtalking] sort of techtoids [?] as well, those, what are they called, sorry?

- A Boxer Bots. It's not even going to come up, is it?
- Q Everybody will be, like, on the internet today [unclear], ordering [unclear].
- A That is my job today, to [overtalking]. Have you done yours?
- Q No. Everyone's getting [overtalking].
- A Yes, so I don't understand, so there was a little ball and stuff with it, but I couldn't work out, because it doesn't actually tell you. See, they'd get it. I didn't understand how you made it, I don't know if that makes it go or...
- Q Oh, right. Have Harvey and Simon looked at...?
- A Yes, Simon's had a go on it.
- Q So did he manage to make it work?
- A Yes, probably.

00:51:00

- Q And some of the levels or some of the activities are locked out.
- A Yes, so I don't know if you have to pay for them or if you have to do more, but yes, Simon's had a go on it. As I say, Harvey, he likes playing games, but he's not, I'd say Simon's much more interested in, well, like the Scratch thing. I mean, Harvey has got some code work to do on the computer, but we just haven't sat down and done it. He has asked me, he does some Maths. He'd do that, but he really just wants to play the games that are on it.
- Q Is that on the laptop?
- A Yes, that you get when you go into the schools Maths thing, there are Accounting games and stuff like that.
- Q Oh right, they have their own in-schools website, don't they, with different...?
- A Yes, they must buy in, mustn't they, to a company, and then they give everyone a password?
- Q Yes, and does he like playing the games on the...?
- A Yes, he's not bothered about doing the Maths. But actually I don't mind because Harvey's good at Maths, so it doesn't matter. But yes, we haven't even done that recently, because he hasn't asked. As I say, we're concentrating on reading.

00:52:06

- I think I said to you that we think he's dyslexic. So I think that's why obviously some of these apps and things he's not bothered about, because he can't read it always.
- Q Yes. Have you ever looked at apps that you might think you might download to help him, because I think that...

A Yes, because there are some, I think.

Q Yes, so you suspect, because I think one of the questions, when we looked at the family at the start, is we asked whether there was any kind of disability in the family or any sort of learning difficulties or anything like that, and you suspect he might be dyslexic.

A Yes, we're paying for him to be tested, but it's like a five-month waiting list. But we haven't discussed with him. He doesn't think his reading's a problem, so at the moment he'll read with us, so we just haven't said anything, because while he's confident about it, I don't think there's any point.

Q Yes. Do you think that, if he has, kind of, like, any kind of reading difficulties, I'm trying to think how to phrase this really, how do you think using what he plays with, devices and apps, are in any way beneficial or not helpful, or does it have no relation to it at all?

00:53:19

A I think most of them he doesn't need to be able to read. And he might just be slower than other kids, because they said seven's the age that they would start testing, and I think Simon, his reading was exceptional. Like at Harvey's age he was on free [?] books, chapter books. So I think I've got, like, the extreme of the kids, Do you see what I mean? So Harvey might not be as bad as we think, although the school have agreed with us.

But yes, I don't think it affects you in apps, but I think it does in most things, because even when they're doing Maths at school, it's questions, isn't it, that you have to be able to read? It's not just like a sum. And because he's bright, he remembers everything.

Q He does seem to have a really good memory when I've been talking to him.

A They both do. So I think if he can remember stuff, he can hide stuff. Not hide it, but I think if you can remember how something works, you don't need to be able to read it, do you, if someone's shown you once and then you can do it?

Q I just want to go over again, kind of, like, the rules about when you are allowed to watch and not watch technology, because I sometimes feel like I've not asked this properly, I'm a little bit hazy about it. Do you have sort of set hours? Do you have a set screen time?

00:54:51

A So in the week they're not allowed any technology in the morning because we're either doing breakfast club or they're getting ready for school. So once they're ready, it's just play or reading. After school they have to ask me.

C I made something.

A [Unclear] the other night about some ideas that Philip Schofield was doing about toys, and the toy that came up the best, that all kids like the best, was a 1.99 stretchy-poo with eyes. God, I've broken it. How's he got the hose up? Sorry.

Q No, I'm just fascinated that Simon's made a Lego poo.

A Well yes, it's just a boy, isn't it, weird? Sorry, you were asking, oh yes, so in the week we're trying to get it so they do ten minutes homework when they get in, just to get them into the habit as Simon's getting older, and obviously because Harvey needs help with his reading. So we're kind of ignoring of the homework with Harvey at the moment, because I'm not worried about his Maths.

And he's actually not bad at spelling. But it's just his reading. So we try and do ten minutes homework every night, and then if there's time, they can watch, we've been watching I'm a Celebrity, just the trials. So we've been watching that with them before they go to bed.

Q Are the house rules the same for, or do they get any involvement in making the house rules about technology, because I remember a time when we came round and I think that Harvey had put himself on a tech ban?

00:56:16

A Oh, yes. So he'd probably been naughty and I asked him what did he think his consequence should be, and he told me that he wasn't allowed to play the DS for two weeks.

Q That's quite stringent.

A So yes, but he stuck to it.

Q Did he?

A Yes.

Q Yes, and he didn't ask for it or...?

A Or if he did, then he said, oh, I remember, I'm not playing it for two weeks. I can't even remember what he did. But I thought if he picked his own consequence, they're more likely to stick to it. They do fight over the telly a lot. Now if they want to watch a film, and they can't agree on it, I'll pick them something on Netflix that they've not seen before, which seems to be working okay.

Q Okay, so you're sort of mediating to make the choice about what they watch. And they're happy to let you take that lead?

00:57:08

A Yes, and then this morning, they're not allowed to watch telly at the weekend till seven, I've ruined that with Lego Masters, haven't I? It's [overtalking]. But then they have to be ready for swimming for nine as well, so at some point they've got to have their cereal and get ready for swimming,

Q Okay, so do you feel that there's an effect on family life coming from technology at all?

A Yes, but I think sometimes, it's awful, like we do all these rules, and then sometimes I think you use it because you've got stuff to do as well. I think less now they're older and they can play, but I think definitely, I'd say when they were toddly, sort of two and three, sometimes you'd plant them in front of Pippa Pig for half an hour while you did a few things.

I mean now that, because they will play with each other, I think it's much better. But yes, I do think it impacts. But then also I think it's nice as well. Like, we'll watch telly together as a family, or go to the cinema and watch a film together. So Julian's going to take them to see Star Wars. I don't know if I'm going to go yet, but I took Harvey last week. He wanted to see Frozen, so we met up with one of his friends and another mum who wanted to see Frozen too.

Q Oh, is that the new Frozen film. What's it like?

A It's actually quite good, because I thought it was going to be awful, because of the other one, and I was really surprised Harvey wanted to see it, But he said to me, when it comes out on DVD, can you buy it me? So he really enjoyed it.

00:58:29

Q Did he?

A Yes, I did feel like it just needed a rendition of Let it Go with it.

Q Needed that hit.

A Yes. But yes, they enjoyed it. So I think it swings both ways, doesn't it? I think it's got its benefits, but I do think... But then we don't let it take over our lives, so if they're not children, they will sit in their room 12 hours a day and play on a computer. And we've already told them that they're not having computers and TVs in their bedrooms, so don't even ask. And I think they'll take that on board. They've got CD players, so they listen to stories.

Q Yes. Have the house rules changed over time? Have you had to modify them?

A Probably a little bit. Yes, we've probably got a bit stricter, I think, as they've got older.

Q Why do you think that is?

A Or I think maybe we let them watch too much telly and then, I do think their behaviour changes with the computers and the telly.

00:59:27

It can make them angry if you're asking them to turn it off and they don't want to, or they haven't finished watching something.

Q Has Harvey ever tried to get round the house rules at all? Have you had any instances? Can you give examples or think of where he, sort of...?

A I think they try every day.

Q What would they do?

A Is it just asking or...?

Q Yes.

A I think just asking, and then whine, and sometimes we end up just turning the telly off, but that can make them quite upset and angry if they haven't finished watching. But in the end, I think, then he'll come back and say sorry, ten minutes later, I'm sorry.

Q Are you the one who makes the decisions about what they play, the programmes they watch or games that they play?

A I think we're probably fairly similar.

Q Is that you and Julian?

01:00:19

A Yes, I think Julian probably is a bit more lenient than me. You see, I was a bit, they've seen all the Marvel films because they're 12s, but actually...

Q Did they see them with their dad?

A We all watch them together. We try and have a film night once a weekend where we watch something together, but recently we haven't watched so much. Well, because there's not been...

Q There's not been new releases has there, really?

A No, there's not been so much stuff coming out, has there?

Q No, there was the big, sort of, all the way through the different superheroes of the Marvel franchise, wasn't there? There was like, Captain America, and there'd be like...

A And because we were catching up on them, we could watch one a week. So maybe we need to do the Star Wars next.

Q Get ready for the, are they going to see the new Star Wars?

A Yes, they want to. But again, I think they're definitely influenced by what you watch as well. Julian likes all that sort of stuff.

Q So does he bring that kind of thing into the family, do you think?

01:01:13

A Yes, I think definitely. I mean, I think it's everywhere, isn't it, in schools? But I mean, why do little boys like Spiderman from, like, age two? I don't get it, but they do, don't they? So I think it's everywhere, but I think obviously it's probably

influenced a bit more... Are you warm enough by the way, with the back door open?

Q No, I'm absolutely fine. Has Julian ever introduced any sort of games or technologies, like apps and [overtalking]?

A Oh yes, he plays, probably not technology, well, actually, he'll play the computer with them more than I would. He'll get it out and have an hour with them, but not that often. He'll play Risk and chess and things with them, which I don't play those. I said there's certain things I don't want to play. I can't play chess anyway. My dad tried to teach me, and I think my brain, I didn't listen long enough.

But no, he'll play things like Risk and stuff with them. And we've got a Star Wars Risk.

Q Hello.

B Hello.

A Do you want to shut the door? We're just finishing the interview, and you can butt in if you want. We're talking mainly about Harvey, but them both.

01:02:22

B Someone didn't want the door shut.

Q Do you think there's any technology that's particularly sort of positive or negative for Harvey?

A I think it can all be a bit negative for Harvey if he doesn't want to turn it off.

B Yes, they tend to get a bit overexcited, don't they, particularly with video games? It's just, I don't know what it is.

A Simon gets a red cheek.

Q I think you've mentioned that before, yes. He gets sort of a...

B Yes, they get completely overexcited, but no, I think apart from that...

A I think it's positive while they're playing it, because they have good banter. Like you, you do like, I mean, as I said, you play with it more than me, don't you, with them? But it isn't that often.

B No, although that's about to change, isn't it, Diane?

A Yes, I was just saying [overtalking] the Switch, the arrival of the Switch.

B Yes, it'll be the arrival of the Switch.

01:03:14

A Julian's bought one game for himself that's got all the old classics in it.

B It's got all the old Sega classics on it. In fact, it's just arrived, [unclear], it's in the boot of the car.

Q What games are those?

B It's like Sega Megadrive, so yes, so [unclear] Altered Beast and...

A What's that? Oh, I wouldn't even know it.

B It's an arcade game that I remember being popular, but it's got all the Sonic games on it. And lots of them; I'll sure they'll enjoy it as well.

Q Are you going to introduce those to the boys, do you think?

B Well, I think they might need a little bit more vetting, because the PEGI rating on it is 12, whereas obviously things like, oh, we've got FIFA as well.

Q Do you find that children generally are aware of things like PEGI ratings?

B Not at all.

A I didn't even know that's what it was called.

B No, I was going to say, you didn't, Deb [overtalking].

01:03:58

Q [Overtalking] PEGI rating. Someone said to me it's got a PEGI rating, and I was like, what's that?

B No, I don't think so. I mean, that obviously is on that, and it applies for both of them, but yes, we do keep a close eye, because what was it, we went out the other weekend didn't we, and Simon had told the poor babysitter that, oh yes, at the weekends I'm always allowed to play with Daddy's PS3. And yes, my taste in games essentially runs to me, you know, sort of, working off the hate, [unclear], by going around and shooting people in the face.

Q Oh right, so [overtalking], things like that.

B Yes, exactly. And you know, Black Ops and all those things which are completely inappropriate to... No, I mean, going back to Harvey, anything particularly negative for Harvey, I don't think so.

A I mean, he does throw the remote control at the wall or at the floor sometimes, but it's...

B But again, that's just when he's not getting his way.

A When he's not getting his own way.

B Yes, that's not got anything to do with the technology, has it? It's just him being unpleasant.

01:04:58

A Simon usually, well, they've actually been arguing a lot more, because Simon's beginning to not give into Harvey quite as much.



- B Yes, which is long overdue.
- A So Simon's always given in to him. I think being the younger sibling, so...
- B Yes, but I mean with Harvey, it probably sounds like a broken record from when we last spoke, but Harvey, I don't know, I think Harvey has always been... Well, I don't know if that's entirely fair, but it seems certainly now, Harvey is, you know, quite often happier to play with stuff by himself, if you see what I mean? So, you know, Lego, for example, he'll just go and help himself to the drawers.
- A Well, the other day, Simon was watching telly and Harvey was playing Marble Run and Simon got cross with him, because all he could hear was the marbles going choo, choo, choo going down the thing. Tell him to stop. And we were like, no.
- B It's a playroom time.
- A I'm turning it up. So, you know.
- B I don't think so, with Harvey. There's nothing particularly negative, is there?
- Q One thing I did want to ask you about that. I think when we were leaving from one visit, you mentioned about watching a video with Simon about makeup on Harry Potter. I would like just to ask you about that, just before we finish.

01:06:04

- A So basically, we watched the Harry Potter films, and it gave Simon nightmares. I think he was probably about six. He says he was five, I don't know. But we'd read the books together, then he had some nightmares, so to get round that, I thought, God, what am I going to do, because he was like, I can't sleep? You've made me, you know, I'm scared of Voldemort. So then I googled them putting his makeup on, and after that he was fine.
- Q Oh right, so was this something you watched together?
- A Yes.
- Q Okay, and did the nightmares stop then?
- A Yes.
- Q That's really interesting. Have you ever done that in other ways with, sort of, teaching or learning or [overtalking]?
- A Well, we're always looking at stuff on YouTube with them, aren't we?
- B Yes. But I mean, or do you mean more, you know, going behind the curtain [overtalking]?
- Q Yes, or anything, really, sort of, the use of YouTube as a sort of...?

01:06:54

- B Yes, we do do that. I can't remember, we were doing some [overtalking].

- A I mean, if they ask some stuff, we do try and tell them honestly. Even though they're young, we do tell them the truth.
- B It's [unclear] much about everything.
- A No, but as much as you can, because I think it's important, isn't it? Say like we're watching, Simon's got this book, what's it called? I bought it, and Julian's like, I can't believe you bought that. Boys with...
- B Yes, it's for boys who dare to be different.
- A It's got like, Nelson Mandela, and a guy who was a lifesaver and got his leg bitten off by a shark, and it's got a picture of them and tells you about them all. But then there's people that are trans and gay in it. So because we're watching I'm a Celebrity and Caitlyn Jenner's in it, Simon said, she sounds like a man. And I said, well, Simon, you know in that book, and we've talked about women who were born into a man's body, and then they change? And he's like, oh yes, fine. And that was the end of the conversation.
- So, because he's read that, and it's good, because it's brought up stuff that I probably wouldn't just say, right, we're going to sit down and talk about, you know, gay people or whatever. But then the fact that he obviously spotted it on telly but wasn't sure.

01:08:08

- Q Yes, so it was a prompt for asking a question?
- B Yes, I mean, we spend a lot of time watching animal-type stuff on YouTube, but yes, and then [unclear], I suppose explanatory [overtalking] as well.
- A Oh yes, they like watching megalodon [?] versus something else on YouTube.
- D No, you're not coming in.
- B What's up, [unclear]?
- D Can you just...
- A But by the man and not the lady. He's a bit cooler this [overtalking].
- Q Oh, is he a bit cooler?
- B Yes.
- A They've got Alexa in there, and they just let them shout whatever songs they want.
- Q At the hairdresser's?
- B Yes.

01:08:43

- A Yes, because they always want that awful one about, I've got big butts. And I'm like, boys, you shouldn't be putting that on, you know that.
- B Actually yes, that's one example where sometimes technology... The other weekend we took that out, because they do, you know, sort of shout things at it. And, you know, obviously whilst we're reasonably tolerant of them listening to most of what they want to listen to on there, the 2 Live Crew does not quite make the grade. But they tend to ignore that, don't they?
- Q Are you worried in any way about your children's experiences with technology?
- A Not at the moment but because we can...
- B Well, I think it's our own, I mean, I wouldn't say that we are huge technophiles, in the sense that we're not all over it like a rash.
- A I think this is what I said last time, it's my worry rather than the kids.
- B Yes, but then it's just about the degree of access that is, these days, obviously so easy to [overtalking], and including, I talked to someone else about this the other day, and saying obviously when we were growing up, late 70s and the 80s, it was completely different, because there was no Wi-Fi, web, there was no access to all of that, there was no need to filter everything, as long as you were, sort of, in the news agent...

01:09:53

- A Yes, but they can't believe that there was three TV channels and then the fourth one came out.
- B But because they're savvy, and obviously if you just go in the general search, I mean, I think it's not really feasible for us to continue just rationing access to laptops and things like that, because they're going to get on it. And obviously they can search for something. I think we spoke about another example, didn't we? YouTube is a classic, because there was a phase where it was always, you know, and it still is all about superheroes and search about it.
- And of course there are adult cosplay films on there. And not adult in the pornographic sense, but even so. It's, you know.
- A So it would be like, Elsa was in a bath of beads and Spiderman would be pouring beads on her or something. There were some weird ones, weren't there?
- B Yes, so I think it's more just about, well, it's [unclear], it's a loss of control, isn't it, because it facilitates all of that? And of course, like anything, it can be a good thing in the sense that Simon will go online, google about Donald Trump endlessly because he thinks he's funny, rather than being some sort of right-wing fascist. But at the same time obviously, it does mean, well, I think we feel the stress of it, don't we, because I think we were both, as I say, we're not the most technologically minded people.

01:11:08

You know, they're not allowed to touch that because that's for Daddy's work and GDPR and yadda, yadda, yadda. But even the laptop that we have for Diane, it's essentially unfettered. So I think it's more being scared that we don't know enough.

A But I was saying, I get that Microsoft account every week that tells me what Simon's searched.

B Yes, but that's after the event, Diane, that's the problem.

A Well yes, that's the thing, you get it sent once a week.

Q Do you have any online, sort of, blockers, or anything like that? Any firewalls, any sort of...?

B I think beyond there's...

A I don't know, we're going to have to set them up.

B There is, there's one or two on the Wi-Fi, for example. It will essentially, at source, because that was after the cosplay thing. And so it's all right, okay, anything that is tagged as adult in that sense. But beyond that, no. But I mean, again, because neither of them has smartphones yet, and neither of them has unfettered access to a computer, I think we are perhaps a little bit more laid-back than we ought to be about it.

01:12:06

A I think, when Simon gets a smartphone, I mean, one, you can do it so it's off your phone, and they have to ask you for apps, because I know I was talking to my sister-in-law about this, [woman's name], and [boy's name], her son's 11. He just started secondary school. And on one hand he's quite mature and grown up, and he gets the train, and he leaves at seven in the morning, gets home at seven, but he doesn't have all these apps.

And she said, he's been for a sleepover and all the other kids had got Instagram or something, and she said, you don't know what they're looking at, do you? So I think, as they get phones, we'll probably have to have some new phone rules that me and Julian will have to abide to as well.

B We'll just have to get on top of it, yes.

A I have talked to other friends about it. They all put their phones in a thing as they walk in the house.

B What, in a dish?

A I mean, obviously, you use yours for work, but just while we're having tea and stuff, and then they don't take them to their bedrooms. We'll have to go back to alarm clocks, because I think if you do it, you've kind of all got to do it a bit, haven't you?

01:13:04

Q So there's got to be a kind of, like, equality with parents as well as children? If we don't keep our [overtalking]?

A Well, a bit, but Julian uses his for work.

B As I say, I wouldn't necessarily agree with that, because I think there needs to be a delineation between being an adult and being a child. That's [overtalking].

A Well, yes. But I think when we get to the point we probably need to discuss it though, you know, and have a look at it. There definitely will have to be, or maybe the kids who come to the house all put their phone in a basket, you know.

Q So do you think there is, kind of, an age of tech responsibility?

A How do you determine that?

B Well, the point at which they, you know, you say okay, fine, you'll get [overtalking].

A Yes, yes.

B But if I had my way, when they're 21.

A But they do get taught about it at school. Simon's been taught about it. I just don't think they can comprehend it [overtalking].

01:13:47

B I mean, I think ultimately when they get to sort of secondary school, when they're 13, 14, then yes, I think you have to accept that they're going to find their own way in the world. And the other things, of course, and this will be something, I'm sure, the parents have said, well, certainly my parents said it, is that, well, it's the classic example, isn't it, I don't know how to use the video player, Julian. Can you please set the video up for me? Because the chances are they are going to end up being leaps ahead of us.

A Simon's already better than me.

B Savvy, yes.

A He set a second profile up on my Kindle, and I couldn't do anything because he'd put a whole other profile on, so he could get onto anything.

B Oh, yes. He used up all the space.

A Anyway, he asks for it now. He got told off for that.

B But yes, I mean I think it is probably, you could relate it to something like [unclear] competency, couldn't you? If you sort of say it's probably about that sort of age, early teens, where frankly you're just going to have to accept at that point that it's going to happen.

And I suppose part of what we are trying to do between now and then is to try and educate them about the fact that, yes, again, talking about the internet, it's a wonderful tool, but it is also, you know, it's like going out in the middle of town by yourself.

01:15:00

You also have to accept that you've got to abide by some rules and be sensible and be careful. But yes, I'd take [overtalking].

A But I mean, there's been the odd case, hasn't there, where people have done stuff on the internet and it's...

B Well, it's more than an odd case.

A Well, yes, and it's ruined... You know, there was that boy, wasn't there, didn't he like someone, a girl who'd done [?] on Instagram. She'd shown her pictures and he'd liked it, or something. And he was, like, 16, he nearly got done for it, didn't he? And I think, you know, maybe you show the kids. When Simon gets a phone maybe we say, look, this is what happened to these people. That will affect your whole life.

B But I think again it's a wider issue, isn't it? It's about education and I think generally about the fact that there are, you know, something that I'm always banging on about, although I'm not entirely convinced they've taken the message on board as yet, but saying there are rules that we all agree to follow, and they are there for good reason.

01:15:52

They might seem to be a pain in the backside, and they might seem to be boring and all the rest of it, but we are imposing these on you because there are risks, and those risks need to be managed. But again, it's a conversation that you hope becomes easier the older they get.

Q How do you sort of keep up with what's happening in the digital aids, and where do you get your information from about what to watch out for, really, or be aware of?

A I don't.

B Well, speaking for me, I think it tends to be on the news or online generally. I mean, again, as I say, I'm not... Whilst, as Diane says, I'll enjoy sitting down and playing some video games with the boys, I'm not, you know, sort of usually interested in tech. [Unclear] I work in an industry that's built on paper.

A Well, so do I.

B Well, I know, but you know, we're still faxing things to each other in the law, Diane.

Q Oh are you?

B Yes, we still use faxes, and we're about the only people, but yes, we still do use faxes.

Q Is that for data security or is it...?

01:16:50

B No, to be honest, it's because the rules themselves haven't caught up yet. So email doesn't constitute good service unless you have the consent of the other party, but you can send them a fax. And because that's in the rules, that's good service.

Q Okay, so there's a lag.

B Well, yes, lawyers are all slow to come to these...

A But luckily we've got a friend who's very into tech, so I think at some point we might have to ask him.

B Well, and Uncle [male name] sort of up on it as well, isn't he? It's my younger brother. He's certainly more up with it than me. If I run into trouble, I tend to call [male name] and say, can you explain how I do this?

Q And would you like any kind of guidance or do you feel it's out there already?

B I kind of think anything that, you know, takes you there more easily and more quickly would be something that I'd pay attention to.

A Some of these companies, like Google and things, have got to get more responsible though, haven't they, and that's half the things isn't it? I mean, that has been on the news because of...

B Yes, but you could wait for them until the cows come home, Diane.

01:17:46

A Well, I know.

B Because for them it's not about the welfare of your children, it's about the bottom line. They're going to do the minimum that they have to. Yes, I think if there was, like, an easy way, so say, I'm going to go and spend an afternoon having all of this explained to me or whatever it might be, yes. Fine, happy to give up an afternoon to do that.

A So at work, if I need anything technical doing, I ask the people who are in their 20s, because they just do it, because they did it at school. And they're like, can you not do that? I was like, I don't even really know how to, I mean, Julian knows, I am really bad, because of nursing, I've never until my job now, and I literally use a programme to write patients' notes on, I've never had to use a computer for work. I mean, you've had to use one for work.

B I mean, computers weren't a feature when I was at school until I got to secondary school, until I was over 13, and even then, I mean, I'm sure if I showed it to either of these two now they'd just laugh.

Q I think I remember at school when we learned about, sort of, like, computer coding, I think we just had exercise books and we were just writing down ones and zeros, and you didn't actually get to [overtalking] practise.

01:18:48

A I think we had, like, one lesson a term. I mean, you went to private school, so you probably had a bit more than we did.

B Well, I did Computer Studies at GCSE, but it wasn't [overtalking].

A Oh yes, we wouldn't have even been offered that, you know.

B But yes, I think the computers were called Archimedes or something like that and all, sort of, you know, just one room, computers in a horseshoe, and a chap called, you know, the compulsory Trekkie in charge. He was a lovely man called [male name]. But yes, I mean, compared to anything you look at now, you sort of think, well, I'm [unclear]. And I've said this to Diane before, about the games consoles.

A So maybe we should all be educated more.

B Because that was something that, again, didn't really happen to us. And I seem to remember having friends who might have had a Sega Master system. But then my younger brother, who's six years younger than me, I mean, yes, all of that was just sort of de rigueur, effectively. But yes, so now, I mean, I think it's probably we are of our time, aren't we, Diane? That's the problem.

A And then what was really funny is, my mum and dad live around the corner, and my dad, they obviously find it hard, and then my dad will ring Julian, so Julian will go and have a look sometimes.

B Well yes, and the extent of my knowledge, Hugh [?], have you tried turning it off and turning it back on again?

01:20:00

A Yes, which he will have done. So soon the boys will be going round to help them. I mean, Simon, honestly, apart from they can't type yet, he's probably better than me already. He can do PowerPoint and all sorts. As I say, Harvey's not quite as interested in that sort of thing. I'd say Harvey's just interested in the games.

B Yes, or just generally speaking, I think obviously television, they're both far too obsessed with, but I do think that Harvey in some ways is more interested in doing things manually. I mean, I'd say Lego is more [overtalking].

A He's really into it now, isn't he?

B Yes, he's incredibly into it. And I mean, obviously the Marble Run thing and [overtalking].

A It all goes through phases. He'll play with something for a couple of weeks, then he'll move onto the next thing. Interestingly, Julian's parents came up when it was his birthday, and they gave them £50 each to go and buy what they wanted. And Harvey bought that Scalextric, and after one day they haven't really played with it, have they? He's not that bothered about it. He'd rather play pushing cars around.

A I'm coming, honey.

B There he is.



01:20:59

- D I've just made a mountain for [overtalking].
- A That's nice.
- B Oh, that's an excellent mountain.
- Q That's nice, that's a really good mountain.
- A I like that. Simon's made a poo, what did he say?
- Q Something to clog the bog.
- D He was making a toilet.
- B [Overtalking]?
- A Do you want to take it back?
- D Yes. I think he wants you to keep it.
- A No, take it into the other room though. Thank you.
- D Okay, a poo. How about you, you, you?
- A Is that the poo song?
- D Yes.

01:21:24

- Q I've got one last question to ask, which is related to Lego, actually, which is kind of, like, now that we're in a sort of digital era and Lego is very, you know, putting things together physically, what kind of toys do you think Lego might or should be developing for children in this more digital era?
- A So they might already have stuff. Can you, like, download an app that you buy that gives you ideas for building? I must say, we've asked for a book.
- B I suspect, I mean, going back obviously and keeping it sotto voce because it's a very big secret, but the thing that we shall not mention, I've actually got three of them but we're going to hold one back and hand it out at Easter, probably, but Labbo [?], so where they, sort of, put stuff together.
- A Have you seen them? I'll show you in the garage on the way out, actually.
- Q Yes, I've heard of it, but I don't know exactly what it is.
- B Because I mean, we looked at that and thought, actually, that is something that, and again, perhaps more Harvey than Simon, but I could see them getting really into it. And I suppose what I'm getting at here is there is an interface between, you know, your classic physical items and then in some way you link it with the technology, whether that's using some sort of wireless control or [overtalking].
- I mean, these things, just looking at the box, it's essentially cardboard, and you model the cardboard, and then it will, you know, interact with the switch thing on

the TV. So I suppose it's things like that. I mean, to an extent I remember getting quite excited, again, back in the day with Lego, you know, where you could build a trainset with Lego and you connect it up to a power thing.

01:23:01

A I mean, we've still got that but it doesn't work, does it?

B Well, no, it got left in...

A I showed Cath your castle that you built.

B Oh, yes.

A But we've got some galleons in there.

B Yes, pirate ships. This is all the Lego that my brother and I had, and then my parents, in their wisdom, put it all into open-top boxes and then shoved it in an outhouse, where it proceeded to be covered in pigeon and rat faeces. So as [unclear] said, it's taken quite a while to clean it.

A Yes, it's that we've also got all my mum's Lego as well, haven't we? We need to give everybody some back, but we have got a lot of it.

B I guess things like that where there's, you know, an interaction between the tech and the traditional side of it, whether that would work. I suppose the idea that Diane comes up, like some sort of app where you could, you know, set some parameters...

01:23:45

A Like you could literally put in Harry Potter castle. I mean, obviously they'd have to buy all the rights. But you might have to buy something every time that would literally, not talk you through it but say you...

B But I mean, talking about the Lego castle, I mean I downloaded the instructions for that off a website online.

A Oh did you, I thought you still had them?

B No, well, I had, I think, about half of it, the other half having been eaten by a dog at some point. So I suppose yes, obvious things like that, you know, if there was a way that...

IE2 I can't believe they've got them for free, though, still.

B Well, I have no idea whether they've squared things away for copyright basis with Mr and Mrs Lego, but that was handy. But something similar, where you could perhaps set parameters, you know, in a child-friendly way, and it would say, okay, well these are the various, you know, give you some options, like this, you could do this and you'll need x, y and z.

Maybe something like that as a joined up... But I suppose the other thing would be, you know, at the risk of being a boring parent for a minute, if you linked it through to something like coding, for example.

01:24:44

- A Yes, you see, Simon would love that, wouldn't he?
- B Yes, and in many ways that would be more Simon's thing. I could see Simon being more interested in that than actually building [overtalking].
- A I was just saying, because Harvey's not that interested in anything like that, is he?
- B Not really, no. Well, not yet.
- Q Okay, well I think that's...

01:25:00

- A Simon, will you just turn it down while [overtalking]?
- Q Can you tell me a little bit about what you're building right now, Harvey?
- D So I'm building the Godzilla, and I builded two spaceships, a big mountain, a gun and its pet snake.
- Q Uh-huh, can I take a photo of your Godzilla?
- D After I've finished it.
- A I like your pet snake.
- Q I thought it was going to be a crocodile. Can I take a photo of your pet snake, of Godzilla's pet snake?

01:25:37

- D You can take a picture of everything.
- Q A picture of everything? Brilliant, that would be lovely. So, take a picture of the pet snake. That's really good. And can I take a picture of your truck that you built as well, because that was the truck that you said, I think, that you built out of a kit, was it?
- D Yes.
- Q Was it like a [overtalking]? Oh, I can probably take it on the table actually, if that's okay.
- A Just put it there, I must move this.
- Q What was the kit for? Was it from a TV show or was it from...?
- D It was the same[?] thing, this thing.
- Q [Unclear] go with it.
- D Don't take the picture yet. Yes, there's [overtalking].
- Q I won't take the picture yet, no. Are you going to set it up? Can you move a bit?
- A Right, like that, hon.

01:26:21

Q So I'll take the picture of that, and can you tell me a little bit about it?

D It's got form [?] winding mechanisms, the wheels. And these...

Q Oh yes, it's got the rubber bands, so it...

B You've got suspension.

Q Ah, and it says crusher on it as well, doesn't it?

D Yes.

Q And so it's got suspension with its rubber bands.

D Yes, so it can do that.

Q Uh-huh, and how would you play with that? How would you use it?

D I would use it like this.

Q Do you enjoy playing with Lego?

D Yes.

Q How does playing with Lego make you feel?

D Happy.

01:27:04

Q Happy. What's your favourite kind of play? What's your absolute favourite kind of play, do you think?

D I would say video games.

Q Video games? And what kind of video games have you played and would you like to play?

D Start the Party and Start the Party: Save the World.

Q What's that?

D They're really, really good games.

Q Where have you seen them?

D They're ours.

Q They're yours, and what do you do with Start the Party?

D Start the Party? So there's Start the Party and then there's one called Start the Party: Save the World.

Q And what do you have to do?

D So you choose a person, and then what you do is you...

Q Oh, this, Start the Party, thank you. So it's a PlayStation game, is that right?

01:27:55

D Yes.

Q And you choose a person and...?

D You have to do levels.

Q Oh, okay. I think your mum might have mentioned this, where you have a haircut and things like that?

B Yes.

D Yes.

Q Oh, it looks brilliant. And so is this something that you'd play with your family?

D Only with my dad, but if my mum wants to join in she could. But she normally doesn't really play video games with us, only Daddy does.

Q Okay.

D Which is quite sad.

Q Is it quite sad? Why do you think it's quite sad?

D Because I want my mum to play.

Q Do you? Why is that?

01:28:33

D No, she doesn't [unclear] video games, only that she doesn't play them.

Q Oh, she's good at them, though, is she?

D Yes.

Q What kind of things do you get bored of playing quickly? What would you get bored of playing?

D With my brother.

Q You get bored of playing with your brother? Oh, dear.

B [Unclear].

D I do.

Q What do you like playing with your friends then?

D Tig.

Q Tig? When you play Tig, do you have a special name for the person who's chasing?

D Tigger.

Q Tigger.

01:29:08

- A Harvey, I was asking Cass, what was that game you used to play, rabbits and foxes? Was that like Tig?
- D Yes, rabbits and foxes. So we're on the fox, and what I have to do is, I catch a rabbit and pretend to eat it. They're my babies and they have to catch the other rabbits.
- A So when you catch a rabbit, the person who's a rabbit becomes a fox?
- D Yes.
- A And where do you play that?
- D We play it at school.
- Q At school. What kind of play don't you like? What would make you not happy?
- D So ones what wouldn't make me happy?
- Q Uh-hmm.
- D Normally my friends cheat at games.
- Q Oh dear.
- A Do you never cheat, Harvey?

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- D Yes, I never cheat.
- C He never cheats at anything. He's a completely cheat-free person.
- Q Can I ask you one last thing? Do you think that when you play, do you think you learn things as well, while you're playing?
- D Yes.
- Q Have you ever thought about that? What do you think you might learn by playing?
- D Don't really hurt people when you're playing.
- Q You don't hurt people?
- D Yes.
- Q Oh well, that's good.
- D No, I mean, don't hurt people when you are playing.
- Q Right, yes, of course. Okay, can I just ask, have you ever had a go on anything to do with virtual reality?
- C No.
- Q No. Okay. All right then, okay, I think I'm going to stop it there. Thank you.

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