

- Q Julia Bishop (researcher)
- Q2 Beth Nutbrown (researcher)
- A Katie (mum)
- B Matt (dad)
- C Stephanie (8)
- D Saskia (6)

Q So it's just a few....I think we did some of the questions but we didn't sort of cover them so I'm just making sure we've covered them all. So do you own a car is the first.

A Yes.

Q And did to go to school is Sheffield?

A Yes.

Q So how old were you when you left school yourself?

A 16.

Q OK, and so what did you go on and do from there?

A I went to Sheffield College to do a Legal Secretarial course, and then I got a job in a solicitor's office and then carried on studying. Qualified as a solicitor, and then left the solicitor's after I'd had Saskia, fancied a change. And me and my friend bought a little soft play centre which we had for a couple of years.

And then after I sold that, that's when I got into working at the school where I work now.

Q But it's a different....it's not Meadowbanks?

A No, no, it's a different school.

Q And what's your role at the school now?

A I work in the school office, which I love.

Q Do you? Yeah. Are you like a reception, on the reception?

A I'm not the front of house, I'm more of....we've got a separate window which is like where the students come, so any kids what come down for First Aid. But I do all the SEN stuff as well, so I work closely with the SENCO there. It's a really varied role.

Q That must be marvellous. Is it a primary school?

A Yes it's ???

Q That's lovely. And of course the hours must fit nicely.

A Yeah, I do a bit longer than school hours because the office work half 8 til half 4, so I do 37 actually. So my dad helps out with them. I take them to Breakfast Club in a morning, which they love, and then grandad picks them up and he makes them tea and stuff. So it works well.

Q That's fantastic. So what's the highest qualification that you've got?

A That will be a solicitor.

Q Solicitor, great. What is that qualification, does it have like some letters or something, or is it....

A I did...normally your degree has LLB Honours at the end, but I did a different route, I did the IMX? route, so I'm not sure. It's called....you have to do a postgraduate course called a Legal Practice Course, so you could say it's a postgraduate, the highest, if you have to sort of tick a box on like the highest level of qualification.

Q That's it basically, it's just to understand that, thank you. And so do you mind me asking how old you are?

A 38.

Q And you said what you do now, you said you work at a school. How would you define your ethnic status?

A Just White British.

Q And do any of the family have disabilities?

A No.

Q So I think you've told us but if you could just go through the children's details, how old they are and when their birthdays are.

A So Stephanie's 9, she was born on the 18th of July 2010; and Saskia's 6 and a half, we can't forget the half bit, she were born on the 22nd of January 2013.

Q Perfect, thank you. So we are also asking if the children own any LEGO products, and if so which ones?

A Yeah.

Q I think they brought down some LEGO didn't they last time we were here.

A Yeah we've got a lot of different ones in the conservatory. We've got, I think it's the Frozen castle and the Cinderella castle, so a lot of Disney Princess LEGO. The most recent one Stephanie got was the Catamaran which I think Saskia was showing you last time.

Q Oh she was showing us last time, yeah.

A But yeah I'll probably have to go and remind myself, but there's a lot of Disney Princess themed LEGO.

So you'll buy the whole set and have to build it up from scratch. So you get the little figures with it as well. We must have got Frozen because we've got an Anna and an Elsa, which are the characters from Frozen. And then Saskia's had a Cinderella one before as well.

Q And did she get the castles and....

A She had the castle, and then got a little carriage what you built your own Cinderella carriage, that's really nice. But of course over time they all then get broken up and put all into one box and I'm like 'oh no how are we going to build it again'. There's only the Catamaran I think what's still standing at the minute, the rest are in the conservatory in a state of disrepair.

Q Is that an issue, or is it also a recipe for them to be a bit creative and mix stuff up?

A Yeah they'll kind of build their own stuff then and don't necessarily follow the original instructions, so I suppose that is nice because they can make different things. Because they all fit together don't they, it doesn't matter which set you get. But it's more me I think, I just....you know if I see them all in one box.....

No, it's all just in one big box and they'll just get it out every so often and make whatever with it.

Q Yeah, oh that's great. So was the impetus for that watching sort of like the Frozen film? Or did they start with the film as it were and then get the related LEGO set?

A They've always liked LEGO, so I can't remember which come first. We used to have the bigger ones, is it the Duplo what they have when they're smaller? So we had a lot of that. And we had a lot of, Saskia loves Peppa Pig, or she did when she was younger, so we had a massive train track one and then you built your own Peppa Pig train station out of the LEGO bits. So I suppose it's a bit of both isn't it, what they see on telly they then want to make a kit in toys. Because the Cinderella castle I think Stephanie asked for one Christmas, and then the Catamaran one that she got last Christmas was spurred on by a wedding that we went to abroad and we went on a Catamaran in Ibiza, so that's why she wanted that one. So that was pretty special because they were both bridesmaids, it was my best friend's wedding ??? abroad, so yeah.

Q Lovely. Oh that's really sweet. Because sometimes that can be hard to negotiate when they're asking for things that they've seen, or are they things that you suggest, how do you make the decision and who chooses?

A We tend to normally only get them toys when it's things like birthdays and Christmas. We're lucky they're not really that demanding. So if we go out they're not 'I want, I want' ??? but they'll usually do a list, and then depending on how reasonable it is they'll get like one main present. Which for the last couple of years Stephanie's main present from Father Christmas has been LEGO, and they know that they'll get a little present from us and family and stuff.

Q And is the actual type of LEGO that she has from Father Christmas is that something she'll have seen herself and....

A Yeah, we usually have a little look through the Argos catalogue or the Smyths catalogue and get some ideas and then do a final list.

Q And is it catalogues mainly that are suggesting those ideas, or do you think they've seen unboxing videos and things like that?

A A lot of adverts on, as you know yourself, when it's coming close to Christmas on the kids channels they'll all....so I'd say a bit of both. Look at stuff that they see on telly, then they see it in the catalogue and recognise it.

Q And make the connection don't they. We're just talking about the TV. What are their favourite channels that they like to watch?

A On the telly they tend.....no, does she want you to play it? I really hate that thing.

Q The trumpet?

A One of them toys whenever you've had a clean up, we've had the whole set, the drums and everything, there's only the trumpet left. But yeah. Tiny Pop is normally the one....no, is it Pop that you watch. Channel 206. Called Pop. It always has Alvin and the Chipmunks on from morning til night. So mainly the stuff that they want to watch is on their tablet, they just find everything on You Tube. Saskia loves Horrid Henry at the minute, so she wanted that on her computer. Anything you want you can find on YouTube these days can't you, so I'm going to get them just to know how to search whatever it is, we've only got the KidsTube one anyway, just to make sure that they're not watching anything that's scary.

Q How did you know about KidsTube?

A I think when we first got their tablets we just found out about it, I can't remember how, just to make sure that we ???

Q Yeah, yeah. They may find things for themselves on KidsTube.

A Yeah they're pretty good at, they end up better than adults don't they searching for things on there.

Q Has it been a process of you initially showing them and them picking it up from there?

A Yeah. I think we got Steph her first tablet when she was 5, and that's the one that lasted really well, it only died recently. She's just got the other one what's a bit more of like it can be a laptop as well so she can do more school stuff on it. Because she likes to do these sort of like Google Docs and Google Slides, you know when they're sending them home with like projects and stuff to do. So I again, I showed her the basics but she's probably better than me at it, she likes doing sort of pictures and stuff like that on it or whatever it is that she's making.

Q So what was the first tablet that lasted so well, do you remember?

A That was the ??? Hudl 2 it was called, really good that. I think it was about £100 and we put to for it for her birthday.

Q What prompted you to get that?

A I don't remember, probably I think one of her closest friends had got a little mini iPad and she used to play on that a lot. And I thought at the time, so her friend had hers from being really young, she was about 2, and I thought 'oh I think that's a bit too young'. But then I saw like everything that she could do on it, like the jigsaws and things like that, and they can be quite educational as well rather than them just staring at it all the time. So I think that probably prompted us to get one. But as I say she didn't get it until she was 5. I think Saskia probably had one a little bit younger, because they see the older ones don't they, so she'd be about 4 when she got the little Amazon Fire Kindle 1 but it was actually, it's a kiddie one, it's been made just for kids, so it's already pre-loaded with a lot of kids things on it.

Q Did she play with those when she got it?

A She's still got that one. ??? so yeah. Every morning, that's their little routine is they'll come down, want to have a little bit of tablet time, and then go on to do whatever we are going to do for the day.

Q Is that summer holiday sort of routine rather than a school day one?

A Yeah I don't really have time on a school day to ??? But at the weekend, yeah, I'll let them come down, have a bit of chill time on that before we're off to wherever we are going.

Q Do you find it's difficult to get them off it once they stop, because a lot of people will say 'oh you know they become so engrossed in it that they are then not so ???

A Sometimes, they've never kind of refused. Like say for example this morning they'll know to go on it and then I'll shout 'breakfast'. Sometimes you may have to shout it again, because like we do, we get a bit engrossed don't you if you're watching something. But I've not had any real problem of them like refusing to come off.

Q And it hasn't sort of caused any disputes between them or anything like that?

A Saskia did prefer Stephanie's tablet, because we did want to get her the same one but they stopped making it.

Music playing

C She got that when she were about 3 years old and it stayed in the box, and we only got it out of the box a couple of weeks ago. Now ???

Q Yes, some of their favourite toys over there. Lovely, we'll move that nearer to us so it picks up our voices.

A If Stephanie's not here Saskia would always prefer to watch hers.

Q That's the trouble isn't it, because the youngest one gets the newer tech because they're younger, so things have developed in the meanwhile. Just going back to the LEGO conversation, do the children engage with any of the other LEGO portfolios such as the films, or LEGOLand, or....

A We've watched the LEGO Movies, which they really enjoyed, and we actually went to LEGOLand, the Windsor one, this time last year, we went down for the Bank Holiday and they loved it, they absolutely loved it. Especially the little like miniature village that they've got, you know where....I don't know if you've been?

Q I've not been.

A They've built it all like so you've got your London in LEGO, they've got Holland, they've got all the different countries. It's amazing. So we had a lovely weekend down there, took lots of pictures and stuff.

Q Yeah. Did you notice any sort of knock-on effect in terms of their play when they came back, was it inspiring in some way?

A Yeah for a while, it kind of reminds them doesn't it. So LEGO Friends, which was like a show that they watched down there, that also comes on telly so they were wanting to watch that a bit more. And then just as I said, play with their LEGO a bit more just because it reminds you of it doesn't it?

They wanted to go again this year but it were a bit too much because it would have only been a couple of weeks after Florida, and it's quite far away.

And because we've just had this lovely Bank Holiday weekend I thought 'oh it would have been perfect'. Because it were dry when we went last year but there's a water park down there as well now, and they got in that and it was a bit too chilly and it started raining. We could have done with this year's weather when we went.

Probably a lot more busy.

Q Yeah. And how about you and your husband, I mean did you do LEGO when you were younger, is it something that's got a good vibe for you already from your own childhoods?

A I don't remember having any LEGO to be fair. I possibly did have but it's not something that I remember, so I can't remember how we got into it for them. I think it has become more popular since we were kids definitely hasn't it, and the different types that they do. Like I say there's a big range of LEGO Friends stuff isn't there, and Disney Princess stuff, and then they've got all the Harry Potter. They've got everything haven't they.

Q That's right, it links to lots of different things they already know doesn't it?

A Yeah. But I would say dad is more patient with the LEGO. So when we get a new set it's me going 'oh yeah your dad will build that with you'. I'm just not the best at following all the instructions and have the patience. I like to play with it when it's done. I don't like the build of it.

A Stephanie persevered on Christmas Day for hours and hours, she wanted to get that Catamaran done – and she did, whereas I don't think I could have.

Q Did she follow the instructions, did she stick with the actual....

A Yeah, she's an instruction follower like me, whereas dad will be one, like men sometimes are, to try and figure it out yourself. And we're like 'no, you must follow the instructions'.

But it's a man thing isn't it, 'we don't need the instructions'. You definitely do with LEGO don't you? Oh yeah, I'm going to keep out of it because it will just cause rows otherwise if I try and get involved with that.

Q So going back to they'll play with the LEGO, you mentioned about ??? and other things, so you talked about playing with it once it is constructed so I was wondering how they would play, say with the Frozen or the Disney Princesses, the Cinderella, how would they play with that?

A We would just have it set up in the conservatory, there's a couple of little tables, and Saskia in particular is very happy to just take herself off. Or now that the Catamaran one is on the kitchen table she'll often just take herself off and start playing with it and just acting out little scenes and stuff. It's nice to see what they come up with isn't it?

Q Yes. And do they remember the words and sing the songs, or remember dialogue from things. Or do they sort of riff on a story if they....

A They possibly did when they were younger. I think definitely like Frozen was something they were really into when it first came out, but not so much now, but yeah. Obviously as you're playing with that kind of stuff, then she might perhaps.....she's always been into more for dressing up, Saskia, so she'd be playing with something and then think, ooh, I've got like the Anna dress upstairs, 'mummy I'm going upstairs to put this on'.

Q Yes I did wonder if that was....I was just going to ask you, that was the next question, does she dress up, does she have the dressing up...

A Yeah. Stephanie's grown out of it a bit now, but between them I think they've had every Disney Princess dress-up one going, what are all upstairs, we've got like a little Disney Princess Laundry...well they've got one each with all the.....they're really good because you can kind of stuff loads of things inside. So they've got all their dress-up stuff up there for when they want to dress up. But I think Steph's a bit too cool for it now. You don't dress up as much now do you?

C No.

A Got past all that.

Q That's really interesting. So just having a think about the sort of technology in your home, we've heard a bit about the toys and we've talked a bit about the TV. Is it a Smart TV?

A It isn't, no. We've got the You View box through TalkTalk and we've got Netflix, so there is a lot of interactive things they can do on it through....I don't know if it's through You

View or through Netflix, you know where they can watch old episodes of whatever they want. So I don't know what a Smart TV does that they don't, I'm not really up on the whole technology but....

Q Is it still linked to the internet?

A Yeah. So Matt's more your technology man for like....we've got a Fire Stick and we've got a Chrome Cast, so you know that will cast things to the telly and stuff. And he showed Stephanie how to do it because hers was a Google one as well, the old one, so she could cast things from that to that. That's not my job. I don't know how that stuff happens. He's got something on his phone as well where he can get movies on, so they'll be like 'daddy, we want to watch whatever movie' and he can find it and put it on the telly for them.

Q Right. Does that happen quite a lot, is he....

A Say of a weekend evening they like to have movie nights, so they'll choose what they want to watch, get a bowl of popcorn out and have a bit of a movie night.

Q And do you sit and watch with them as well?

A Yeah.

Q Have they got any favourite movies at the moment or do they tend to just...

A Ooh, what do you like watching at the moment? You watched a lot of Boss Baby on holiday didn't you?

C That wasn't movies though.

A Oh that was...what's your favourite movie at the minute?

Q If you have one. I mean you might not.

C I don't really have one.

A They usually watch a variety.

D Toy Story 4.

A They're waiting for Toy Story 4 to come on daddy's little thing, because they have to wait until they've been out a bit don't they. I think it's Showbox he's got. We watched the new Dumbo one the other week.

Q Oh did you, how was that?

D And Stephanie went to a sleepover.

A Stephanie wasn't here, she was at a sleepover.

Q So how was that Saskia?

D It was ???

A We enjoyed it didn't we? And we let her stay up really late to watch it when Stephanie was out.

Q Does he fly in the end? Did it make you sad?

D It didn't really.

A It was a bit sad but we didn't get too sad did we?

Q You knew it was going to be ???

Q And we talked a little bit about the technologies that they've got, and obviously you and your husband are using phones.

A Yeah. We've got a laptop there which is a fairly old one now. That was probably my first laptop that I bought for doing college stuff, so I think that's as old as Stephanie now, so I think that's ??? And then my dad gave us his old laptop which is all the new Windows, which I don't like. So he'll come down and he'll say to me 'why aren't you using the new laptop?' Because this one, you turn it on and it takes half an hour, but it's what you know isn't it, I'm like 'because I prefer that one'.

Yeah, I don't like the new Windows, I don't like how it's set up and....no. That one does so much more but doesn't have Word on it or anything either, which I have like grown up with Word and Excel and stuff, it's what you know isn't it?

Q Yes.

A Yeah we've both got....I've just changed from an iPhone actually to the new Huawei phones. So I'm taking a bit of getting used to just because it's a different set up and everything. But they've got really good cameras, because I take lots of pictures. So I decided to have a change.

Q Right. It's interesting about the cameras, do you let the children use them as well for cameras, would you let them use your own phones?

A Yeah, they like taking pictures of us. Because as you know it's hard to get like a full family one so most of the time it's pictures of them, or if we're going out somewhere special they'll say 'oh let us take a picture of you'. And I think we've had iPhones and stuff now, normal cameras are a bit redundant, and we still have one of the really big like quite professional cameras that we bought off one of our friends once, but it's just....

Q Is it a digital single lens?

A Yeah, it does a lot, but it's just chucked in there now because it's too big and daft to carry about.

Q It's not handy in the way that phones are. We've just got so used to something we can slip in a handbag.

A And they are amazing now cameras on phones, they're better than digital ones sometimes. But we don't have any technology upstairs. I think we're one of the few. Like all my friends have got like tellies in their room or tellies in the kids room, but we've never wanted them to have one, so we haven't either. And they've just done their bedroom up recently and one of our friends dad's said 'oh but where's the 40 inch telly' and we were like 'no, no, no, no, we don't have tellies in...' it's just something we haven't wanted to do.

Q I was going to ask you exactly that, about do you have rules around the technology and its use, like in terms of how much time and where it is and when it's used?

A Yeah. They never go upstairs, because I just think they wouldn't be off it. When it's upstairs it's bath, like reading, and then go to sleep. So they don't have any technology upstairs.

Q What's behind that?

A Just something probably that like we've always wanted to do and so we've just enforced it really. But I think because it's never happened they've never really asked for it either. In a morning, because Saskia's always woke up a bit earlier, she'll come into my room and we might still be waking up, and she'll ask 'can I watch whatever on your phone'. So I'll allow that, probably just because I'm still like.....yeah I'm still waking up.

Q Does she have to come downstairs to watch that or can she see that in her room?

A She can just watch that on my phone in bed with me. So I don't let her go down and get her computer, I'll just let her watch whatever it is on YouTube on my phone.

Q So is she quite adept at using your phone, even the new one?

A Yes, even the new one because it's the same as daddy's. This morning she's like 'I know how to do it mummy', I was about to get her on to the Safari thing, so she's 'I know how to do it'.

Q And can they search stuff up and everything?

A Yeah.

Q How do they do that, with writing, or voice?

A She'll use the....she used to talk into that one, I don't know if she can talk into that one. But Saskia knows how, the button for the internet and then just type it in 'Horrid Henry'. It remembers your searches anyway doesn't it? Then a big list of Horrid Henry comes up and she'll pick which one she wants.

Q And did you actively teach her how to do that, or has she just sort of picked it up watching?

A Yeah, probably taught herself. Because it's the same process for the tablet isn't it?

Q Yeah exactly, yeah that's right.

A So once they know where your internet button is on your phone. But Stephanie's like, some of her friends they've already got phones, but I want to hold off as long as possible because I just think it's another thing what's going to become stuck in their hand isn't it? I think probably when she gets to secondary school and like she's walking home and stuff then she'll probably need one then but.... Because I've just upgraded, she did say to me, she went 'could I have your old phone'.

Q I was going to ask if there had been any questions.

A That's the first time, she'd never really mentioned it. She doesn't always tend to follow on like what her friends want to do, which is good. But she did say to me 'can I have your old phone' and I just said 'no, not yet'. I don't think she needs one yet.

Q That's interesting. I think it's a dilemma for a lot of parents, of course we don't have any background of this ourselves, or not much.

A Yeah they're just getting younger and younger aren't they.

Q Stuff is changing all the time.

A Yeah. I think the first mobile I had was when they just come out, like late teens, the old Nokia.

Q Yeah that's right, it wasn't a Smart phone or anything.

A It didn't do a lot, no. But it was still exciting.

Q Yeah that's right, it's what you know.

A Yeah, and now, you can't comprehend the dangers of stuff, of them having their own phone, because I don't even know how you'd control what they were looking at when it's on a phone. You can with tablets and stuff can't you? I presume you can with phones. I've not had to worry about that yet.

Q I mean on their own tech do you sort of put any parental controls in place or anything like that?

A Yeah. So when we first got them, just make sure you set up all the settings so that they can't, hopefully, look at anything they shouldn't be.

Q Have you ever had any incidents where they've sort of come to you and....

A I think because they didn't really know what it was, but I think what prompted us to install KidsTube – because you're a bit naïve at the start when you've never done it aren't you – so just assume they're going to type in whatever. She was watching something on My Little Pony and I just was sat here and I come to glance and it was something inappropriate to do with My Little Pony. So it was kind of like 'oh look' she didn't even realise 'let mummy

just have a look at that a moment!’ It made us think there’s some weird people out there. So yeah you’ve still got to be careful.

Q And that prompted you then to put the parental controls in place.

A Yes. Even then things can sneak through can’t they on the KidsTube stuff. Because Saskia got a bit upset when I saw something. You know how you have stuff that pop up at the side?

Q Yeah the side, that’s right yeah.

A It was something that I thought wasn’t really appropriate but.... you just have to keep a little eye on don’t you on what they’re watching. But as I say, most of the time it’s just ‘let’s watch Kinder eggs being opened on YouTube’, because that’s so exciting.

Q So would you say YouTube is the top app that they tend to use?

A Yes, most definitely. Got a couple of games on it, but definitely I would say. What do you watch on your computer more Steph? YouTube?

C Sometimes I go on YouTube. If it’s....

A What would you say your main one is?

C If it’s something I’m searching, like I want to listen to a song or something, that will come off YouTube.

A And what else?

C Normally it’s just like songs or....sometimes if I’m searching something up on Google it comes up with a video that can show you. That’s something I might go on, that’s YouTube.

Q Yeah. And do you look at crafts or anything like that on YouTube, making things or...

C Sometimes. Like sometimes I’ll look up, because I have these rubber bands, they’re up there, have like....

Q Oh I know, the ones that you can....

A Yeah, the loom bands.

C Yeah and I have these like machines, like you can type in how to make a rubber band out of them, or flower or something.

Q Yes. But have you ever actually followed the instructions as well, have you tried out what you’ve seen?

C Yeah I have tried it, but most times you get to the hooking part and you don’t know what you’re doing and you ???

Q It's hard to follow? Yeah, that's interesting, thanks Stephanie. So overall would you say you're sort of reasonably sort of positive around technology and children using it?

A Yeah. It's definitely got its advantages, it's got its disadvantages as well hasn't it, because like you say you can...we're the same, you'll be at home sometimes and before you know it you've all been sat there for an hour scrolling away and the kids....So I think it is important to control it, yeah.

Q So in terms of the amount of time, do you have any rules around....

A We don't. We don't say to them 'right it's an hour a day' but I'm always just conscious that 'right you've been on it a bit now, let's go and do something else' and they usually will. But I let them go on it, it's probably the first thing they do when they come home from school is go on it as well, I just think it's a bit of downtime for them isn't it after like a busy day at school. But then, as I say, we've got lots of different activities going on after school so....

Q Yes you mentioned they do quite a few things after school don't they?

A Yeah. I think they just need that. Even though it is a stimulant it's also a bit relaxing for them isn't it I think after a long day at school when you've been so focused all day. Just watch a bit of rubbish!

Q Do you think they are watching, or are they like Stephanie said, do you think she's also listening to music or....you're primarily listening....

A Yeah, more so now. I think they like to look up different songs. And we recently got the Alexa. Stephanie bought one of those little Dots with her birthday money, so you can ask that various things. I think they're quite good aren't they because you can ask them owt can't you. Yeah we seemed as though we were like behind with it because we've got one probably a couple of years after everyone else, but she wanted one.

C So it was Stephanie who sort of initiated it?

A Yeah, she wanted it.

Q Oh that's fascinating.

A She'll ask it to play songs or ask it questions or whatever.

Q So who led the way in terms of how you can talk to Alexa and get the things that you need?

A I think they knew how to do it from their friend having one. So they kind of already....they were just talking to it like a pro already. I keep saying to them 'don't forget to say please'. 'Alexa do this' it's very much you can bark orders at poor Alexa. And I'm like 'please', don't forget your manners. Yeah. Because it is a bit like 'Alexa – stop', 'Alexa do this, Alexa do that'. And you think 'hmm, what about manners there'. I even told my husband the other day.

Q You can probably get a please and thank you app for Alexa or something, you know you can have a switch.

A Yeah, it really should. Because she just does it, she does it without saying 'please'. Shouting commands without saying 'please'.

Q Have they ever done any sort of fun things with it, like say you know have asked risqué questions or anything like that? Or not yet maybe?

A Not that I can think of yet, I'm sure it will come.

Q Yeah.

A Often asking it to tell jokes, so 'do you know any jokes'. Saskia likes asking it jokes.

Q Yeah. So what comes out of Alexa when you say that, does she....

A Yeah she'll tell you one.

Q I'm not sure whether Alexa is an 'it' or a 'she' sorry.

A Yeah she's got a 'she's' voice so I usually call her 'she'.

Q Yes. Are they sort of their age appropriate jokes or are they just ???

A Yeah, because you don't have anything like setting wise, but yeah I've not heard anything inappropriate so they must know mustn't they somehow.

Q Yes ??? Oh that's really interesting. And do you and Matt use Alexa as well, have you found yourselves getting into....

A Yeah. It were in here, and Matt had it upstairs while he was decorating so he could listen to music. And then I've had it in the kitchen while I'm preparing tea, 'Alexa play whatever' and then she'll just play like a mix of whatever you ask it to. It's pretty smart.

Q Is it mainly then for music that you'd use it?

A Yeah.

Q But the children, is it mainly a music thing?

A Yeah I would say so.

Q A musical one here!

A Yeah. When is that trumpet going to go to a new home? Oh dear, it's so old now.

Q It's great, you're pretty good at that. Maybe be replaced by a real one.

A We've got a recorder somewhere as well. Oh Steph's doing....what are you doing this year – cornet?

C Cornet lessons.

Q Oh very good.

A In Year 4 they learn how to play the cornet and then they put on a performance, but then they can carry it on if they want in Year 5. It does sound a lot like that doesn't it?

C I started comparing the sounds, like if I learn a new note I compare it to that one.

Q Oh. Could you tell if it was like the same note, are you able to pick that out?

C Yeah.

Q That's fantastic, you've obviously got a good ear. Mum will be making a shed down the bottom of the garden for you both to do your practising at this rate, when you get duetting.

A Yeah, I didn't realise when I told her she could do it. But I think they bring one home to practice and stuff. Oh well!

Q So do you think that school has a role in terms of helping them with the technology, or you know impacting on your family's use of technology, is there any kind of dialogue going on there?

A Yeah I would say so. Because as obviously time's gone on schools are using technology a lot more now aren't they, I think they do a lot more like ICT. When we were at school it was like going to the computer room probably like once a week, and now in schools they've got iPads in every classroom, and a lot of the curriculum they use it for don't they?

Q And has that in fact had an impact on these two would you say?

A Yes. They've got lots of things what they can go on at home what are linked to school. Recently they joined the Times Table Rock Stars thing which they've used a lot at home, and it has brought Saskia on in particular with times tables. She didn't know any until she started going on this Times Table Rock Stars, because they have little like battles and stuff like that. I'm trying to think of other things that they might use with it. At school they do like ClassDojo which is what parents can like interact with as well, I think I had the app on my phone at one point. I think certain teachers use it so over the years we've used it and then we haven't.

C Saskia normally watches cartoons, she'll watch different types of cartoons.

A And I can remember even in nursery, which probably may have prompted us to get them as well, they use them as early as nursery now don't they, the tablets and stuff.

Q Yes, certainly at Meadow Banks I know they do, yeah, that's great. So do you have any concerns apart from, as you said the sort of inappropriate content possibly coming up,

and I think you just said about the amount of time and getting lost in it you were saying about?

A Yeah definitely.

Q And do you have any advice for other parents about that sort of thing, or is there advice you would like as a parent that you don't feel you've got access to at the moment?

A I think just the main one is just making sure they're not on it too much. And I definitely like the idea of not having any of it upstairs. And obviously each to their own, so I don't go round like preaching that to my friends, like 'oh my children don't do this', it's just something that we've never done. But my other friends have said to me how much of a problem it's caused. One of my friends is like having real trouble getting her child to go to sleep at night. But yet she's got the telly in there, she lets her have her tablet in there and her phone in there, so you're like 'well, I wonder why'.

Q Do you feel that if they do technology too close to bedtime that might have an impact?

A Yeah I've read about that, so we try and...I think it says at least like an hour or something before. But just because of how long they are in the bath and stuff like that, then they probably are sometimes on their computers up to the point until we say 'right, it's bath time'. But then by the time they've done their bath and all the rest of it it probably is at least an hour before they're going to sleep.

Q And do you have like books or anything at bedtime?

A Yeah they're very book oriented, so it's always been bath, story and bed. And I was saying to Matt, we used to read to them like each night, like 'who's reading to me tonight' one each, and we have got out of the habit of that, which I want to get back into, especially when they're back at school. So they'll still read but they'll just sit and read themselves in bed, but I don't want to get out of that habit. One of them will probably come to read to me while I were in the bath, and it is hard because sometimes after you've had a long day you just want that nice bath time to yourself. And especially when Stephanie went through the stage of asking me questions after the story, and you may not have been totally listening so then you're not getting the questions right! But yeah we're quite traditional in that ????. And we recently have just had to sort their bookshelves out because we didn't quite realise how many they'd got and we've had to get rid of some. But a lot of them were like for younger children now, so we've had a big clear out and put all the books.....but they've still got millions. I just like to pick books up from....I get a lot from charity shops, so wherever.

She had the latest David Walliams book for her birthday, she likes him at the minute.

Q Yeah, and do you ever watch like the televisionations of some of them, because quite a lot of those then....you know I was thinking of Jacqueline Wilson and others get on TV don't they?

A Yeah. One of the....I don't know if David Walliams has done as many but I remember we were watching a something about a book that she'd read and then it was on telly. And she loves Roald Dahl, so a lot of them are films.

Q Yes of course.

A The BFG.

Q Oh that's really great. So do you feel technology is important for your family life?

A Yeah. I think in this day and age you can't really do without it can you? I think probably the same as every family, we do probably wish it was a bit less because it can take over can't it and cause problems. Because you find yourself, even like when the kids are in bed, me and Matt's time to watch a bit of a box set or something, and then we've started like trying to make a habit of putting us phones out of there, because they're so....they're next to you, you see a message pop up and the next minute.... and then 'are we watching this or are we on our phones?'

It's so easy isn't it and before you know it you're like scrolling through 'oh yeah I've just answered that message, and then I had a quick look on Facebook' and....Yeah, 'oops, what's happening'. So we try and make an effort to put it out of the way.

Q It sounds like you put a lot of value on modeling for the children.

A Yeah.

Q You know what's a rule for them is a rule for yourselves as well?

A We don't allow anything at the kitchen table, even though I can sometimes forget that and have my phone at the side of me. But I don't even like them playing with it because there's a lot of LEGO and that on there, so if they try and start playing with anything while we're eating I'm like 'no, not at teatime'.

Q Right, so it's toys as well as technology.

A Yeah.

Q Do they have any toys that actually connect to the internet?

A The ??? does that teddy bear....is it that teddy bear what connects to the internet or one of your other ones?

C That's the teddy bear, yeah.

A Yeah that does something. She'll know more about it than me. And they've had, when they were younger, all them like VTech things, which didn't necessarily connect to the internet but they were interactive weren't they when you pressed ??? that does.

Q Yes. Did you get them those?

A Yeah, I remember getting them one and you could pre-programme it to say 'hello Stephanie' and all that, and count to ten and stuff.

Q Yes.

A What does that one do? Oh that's your voice isn't it, you recorded that.

D I can't really hear it.

A I don't even know where she came from.

C Dancing, dancing raffle.

D She came from ???

A Is that the one you won?

C Yes.

A She won it on a raffle, yeah.

C I was so lucky.

A Yes, she was very pleased about that.

Q That was quite a win.

A She's usually good on raffles, she's won like ones at school raffle before, so yeah I always get Stephanie to pick the ticket out.

Q Yeah, that's great. Thinking about their play more generally, not necessarily technology related, what would you say their main form of play or their typical form of play was?

A Just role play. The amount of time we hear them say the word 'pretend', or shorten it to 'tend', 'let's tend we're doing this'. So probably like mums and dads. They've been playing a lot of hospitals lately when their friend's been round and they were cutting up loads of card in there and making a little hospital.

Q When we were here last time they were showing us, yeah, the hospital. Was it some beds they were making or something like that?

A Lots of role play kind of stuff, yeah.

Q Do they play together?

A Yeah, yeah the majority of the time. Saskia's more independent. If Stephanie's pre-occupied doing something on her computer and Saskia's had enough she'll just be like 'right, I'm off up to play in the playroom', she seems quite happy to play by herself. She's got a kitchen and a dolls house and thousands of Barbies up there.

Q Next time we come perhaps do a play tour ???

A I think they were excited, they've even made their bed this morning because they said that they wanted to show you.

Q I think that's a whole visit. I'm not quite sure if we'll get to it today. So are we able to do that next time without disappointing them?

A Yeah of course.

Q Once the wardrobes are up and ready.

A And then it will be back to normal, because in the playroom at the minute it looks like a bomb site because they've got the old furniture in there.

Q Oh I see, yeah.

A We can't get rid of that until the wardrobe's built.

Q Oh we definitely will do it, yeah sorry if we raised their hopes for today. But I think when the bedrooms are done and everything in its place, that would be great.

A Yeah, that's fine.

Q Yeah that would be good. Oh yeah, again back to technology, do you think they help each other on the technology, have you ever seen any examples of that?

A Yeah. They both signed up, I think Stephanie was telling you last time, the reading challenge that they did.

Q That's right, yeah.

A They swapped the books the other day and then they couldn't wait to come back and put the code in, but Saskia couldn't quite do it so Stephanie was helping her, which was nice. And then it asks you certain questions about your age and your interests and then it comes up with books that you might like to read, there's a bit of a book review, so that was nice, they were doing that together. Or they'll often sit like in that chair there and just watch one computer together.

Q Oh really?

A Yeah.

Q What sort of thing would they be doing, like a TV programme, or a programme on YouTube or something?

A Just probably YouTube stuff, yeah.

Q So that sounds quite cooperative.

A Yeah. They went through a lot watching the Slime phase, there seemed to be a big Slime phase recently, how to make Slime. Yeah so we had a lot of Slime, which has all now gone in the bin because it just doesn't stay very well. It's alright at the time and then you'll

go back to it and it's all just separated and stuff, very, very messy. But that phase seems to have passed a bit now thankfully.

Q Can you think how that got started?

A Probably just the internet and everybody else doing it, yeah.

Q And at school and stuff like that maybe?

A How did the Slime phase start Steph – sorry to interrupt – where did the Slime craze come about? Probably from watching it on YouTube?

C I don't really know. I'm not that bothered about it.

A No, not now.

C Not now.

A No, but we've had lots of it haven't we, and made Slime.

Q But your mum was saying perhaps you were looking at stuff on YouTube as to how to make it or something.

A I was just wondering how it came about.

Q Can you remember? How did your interest start in it?

C So first it was Slime and loads of people were just doing tutorials and....

A Yeah, how to make it yourself.

C Yeah. I think it's just something fiddly that you....that's what most people like around this time, they like things that you use with your hands.

Q Oh that's interesting. Just something to fiddle with you mean with your fingers or something?

C Yeah. But what you do with Squishies, that's why Squishies have been such a craze, because you use your hands and you squish them.

A People find them quite therapeutic sometimes don't they doing stuff with your hands. So yeah, got a lot of them squishy things haven't you, and they smell as well.

C Mmm.

A Yeah.

Q And then you use the tutorials to make your own Slime?

C Yeah.

- A We've tried it.
- C I went to a party and she did tutorials of how to make Slime.
- Q Oh right, OK.
- A Yeah an actual Slime party. Harry Potter Slime party weren't it?
- C Yeah.
- Q That sounds tremendous.
- Q2 Yeah it sounds brilliant doesn't it?
- A Somewhere up Abbeydale Road it was.
- Q Oh yeah?
- A Yeah, it were really good.
- Q So is that like an outside organisation, or had the mum organised it herself – or dad?
- A Yeah. Well her friend's mum had booked it knowing that her daughter's Harry Potter and Slime mad, so that is just a place what does that kind of thing.
- Q I see, yeah. Sounds really good.
- A So she came home with tubs of Slime.
- Q And how long did that phase last roughly would you say?
- A Probably about 6 months. As I say, she weren't as into it as some of her friends and that were, but we did have Slime, but I don't think we've got any any longer after my clear out.
- C The Slime we had though it wasn't Slime at all, it was just so sticky.
- A Yeah, it's hard to get it right isn't it, the texture.
- Q So do you like it for doing things with it, you know feeling it squish?
- C Yeah.
- Q Is it the feel of it, or is it what you can do with it, how does it.....
- A I don't think you can do much with it.
- C It's more like it just entertains you, it's just something to do in ???

A But like Play Doh at least you can make stuff with it. Slime, I didn't really get it because you can't really do anything with it.

Q So would you go to the Slime if you didn't know what else to do?

C Yeah.

Q Does it help you to think almost 'what will I do next' or something, or is it just....?

C It's normally just a thing to like....some people use it to like calm yourself down like Squishies do, like stress toys.

Q Right OK. Do you use it like that Stephanie, or would you be more someone who just liked it on its own for what it is?

C Yeah I like it more it's just something to do.

Q Is it something you'd do for a long time, or is it just for a few minutes would you say?

C Yeah it's just for a few minutes.

Q Yeah, and then you go on to something else?

C Yeah.

Q Oh thank you, that's fascinating. What would you say is the balance between the children's indoor and outdoor play at this time of year – obviously we're in the summer so we've just had some amazing weather.

A Yeah definitely. Probably 50/50 at this time of year. Probably a lot more time indoors when it's cold. But especially more now that we've got the dog we'll go out in all weathers because we have to walk him, even when it's raining and stuff.

Q Yeah, and they come as well obviously.

A Yeah. Because Matt goes to work so early he does take him a lot of the time. But since we've been off our little routine has been get up, breakfast, doggy needs a walk round the park or wherever. So they do spend a lot of time in the garden, they've got swings out there, trampoline, and we've got the hot tub now which they enjoy. So don't like to be cooped up in here for too long.

Q So you've encouraged that.

A Yeah we're like that, outdoorsy people as well, lots of parks and stuff like that.

Q And is that a feature of your own childhood as well then if you're that way inclined?

A Yeah, yeah definitely. And that's them, if you ask them, as I say they're not very demanding or anything so if you probably ask them what their favourite activity to do, would be just to go to the park, take their bikes and scooters or whatever. Yeah, it's nice and cheap!

Q How would you say that their play has developed over time just looking back to when they were younger?

A I think as they get older they can definitely focus. Saskia is still a bit of a Tasmanian Devil like jumping from one thing to another, but they can definitely focus on one thing for longer now. Because I suppose when you're younger it's literally flitting isn't it from one thing to another and leaving a chaos of destruction behind you.

Q Does she tend to just go ??? or will she go round in a circle and come back to the first again sort of thing?

A She used to, yeah. I suppose it's just their imagination isn't it, one thing, ooh and what about that, and what about that. But they will have to sometimes be reminded to clear one thing up before they start the next thing, like if friends are round it will be 'ooh let's get this'. Or if my niece comes to stay, she's like a year younger than Saskia, and she's the new Tasmanian Devil isn't she? She'll be like 'I want to play this board game', or halfway through that board game 'oh no I want to play this one, and now I want to do this, and now I want to do that'. I can't keep up. Slow down, I can't keep up. But that's just the excitement I think of... We've been to a friend's this morning, so there's different toys and stuff and it's all exciting.

Q Yeah. And I mean you sound like you've got a fairly high tolerance level for that, you know flitting activity, and then there just comes a point perhaps where you....perhaps because of time you would cut it off and then get to clear up or....

A Yeah. If they've got friends round or whatever, they make as much mess as they want and then like half an hour or whatever before I know it's going to be the end of the time I'll just be like 'come on now, tidy up time', you do it at school sort of thing you don't just....they're expected to do it at school, can't just leave the classroom in a mess. So I try and make them do it here.

Or otherwise that playroom, the door just gets shut.

Q Talking about the tech and outside, I just wondered if you had rules about technology outside and on walks and things like that?

A They've never really took it outside. They've took it if we've been travelling, like when we went to LEGOLand or if we're going somewhere far in the car, just to keep them entertained. But they'll have other things as well, like their books and colouring books and stuff.

Q What do you take on a car journey out of the tech?

A Just their tablets.

Q Their tablets, yeah.

A Which they won't have access to the internet but they'll have games what have probably been downloaded and stuff to keep them entertained. They don't really take any

technology out on the garden. Might have my phone to play music off. And we tried Alexa out there the other day but the wifi signal just...

Q Yes, too weak? Yeah.

A So she wasn't doing what she was told, we had to use my phone, eating my data up instead. 'Mummy play this; mummy play that'.

Q Is Alexa.....no you're not got an iPhone any more so Alexa's not linked to....

A You can, I think you can link it up. He's downloaded Spotify on his phone, which links to Alexa somehow. As I said he's more the technology guy. Like I'll get a new phone and just go 'there you go Matt, sort that out for me'. It's really clever the one that I've just got. Before you used to have to do Bluetooth and what have you, this one you just download a 'clone my phone' app and it literally just wifi a hotspot and connects to your other phone and transfers it all over. You're like 'oh'.

Not like the olden days where you had to input all your new numbers again.

Q Yeah that's right, absolutely. So does Matt tend to be the sort of technical adviser in the family would you say, has he got that kind of role?

A Yes. And I could probably do it, I just haven't got the patience, or it's not something...I think men might enjoy it more.

Q I forget, what does Matt do?

A He works at Swann Morton, so that's stores ???

Q Yes that's right. Does he do much technical....

A He does do a lot on the computer actually because they have to do a lot with stock checking, so he gets the supplies out for the rest of the firm and then has to knock them off and then tell the production and purchasing manager when things are running low. So he does a lot more on the computer than he used to in his role I think. And they've got like hand held scanners and stuff now. It's the same as a lot of companies isn't it I suppose, technology increases as time goes on to make it better. But his boss is still quite old school and he said he still does like the manual kind of knocking off thing as well as doing it on a computer.

Q And would you say Matt, I mean it sounds like in some of the other ways you know obviously you've got equipment here that's more not necessarily related to the kind of thing he's doing at work, but he's sort of....

A He figures it out himself, yeah.

Q He's the sort of person who supports that and...

A Yeah.

Q Does he teach himself, will he go on to YouTube to learn how to do this, or is he getting the knowledge from somewhere and....

A I'm not sure. I think like with the Fire Sticks and the Google Chromecast, he's watched a lot of like tutorial things on that. Because he used to be for ever updating the Fire Stick and sometimes it would work and sometimes it wouldn't, but the Google one seems a lot better. I think the Fire Stick was one that came first so perhaps as they're improving technology and stuff.

Q Yeah, he obviously keeps on top of that and likes to update his knowledge.

A Yeah.

Q Do either of the girls do you think take after him in that respect?

A Yeah, yeah Stephanie especially.

Q Or both of them?

A Yeah. Whereas I've always worked with computers sometimes my dad said to me 'well you know all about computers', well I don't, I just used to type on them. So I know how to open a Word document and type. When I got into the school, before I worked in the office I was a teaching assistant so I actually went back to college to do the Teaching Assistant Level 2 and Level 3, and I couldn't believe how much things had changed from years ago. And instead of...it were better because of just like typing an assignment about this, it was like 'oh, create a Google slide document about this' and do this, and picture chart. And I were like...I felt like I'd been living in the dark ages because I'd missed all that theory from just like, as I said, type a letter, do this, I was quite old fashioned – to 'what are all these things'. But it helped me because I didn't know what Google Docs were, Google Slides, all the other ones that they've got. So that were pretty good.

Q Yeah if you don't use them as part of your work necessarily then how would you necessarily come across those ones.

A Yeah, I quite enjoyed it actually.

Q And do you think then, I mean you mentioned about the children sort of streaking ahead once they've got hold of things, do you find that they're...is there a kind of upwards sharing of knowledge, are you learning from them?

A Oh yeah definitely. Show me how to do things that they've figured out, especially on games and stuff like that. Steph's really into games on the computer, she's got the Chess and stuff on there and....

Q Oh interesting, has she chosen those herself?

A Yeah.

Q Does she know how to download apps, is she allowed to download games?

A Erm....she'll just check with us, like 'can I download this, that or the other'. So she's got quite a few, but I don't know if that one's got as many as that one, because she's had that

one for a while. And we wanted to have a bit of a clear out because I think that's part of the problem, they put too much on and they become really slow and stuff don't they and the storage gets full up.

Q Yeah. Have you ever downloaded apps on to your phone for them at their request?

A Erm...I haven't got anything on it now, so I think again just because she can get access to the internet, to YouTube and what have you, so all I've done really is probably let her have my phone to watch Peppa Pig or Horrid Henry or whatever, or play songs. But they've not got any particular apps on my phone that are just for them, no.

Q And how about their dad, the same?

A No, not that I know of. Possibly that game that we were all playing on the aeroplane, that 2048, but I think that were Matt himself, that numbers one that we all liked.

Q So they use your phones perhaps to listen to a bit of music if it's a bit early in the morning, take photos. Do they search up anything on your phones or...

A They like to look up the weather, Saskia in particular.

Q Oh right, the weather!

A She loves the weather. Every morning she'll come in and say 'mummy what's the forecast for today' because she wants to know if she can wear socks or tights.

Q Is that ???

A Yeah, she's hilarious. So that was one of the reasons I'm like 'you can ask Alexa what the weather is now instead of me typing in 'Weather [North Sheffield]'.

Well she's not done that as much in the holidays, but when we're back at school she'll want to know what the weather is because she'll want to know if 'can I wear socks'.

Q So it has an impact on what she's putting on each day.

A Yeah, she's funny. But it is a good thing to do because it's so interchangeable. And you can send them in a summer outfit in the morning without their coat, and then it's chucking it down and you're like 'whoops, bad mum, I've sent her to school without a coat' Yes, so she's ??? she knows the forecast.

Q Has she had a bad experience along the line here!

A I've no idea where it's come from, but yeah.

Q She likes to get ready in time, get her things ready.

A It's ???

Q Research the day before she's gone out, that's....

A Although she's just bought some new school trousers so maybe it will not matter because she'll want to wear them.

Q Until it gets hot and they're too hot to wear, and then it will be opposite. So I know that you'll think that play is valuable because you've told me that, but can you tell me a bit about what you think play does for them and why it's important in their lives, what's the value of play?

A Yeah. Well it's just a major factor isn't it, like I said the role play, I love watching them play, just interact with each other. And even if it is, like I say, they just love doing that, the make-believe stuff, play mums and dads or whatever. But they also love, like I say, a lot of your board games and stuff like that, and the stuff that you get out of that without them realising it, like from an early age. We've let Saskia join in, we're like Junior Monopoly and stuff even when she's been too young, and it just brings them on so much when they are starting school, just the counting ones. She loves Ludo. Ludo is her game with grandad. They've got one up at grandad's and then he actually recently bought one, on Stephanie's birthday he got Saskia a little gift as well, he bought a Ludo to keep here, because as soon as grandad comes it's 'Grandad, Ludo' there's that connection.

Q Yes. So there's a bit of intergenerational play going on there.

A Yes. Yeah because my dad's a bit of a maths whizz as well, and I think that's where they get it from and like to do a lot of like mathematical stuff, whether it be games or... Stephanie this morning, she went 'oh I'm playing Solitaire while I wait for the wifi to come on', I'm like 'oh, I didn't even know you could play Solitaire'.

Q It's not the physical Solitaire, because I think you can also get...

A Just the one on the computer, yeah.

Q I was going to say you can get it on....

A Yeah, yeah, but they've got cards as well, so they're there, play it with a pack of cards as well.

Q Yes. So you've obviously seen the knock-on effect between playing but the educational impact of that when you went to school particularly?

A Yeah. It's nice, because as I say they don't even realise they're doing it do they? But from an early age, again going back to just wanting to be out and about, they've always gone to play groups and stuff from being like born. So again they don't realise but all the learning that you get from your play group before they're even getting to nursery, and they both went to nursery from like 18 months old, just a couple of hours a week.

Q What's your sort of chosen role in terms of their play and how has that developed over time? I mean in terms of becoming involved, or giving them direction or anything like that?

A I think naturally when they're babies you play with them a lot more, and then as they get older you kind of feel like 'oh', you feel as though you're not needed then, they don't....

??? any more, Saskia will sometimes, she'll be like 'mummy will you come and play upstairs with me' and I'll be like 'yeah'. But then I find myself getting distracted, I usually start tidying up. So she'll be playing and I'm like 'yeah I'm playing but I'll just tidy this away while I'm doing it'. I think it's hard for us isn't it just to...

Q You're pulled in two different directions aren't you?

A Yeah, you've got one eye on that and....

Q You can't turn off those adult thoughts, yeah.

A But other than asking us to play board games, or when we've been on the garden recently there's been a lot of things around train journeys, because we had a train – I think just before you came last time a couple of days later we went to Cleethorpes on the train.

And they seem to have had a lot of 'right, we're going here on the train' and 'this is our stop' and 'you must move seats' and stuff like that that they've been doing on the garden. And it's funny isn't it, like you say, how it all links together like what they've been doing.

Q Yeah. And I was going to ask you in terms of you sort of mentioned things like mums and dads, and obviously that links to being here at home together and so on, and you've possibly touched on this before, but do you think anything they've seen, you know sort of in popular culture, the trips that you've done, has that had an impact on their pretend play?

A Yeah, because they're just like seeing different things. And again the recent train ride, they've just enjoyed that for quite a few sessions outside actually. They talk about going on pretend trips to Australia a lot since their friend's moved there, planning like where they're going to go on holiday. When we went – I think it was our last trip abroad apart from this year, was to Fuerteventura, so again a lot linked to that when they're playing, which is nice isn't it just to.... They love caravan trips, we go on quite a few caravan trips.

Q Have you got one of your own?

A No, we just book the Haven sites, we go to the Cleethorpes one quite a lot. And Saskia, bless her after we'd come back from Florida, supposedly the trip of a lifetime and then we were talking about going again, she turned round and went 'I'm not going again, it was too hot, I was too whiney and I prefer Cleethorpes'. It was hilarious. We went 'OK then, you'll stay behind, go off to Cleethorpes' ???

Q It's nice to know though that she's satisfied with Cleethorpes as well isn't it and she obviously has enjoyed that.

A Yeah. We're going at half term October, so even though it will be cold, they absolutely love going. And now we've got the dog, he loves going, he loves the seaside as well. Yes, so we have to book the dog-friendly caravans.

Q Oh of course, yes. So thinking about creativity, because I guess we're sort of touching on it in a way when we talk about the way they re-use stuff and so on, I just wondered I mean do you feel that all play is creative, or do you feel there's certain things that are particularly creative that you see them do in their play?

A Yeah definitely. They've got obviously colouring and stuff like that, or crafty things I would see as more creative. Whereas if they're just playing mums and dads, I suppose it's more creative the things that they might be coming up with rather than being creative on paper.

Q Yeah. And do you think they've got kind of a particular time when they're creative, or you know there are moments in the day, or times in the week or in the year when you feel there's more space for that kind of play? Do they need time, do they need non-school days or you know that sort of thing?

A Definitely. I think school days are just too much of a rush, and then even if they're not doing anything they'll probably just want to relax after school. So I'd say definitely more weekends and holidays where they've got more time to.....come on.

Q And do they like...is it between themselves, or do you think when particular friends come there's a dynamic there that makes....

A I think definitely, sometimes if it's just them two it might be there's the same old routine of playing on their tablet for a bit and then doing whatever. Whereas when certain friends come round, it might be their friends or their cousins or whatever, you want to get different stuff out and it will make them be like 'oh yeah we haven't played this game for a while' or what have you. So I think they play more when their friends are round.

Q Yes. And does the dog, I mean is he involved in their play at all, does he have to take part in games or anything?

A He just follows them around and like....

Q Part of mums and dads or anything like that, does he have to be the baby or anything?

A No, no. He'll take himself upstairs. But a lot of the time in the playroom there's stuff in there that he's not allowed, like he loves trying to chew the plastic food up and stuff.

Q Oh gosh.

A And it's usually, unless you're supervising him, it's like 'out' because he's chewed the Tomato Sauce bottle up again. He just loves all the plastic that he can chew, but then you hear about them swallowing it don't you? Keeps getting hold of them little things what you put in the washing machine, you know them plastic things, found them ??? as well.

A Oh this is Matt.

Q Matt, you're more the technical adviser, we were just talking. I just wondered about your own interest if you don't mind me diving in and asking you a question the minute you return home, about your own interests in sort of technology and your use of it and stuff like that, and whether you think it's rubbing off on the girls. You know for leisure I'm thinking, not so much for work.

B Yeah, they particularly enjoy going on the tablets don't they, all the time.

Q Yeah. And is that something you yourself would you say, you know you're....

B Well we let them go on it, but we don't like to let them on it too much. They like to go on it, just don't go staring at a TV screen. They like to go on the garden, at least go out of the house.

Q Yes, and Katie's told me quite a lot about the different, you know the sort of limitations you put on everything, and you seem to be in really good agreement about what you think is appropriate.

B Yeah, it can be too much. It's like you say with mobile phones, she's been asking for a mobile hasn't she.

Q Yeah we touched on that, yeah, it's interesting isn't it yeah.

B She'll be doing exactly the same when she's on a phone as what she'd do on a tablet. So she doesn't need a phone, she doesn't need to phone anybody so.... we didn't have them.

A I would say you're more the one that when we've had Chromecasts and what have you to....

B Oh set them on, yeah.

A Knows how to put films on for them as well.

Q Yeah. Is that very much a sort of family thing, like getting together and watching the movies and....

B Yeah, we watch movies yeah, watching that. Well I don't do some on Chromecast, we just do it on a Fire Stick. It was a bit annoying after a bit because you were searching through different links, whereas we do it with Showbox on the phone now and cast it to the TV and then you watch movies through that way. They tend to work a bit better as well because they're more up to date.

Q Yeah.

B They're not too bad those.

Q Do you think it's important to sort of keep up with kids films and the things that are influencing their imaginations and their world sort of thing? It's like you enjoy....

B They ??? some old ones as well don't they?

Q Oh really?

A Yes, it's ??? because I suppose they see like this film that comes out and they want to watch it don't they, so you're lucky that you can get it not long after it's been out at the cinema can't you on that Showbox.

Q Yeah. And does it tend to be the latest things, or will they go back to....I don't know, have you talked about stuff that was....

B Yeah there were ??? going back to that Wreck It Ralph, and that's years old that one. They watch it. There was a stage when they wanted to watch it all the time. I think the latest one was just ??? Lion King and that's just come on that Showbox.

Q Oh has it, yeah?

B It's not been out that long. A few months.

A And we did go to the cinema to watch it, so they have already seen it, but then they'll be able to watch it again on that.

Q Are they interested in films that were important to you when you were younger?

B I don't know, I think they just like to watch....

A I suppose from my point of view.....

B They watch what they want to watch really don't they?

A The Disney ones, a lot of them are years old aren't they. So I probably introduced them to like Snow White and stuff like that.

B They've done ??? haven't they. Saskia still likes them. But we tried to get that Dumbo didn't we?

Q Yes we were talking about him earlier, yeah that's right. Saskia was telling me.

B We tried to get the old one to watch that one, and it's really old.

Q Yes.

C So boring.

B Yeah they didn't like it.

C The cartoon one I didn't like at all, it was just...I thought it was really boring.

A You couldn't get into it could you?

B Toy Story 4's come out, but it might be a while before that's on Showbox.

A We went. We've all seen it but he's not, so he's been waiting.