

Q = Main interviewer (Cath)

Q2 = Second interviewer (Alex)

A = Mum (Denise)

B = Dad (Travis)

C = Child 1 (Jeremy, aged 11)

D = Child 2 (Cerys, aged 9)

Q OK so I'll put that there and that's recording now. So could you first of all let me know your names? So as I say you will be anonymised in the actual data but if for now I could take your names.

A Yeah, my name is Denise [surname].

B I'm Travis [surname].

Q Travis [surname], OK. And if I could ask your ages as well, would that be alright? Don't feel obliged but if you want to.

A Once you get there, it keeps creeping up too fast. 44 now.

B 63.

Q 63, OK. And what kind of jobs do you do, if you are employed?

A I do a mixture of....I'm a part time self-employed photographer, mostly getting money from Stocks?? fee and the food photography I shoot for Just Eat and Deliveroo.

Q Oh fascinating.

A And then I do event work, I'm getting ready for work now, at [concert venue name]. So bar work, catering, stewarding and security. And I occasionally do the same with another organisation called Showsec. And that's it, apart from voluntarily organising a festival.

B That's going through the summer, yeah.

A Yeah.

B Yeah I do very similar, I do cricket and rugby sort of stewarding. And I also drive cars round Red?? And a bit of programming.

Q Ah right, like computer programming, is that right?

B Yeah.

Q So you work with....

B ??? yeah.

Q So you both work with technology really then. Is it like digital photography that you do?

A Yes.

Q And where do you do computer programming?

A You don't do much now, you used to do more.

B No, I mean I've been doing some this afternoon, but it's on my sort of web programs and my website.

Q Oh OK.

B I play with Puppy? and small? Lennox [Linux?] things, you know.

Q Yeah – over my head.

A Everything's all software and stuff.

B Yeah, ??? about the industry as it were.

Q OK. So do you have like a background, or like educational background in technology?

B I was a programmer for at least 20 years or so, doing festivals and things.

Q Oh right, where was that?

B In Stevenage mostly, and then....

A South America, randomly.

B South America. Prague where we met, I was doing a website for a protest and then I went to South America and did websites there for a while, came back, found out they'd discovered USB and put everybody in call centres. Became disenchanted with it.

Q So you were sort of like a website developer or creator then?

B Yeah but I've come from a background of databases and sort of back end programming, and business systems and distribution systems and things like that, before they had the internet.

Q Ah right OK. So would you say you're fairly....your household then you think is fairly comfortable with technology?

A Yeah I would say so, yeah. I mean I'm on my computer pretty much every day, addicted to the internet probably! I don't know it varies, because I am you know we're kind of traditionalists in other ways, you know we like to brew our own wines or whatever, so you

know I don't necessarily love all technology. And I am quite happy to do things old school sometimes.

Q Oh right OK, so it's like a mix of....

A Yeah, just don't throw out the baby with the bathwater when it comes to....just because some of it's old technology it doesn't mean it's bad technology – like just give important definition.

Q I feel that's really nice, a sort of flexible definition of technology.

A Yeah. Well as an environmentalist we're like at the front edge of trying to go backwards in a way to try and find ways back to like kinetic energies, back to you know just trying to make our technologies more sustainable and less power consumptive. And you know all of that is quite fascinating but looking backwards is a great way of looking forwards.

Q So you've got like a family interest in sort of green technology and things like that.

B Well the festival we do is the Northern Green Gathering

Q Oh OK I've heard of that, yeah.

B I mean that's kind of my main active interest is environmental things as it were.

A We met as environmental protesters, so....

Q Oh OK. So you've both got an interest then in sort of green technology and sustainability and things like that.

A Yeah.

Q OK. And so do you have any sort of like green energy in the home or anything like that, do you have anything....

Time 5:00

A Not as much as I'd like to have. We've got thermal solar on the roof. I've looked at all sorts of options but it's quite like....the actual solar service? doesn't work for us for our orientation and where we're positioned, we looked at the heat thing ??? and we've looked at everything but not a lot actually works for us. I mean we went for the log burner.

B Because we live next to a wood so....

Q Oh, so you can collect your own supply.

A Yeah. And the council explicitly told us that they wouldn't cut down a dead tree but explicitly said 'we won't really notice if you do'.

Q Oh right, OK.

A So we were like 'OK then'.

Q So you've got sort of quite a lot of...you would consider that you have quite a bit of tech in the home. So have the children sort of grown up with it being part of their lives would you think?

A Yeah I would say so, I mean they've been playing on my phone since they were wee babies, which I think is probably true of all kids these days, and I'm slightly conflicted about whether or not that is a good thing. But yeah, being more and more at the moment independent in their own communication with friends and making play dates and whatnot, they are now exploring more in the...like not exactly social media but the games that let them chat with their mates.

Q OK.

A And I'm definitely kind of dubious about that and how it works. I don't know how to police it as a parent and keep them safe, do you know what I mean?

Q Yeah.

A So yeah it's one of those that they are, and at the moment they've kind of got free reign to do stuff, but I'm slightly conflicted about whether or not I need to rein it in and put more parental controls on in some way, get computers out of his bedroom so I know he's not seeing it in the middle of the night and all of that stuff. I don't know where the balance needs to be, and the advice for parents is totally conflicting.

Q Yeah I think there is a lot of conflicting advice perhaps out there, and it's really interesting to sort of get people's take on it and know where people stand with that sort of advice that's around. I mean where do you sort of get your knowledge of things like that from, is it from friends, or from the radio or TV or some media....

A Again probably the internet as much as anything really you know. Yeah I mean I try and make up my own mind based upon media sources really, rather than if somebody has an opinion, necessarily agreeing, I always try and back check and see if I agree with people. But you know the fact that the people who created Facebook won't let their own children on it is quite damning!

Q So what does Jeremy, when you talk about games that are games where they can chat to their friends, and what do they like to play on, what do they go on where they can communicate with their friends?

A Oh gosh I get a bit confused about which one is flavour of the month.

B Roblox.

A Roblox has definitely been a favourite for a while.

Q Is that Lego? Lego Roblox is it? Or is it...

B Eeer....

A It probably is yeah.

B He's watched all the Lego, Star Wars, like every bit he can watch.

Q Right.

A Well he kind of swept through it and leapt into now main big grown up Star Wars.

Q Oh right OK.

A So he's kind of left cartoonist Lego a bit behind on the Star Wars front.

Q OK, so when he was younger he was watching like the Lego Movies and things?

A Erm, no. He kind of just discovered the Lego Movies, Lego Star Wars, and then moved on to Star Wars within probably about....definitely a year or less maybe.

Q OK, what age was he then?

A Oh just like a year or so ago, it's a fairly new obsession.

Q OK so it took the form of like special interests.

B But it is....been pretty complete.

A Oh he knows absolutely everything about Star Wars.

Q Does he?

A Yeah.

Q Oh fantastic.

B When we watched the first movie he was telling me what the dialogue was basically from having watched the Lego ones.

A Lego stuff. And he was like 'oh that's a little bit different' he would say every now and then.

B He does remember everything, and she's trying ??? really good that way.

Q Yeah, so he's got a really good memory and so he sort of like started off on the Lego films and then, Lego, and then went on to the older movies but remembered all the dialogue.

A Mmm.

Q That's quite incredible.

B There is another cartoon series as well that he watched as well that was Lego I think.

A Yeah I'm not sure. But yeah I'm not sure what his favourite is for communicating with others now. But they've also just discovered What's App. So like his sister got a mobile phone earlier this year, and she's much more of a....she won't be alone, she loves friends, she loves company, so she's the driving force in their having sort of friends coming round and like chatting with other friends. But yeah she set up the What's App group for them all to chat amongst themselves, so they are kind of doing that every....and if I'm busy I'm on that one too so my phone just goes nuts every now and then while they share wolf? pictures or something.

Q Ah, so you're in the What's App group as well?

A Yeah.

Q Oh that's interesting. Did you ask to be added or did she....

A No, she just made it and put me in.

Time 10:00

Q Made it and you got put in. How old is your daughter by the way?

A She is 9, 10 coming up, in a month's time she will be 10.

Q OK, what's her name again I'm sorry?

A Cerys.

Q So she's coming up to 10 and she's called Cerys. And is it Jeremy who has....do they both have a diagnosis or is it just Jeremy?

A No only Jeremy has got a diagnosis.

B ??? opposites in a way because she basically made him learn to talk, because she....

A She was really young, she was only about 9 months old when I first recognised a word from her. He was obsessed with pouring things in the bathroom at the time, and she just picked up a bottle one day that had a lid on and she just went 'off'. And I was like 'oh my God, that's a word'. And I hadn't been listening for her because he didn't speak at 3 years old, I had him in speech therapy to get him kick started because he was just kind of screaming at me and I was going nuts because he just....I couldn't cope. It was just ??? but with not giving me any clues what he really wanted. So yeah she really kick started his use of language, they learnt language together.

B They'd play games and she'd say 'no, you say this' and he'd say what she told him to say.

A Yeah, she was the imaginative play, she wouldn't just tell him, she'd tell him what to do as well.

Q Ah, so sort of directed his play.

A Yeah for ages. And then eventually he started directing her back sometimes, but she's still the lead director in any imaginative play.

Q Oh OK, and they play together quite a lot do they?

A Yeah.

Q And are they quite sort of....they're quite close then?

A Yeah.

Q So do they share similar interests at all?

A Erm....some and some.

B Mmm, the Roblox and they watch YouTube together.

A I'd say more before they would have been assessed about the same things at the same time but they've got more like their own interests now separately. So he loves Star Wars, she's not bothered. She's...well she was really into her dinosaurs, she can probably name all the dinosaurs. But at the moment I'm not sure where he like latest obsession lies.

B Wolves.

A Wolves yeah, she's really....all the animals. Insects actually, she's got quite into insects recently. But yeah.

Q So can I just ask how old was Jeremy when he was diagnosed, and what diagnosis does he have?

A ASD and it was.....

B 5, 6?

A No he was older than that, he was more like 8 I would think. It was basically the third year of his junior school that the teacher put him forward, and then the process took a while so it might have been a year later before we actually got the diagnosis. So yeah like maybe 2 or 3 years ago. Not a lot has changed to be honest, it was ??? or since. The only thing that's changed is that every now and then I go to school because they say his English is crap, and I say 'have you been putting him on a wobble cushion', and they go 'what's a wobble cushion' and I go 'oh we're back here again'!

Q So I think you said he's not particularly keen on writing.

A Yeah, we've really struggled with him at school with writing.

B He's got a lot better.

A He's got a huge amount better. Two things really helped him. He had one teacher that he fell in love with but who left the school sadly, but who somehow explained language to him and gave him strategies for picking words in a way that made sense to him. And I never saw the teacher who did it til Jeremy told me about it, but that guy really helped him. And then the other thing that helped was after the diagnosis of ASD they tried a few tactics on him that worked for autistic children, and one of which was giving him this wobble cushion, this ??? and balance cushion thing. And basically he does a lot better if he can sit on a thing that makes him wobble around a bit. Or if he's standing when he does writing. He's just not good at sitting and concentrating on stuff like that. So it is a bit random, but there we are.

Q So what kinds of play does he sort of typically like to do?

A Oh just on screen. So if we didn't boot him off he wouldn't get off.

Q So how much time would you say that he has on screens maybe a day?

A Probably 6 hours, but I'd like it to be less. I mean some days he's got that before we get out of bed in the morning, do you know what I mean? He wakes up and he goes straight to it. And if you like, you know have a bit of a lazy morning, have breakfast and then get ready to go, it can be mid-day and you're like 'damn, he's had 6 hours already'. And he's off for like half an hour and he'll have badgered you repeatedly to get back on screens already. You know it's definitely his favourite thing to be doing.

Q So does he have a....is there like a family computer in the house then, or has he got a laptop or....

A No he's got a computer in his own room, she's got one in her room. They've got Xbox down here that they play games on, and they've both got mobile phones now as well, but you know his is a bit primitive.

Time 15:00

Q So has he got a Smartphone or....

A Yeah. So he's got some games on it that he can play, an offline game so he can play when there's no internet and stuff.

Q So if he's on the computer, generally he gets up in the morning and goes on the computer, what sort of things is he doing on the computer, what does he like to do?

B Well he likes watching YouTube.

A Watching YouTube as much as anything.

B YouTubers that do games, so he's watching other people do games.

Q He says he wanted to be a YouTuber.



A Yeah, like he'll get obsessed about a game and then he'll just watch tons of other people on YouTube playing the game, more than even playing the game.

Q Yeah. Which game is it at the moment, do you know?

A Oh I can't remember what it's called. It's a different one. Jeremy, what's the computer game that you are playing most at the moment called?

C Roblox.

A Is it? You're back on Roblox? It was a different one he was doing.

B There's different versions of Roblox.

A Yeah, I think there was something else he was playing just recently but I can't remember the name. Yeah but Roblox it is again.

C That was Roblox, it's a game on Roblox.

A What's it called then?

C It was Sole T? on Roblox, it was kind of...it's basically a person creating an under??? fight game. Basically you can be like sands, jars, ??? shoes from another AO, and ultimate universe, and then there's also ??? Three of the four can teleport.....

B Better him than me!

Q2 So that's a game without a game inside another game is it?

C Yeah.

Q2 Yeah, I'm just making sure I understood that right.

A Well done!

C It's a very good game.

Q2 Yeah, you're going to have to show me that.

Q That sounds very complicated. So how long has he been into that then, is it his sort of special interest game at the moment?

B Roblox goes back a long way.

A They've been playing various versions of Roblox for probably 3 or 4 years now, I don't know, it came along fairly quickly after the Minecraft obsession.

B He's very self-censoring and he didn't like games where there's a lot of swearing or something, he won't play Nightfall you know even though all these kids at school are playing it.

Q Oh Nightfall?

B Not Nightfall.....

A Fortnight.

Q Fortnight, ah right OK, so he doesn't like Fortnight.

B But there's games that he just won't play because there's a lot of swearing.

A Yeah, equally though he will watch videos with tons of swearing, and occasionally I'll come past and he'll go 'oh sorry mum, I didn't know that was happening'. So he does self-censor because he knows I would try to censor it, but he will ignore that if he is interested enough.

Q So he doesn't like Fortnight but he did like Minecraft?

A Yeah.

Q And so would he play Minecraft or watch videos of Minecraft or....

A Oh he watched tons of videos, unbelievably tons of videos of bloody Stampy, oh my God.

Q Stampy? Yeah.

A Oh my God, we went crazy. I did. I'm still going crazy. Yeah he plays it differently to her as well because she likes the kind of creative side where she gets to builds things, and he prefers the shoot them up kill stuff side.

Q OK, I would say it's like Survival mode and Creative mode.

A Yeah. So they used to have arguments about whether they were playing Creative or Survival mode a lot, because like they both got bored on each other's version of the game.

Q Oh right.

B And they were getting the Americanisms that aren't from me.

A Yeah they are.

Q So you have an American background, is that right?

B Yeah.

Q So where are you from in America then?

B Kansas City, grew up near Seattle in the Cascade Mountains. Came here about 42 years ago, and stayed. My mother was English, I've got a lot of English family over here and

we used to spend most summers coming over here when I was a kid. So I'm not like that foreign.

Q Yeah. So I think it was interesting when you were saying that Jeremy really likes working with, sort of playing on technology and things like that, but he's also really keen on camping which...is that something that you sort of....from your background?

A It comes from my background pretty much. When I was growing up we used to belong to....well it's the Camping and Caravanning Club of Great Britain but they have like little sub clubs. And so my parents basically were part of a small group of other grown ups who self-organise this club called Long GA, and we used to go pretty much every weekend from summer through to autumn to a different farmer's field somewhere, meet up with our gang of friends, camp for the weekend. They would encourage community with like a Sunday morning coffee morning and then a walk, so like a lot of my memories are like there would be three generations altogether going and....like my grandad teaching me birdsong in the woods and stuff like that. So I've wanted something like that for my kids. Struggled really to find it because, like if you got to exactly where I was it's older generation and the young people haven't really kind of took it on so there's not other kids for them to play with, it's not really there. So the closest that we found it is actually on the festival circuit, which by accident we got sucked in when we lived in Oxford into helping work at a ??? Medieval Festival, and we've been on site crew there for I don't know probably about 16 years or something now.

Time 20:30

Q Right.

A And within that community my kids get something of that experience that I was looking for where they are mixing with lots of different generations, there's creative stuff going on, there's lots of stuff to engage with, but you know they're camping at a festival, it's not like camping in just a field with nothing going on.

B But the people we know there, they're all very nice people basically. And Jeremy is always....he kind of talks like a grown up if you know what I mean, and they've always been really open to him. It's a bit different from here ??? all the grown ups are....

A And when you go back into school and like talk to them about it and you're like going 'tell them about the great medieval stuff you've learnt' so they feel like you've been at something educational, not on holiday. And he'd go in and go '[male name], let me be the fire master'. And it's like 'I got to play with fire all night with a pokey stick, and I got to put on the new wood' and that would be all he would talk about. And I'd go 'oh I'm not sure if school would agree with that one'!

Q So what would you say is sort of like....so he likes doing outdoor stuff as well as being on the computer would you say?

A Yeah. He doesn't like playing with toys. He's never engaged with toys much.

Q So what do you mean by toys when you sort of say....

A Anything really. We tried anything from like....you know cars, he did engage with cars and trains as a baby, but apart from that like he does bore of things very quickly. So he loves his technology and he does the imaginative play with his sister and he's quite sporty when he wants to be, but I think....

B He's happy to run around with a stick.

A Yeah, he's happy to run around with a stick, he is, yeah and hit things and do like typical boy stuff. But he's better if you give him a job. He responds to responsibility more than play I think, if you know what I mean. He likes a task more. Like he's run a badge-making workshop, we got a badge-maker like the other year and he will teach the other kids really happily how to use that, and do that more happily than like run around and play really.

B Yeah. If we ever play a game, like the music stops and everybody has to ?slip? in lines or something, he wants to run the machine. He doesn't want to play it, he wants to do it.

Q Ah, so he wants to actually stop the music and...

B Yeah. He always wants to orchestrate games in that way. But you know.

Q And is he a quick learner with technology do you think?

B I think so, yeah. He learns things quicker than I do. But you know he's interested. I can't even remember the password!

Q So what would you say his sort of balance of indoor and outdoor play is?

B Way more indoor. I mean they kind of play every day, you know some outdoors on the trampoline, more often go and play computer games ??? the computer characters whatever. So they're playing the same games.

Q So it's mostly computer games that he likes to sort of play on. But I think you were saying about him socialising using computer games as well, sort of talking to friends. Does he have friends that he talks to while he's playing sort of online?

B Er...yes, I mean he has chats with people during game play, and it's clearly nothing, just general chat if you know what I mean 'what did you do that for' and things like that. But he's also, you know if we go to the beach or anything like that he's quite happy building things in the sand, he's always been crazy about making a dam to stop the water and things like that. And he's really industrious when he's doing something like that. This year at the festival he went out raking hay with the teenagers, it was the highlight of the festival for him because he's out doing stuff with the bigger kids. And yeah he does like interacting with other kids, he's always in a gang when we're at a festival, or when Cerys brings friends round he will often....but sometimes he won't, as we just said he'll do something else, depends upon who they are. But he likes to treasure hunt, when it's a birthday or something we have a treasure hunt, we like to go find stuff in the fields and the woods, and he likes that.

Time 25:30

Q Oh right, is that the woods just beyond your house?

B Yeah, or in the garden.

Q How do you do a treasure hunt, can you tell me?

B Just one clue leads to another clue, leads to another clue. Bits of sweets along the way and things like that.

Q And are the clues written on paper or....yeah?

B Yeah, a bit of poetry, you know.

Q Oh that sounds really interesting, and that happens at birthdays and things like that?

B Yeah, I mean that's something they always request.

Q Oh OK.

B Because they've got people around and it's 'let's do that'.

Q So is it like a sort of family tradition sort of thing, or a family habit or....

B Yeah, I mean we've done it maybe 6 or 7 times – so is that tradition? I don't know.

Q I don't know. What's a tradition?

B You know if they're having a birthday here and people are coming round, that would be something that they definitely would like to do as an activity.

Q Yeah. And what kind of other things do you play together as a family? Are you sort of quite a playful, play together family?

B Not really. I mean we have a tussle about that sort of thing. And we go out places and, like I say the seaside is some place we all play together. And because Denise is a photographer and does landscape photography we're often out some place and we're just....while she's doing that we're out traipsing about.

Q Is Jeremy interested in photography at all?

B Not....I mean he has taken 1,000 pictures with his toy camera, but he hasn't taken many since he's got a Smartphone I don't think. And he's sort of, he's interested in it but not obsessed in any way.

Q Does he ever hold on to any pictures that he takes, or do they get deleted?

B Not particularly. I mean they're all on hard drive somewhere, because I've saved them.

Q Oh right.

B But they used to play camera and tag kind of thing with it.

Q Camera tag – oh what's that?

B Where you just try and take a picture of here, or vice versa, and the other one's trying not to get their picture taken so they're running around dodging the camera.

Q Oh that's really interesting. And what was that played with, was that with phones or was that with a camera?

B That was just with sort of an iPhone, and they've done that, you know it's not something they do all the time but you know it's a game they enjoyed.

Q Yeah, oh that sounds a really good game, I think we might ask them.

B You can see the camera results afterwards, you can see when they got caught, and they like enjoy ??? They made that up totally, it's not something I taught them.

Q So it's a game that they've sort of invented. And when you talk about you see the results of the pictures afterwards, what are the pictures like, is it sort of like an amusement value in the pictures themselves or....

B Sometimes, it's running away or picking up, you know. Maybe I could get them to try and play a game of tag and they'll show you the results.

Q That would be really, really fantastic, especially if they wanted to wear the GoPro while they were doing it because then we'd get....that would be really cool. Yes, please, that would be great, I'd really like to see that – if they want to of course, because you know if they were happy. So can you think of any other sort of games they like to play with tech, anything like that or....

B I mean chess, checkers is quite technical, and he like that way more than Cerys does. I mean Cerys will play with him but she's always losing so she's not so keen.

Q He sounds really, really like he's got a real knowledge of chess and really likes it, when he was talking to us about the chess game he was playing when we just arrived and I wonder whether does he ever play chess online or does he have any computer programmes or watch chess on YouTube?

B Well since he's gone to the senior school they've got chess in the library, so he goes in there and plays a bit. And he's always played it at the Saturday club. And he's played against me, and he beats me when we're playing on a phone and screens like that.

Time 30:00

Q Ah, so he plays chess on his phone does he?

B With...you just hand the phone back and forth, it's kind of a game, it's just one I put on my phone for during trainings when we sit waiting for ??? And so he's very pleased about that.

Q So he takes along his phone if you're going to do like swimming or something like that, is that....?

B Well yeah, because Cerys swims for an hour every Thurs....I don't know, last cubicle as it were, so for an hour, so yeah we do that sometimes, play other games sometimes, like hide the thimble! You know I put something in the car park and then...

Q Oh you put something in the car park?

B Well if we were waiting outside and the weather's nice, just call an area and I'll say 'something' whatever it is 'is somewhere there'. And then he'll do it to me. He quite likes any game that people will play with him, do you know what I mean, he does like playing with other people. But if it's going to ??? or something he's just ??? sometimes. He doesn't like crowds, do you know what I mean, festivals and things he still tries to avoid all the busy places and crowded places.

Q But festivals also offer the space, is that what you were saying?

B Yeah, he would linger on the edge of a crowd rather than go into, he doesn't really like being in a crowd.

A Not horribly though, you know to the extent that I worried that maybe that would be something he couldn't cope with after they said ???

B I would have taken the crowds.

A I don't know. Yeah I mean we took him to The Steelers and he loves the crowd interaction, he likes being part of a crowd that's doing the same 'swoosh' and celebrating the goal, you know he wants to get back into that crowd sort of thing. If the crowd has some sort of commonality to it maybe it makes more sense to him, I don't know, but yeah.

Q So does he get quite excited at things like that, or is he quite....

A Oh no he's pretty excitable when it's something like that, can be yeah, when he gets excited he gets very excited.

B First panto was terrible.

A Oh yeah, the first time we went to panto and he realised....we told him he had permission to shout back, you can heckle at panto. And he took me very literally and just a lot of it. It was an amateur panto thing and I felt a little bit sorry for them by the end. I think my son's a little hard to handle – sorry. ???

Q So would you say that when you've been talking about him playing sort of on the computer for sort of, or using the computer for about sort of 6 hours a day and stuff like that, so you'd say tech features quite a lot in your child's play?

A Mmm,

Q And does he sort of choose what he's interested in, or do you sort of guide his choices?

A He pretty much chooses for himself now.

D ???

A Oh my memory ran out of it? Oh dear, get some other ???

Q So how would you say his play has changed over time, if you could sort of think back to how it might have changed from being?

B He's always been in a hurry, he just steams to go right through it, it's always been like he destroyed things more than he's like built things.

Q So he likes building things?

B No he's always liked to destroy things, not build things.

Q Oh he likes to destroy things.

B And that's sort of gone from blocks to the games he plays now. Like I say, where Cerys will be on building all these beautiful houses and things, and he just....

Q So there's a continuity there!

B Yeah, they complement each other.

Q So did he have things like Lego blocks and stuff when they were younger?

B Yeah, and he was into anything that turned wheels.

A Cars he was into. And we had a game that was like spinning cogs and that was his favourite baby toy. And then with the train track, you know the Brio or whatever it's called there, he was kind of more into laying the track out than playing with the trains once they were on it really.

B He did enjoy that.

Time 35:00

A But he did play with the train somewhat. As long as it's got wheels on he's a bit interested. If it doesn't spin, not so much at all. We tried him with things like Meccano as he got a bit older to see if he would go up to the next level, and he was just like 'no, I'm bored of that now, I only want computers'.

Q So when did you think the sort of interest in computers came along, can you sort of think of an age when....

A Again, at birth.



Q At birth?

A Yeah. It was partly my fault. Like when he was a baby and I was at home alone with him all the time, also trying to keep my photography sort of ticking along, while he was on a nap I would sit at my home office computer and then when he woke up I would sit him on my lap and we'd have a go on Knee Bounces. I don't know if you know Knee Bounces, it's a website entirely aimed at very young babies basically to get on to the computer. And so as long as you hit any key, all the keyboard stuff happens.

Q Oh right OK.

A So like a train would come in and different characters and he'd ??? and he absolutely loved it from the very first moment I put him on it, like as you know whatever, a barely sitting up baby, he would be like (hits table) he realised that if he hit the bar and stuff happened. And it was like boom, boom, boom, boom. Cerys loved it if I pushed the buttons but hated the responsibility of pushing one, it totally freaked her out you know being asked to do that, and it was like 'you make it happen mummy'. But he was just like..... So yeah, computers have been part of his life since he was born really – that was my fault.

Q So when he was quite small then you were sort of taking decisions about what websites he went on and things like that.

A Mmm.

Q Did you ever sort of look for learning apps and things like that, did you ever try anything like that?

A A bit, not much, because I wasn't really interested in his learning, it was always about having play time. So most of my learning I try and teach him is off the computer really, you know I used to do – I don't do it so much now – but I used to do a lot of cooking with the kids, so you know one of my earliest photos of Cerys is her chopping up vegetables. But I used to have them both by my side and actually help me with like some of that vegetable prepping when they were little and stuff like that.

B He's helped me erect all these.

Q Oh wow.

B He quite likes that.

Q So is there any sort of particular devices that as he was growing up he sort of latched on to or really liked, or inspired play?

A Oh mobile phones, as soon as he got a chance to he's always like wanted to be on them.

Q OK.

A So ever since I first let him play on my phone I kind of regretted that, because then the badgering was like 'I want it, I want it' and I was like 'hmm'.

Q What sort of things did he like to play to start with?

A I liked Clash of Clans. I was playing Clash of Clans when he first got into it, so he got into Clash of Clans.

C Yeah, I got a ???

A Yeah he did, but again he quite liked....you can watch battles when other people have attacked your villages and stuff like that, he liked watching the video playbacks almost more than playing the game as well.

Q I think I remember that.

C I used to be ??? most of the time. The only really annoying bit was ??? any spare troops that survived the battle of ??? they would only go back. That was the only annoying bit.

B Mmm, deserters really.

Q I'm trying to think of it as similar to Age of Empires, because....

A Probably.

Q ....I know my kids like Age of Empires and I think that's got a playback feature where you do the battle and then you can sit back and sort of watch the battle. So were you fighting the battles and Jeremy was watching the battles, or...

A He had his own....I gave him his own account so that he could like build his own village because he got interested, so I was like 'go on then, can't see any harm in it' there was no like chatting with other players and sort of danger so I thought it seemed to be OK. And it was just the way he chose to play it. He did build, he got up to level 8, he did build his village somewhat and he did fight a lot of battles himself. But he would watch the videos obsessively and then he'd notice stuff I hadn't noticed so he'd teach me little details about how to play the game because of what he'd watched in the videos. But he learned by watching the videos rather than playing, whereas I was just doing it the hard way.

B There was the one with all the farming, he was well into that sort of for a long time, I mean that was one of the first ??? where you had to grow crops and....

A Oh don't know, don't have a name on that.

C Wasn't that Hay Day.

B Hay Day, was that it?

C Yeah.

B And they had chickens and things.

A Again that was one that I was playing that he got into because it was on my phone.

Q Oh, is it a phone game then, Hay Day?

A Yeah.

Q And it's like you have to farm?

A You have to farm, yeah. Also you're like feeding the animals and growing the wheat and making the feeds and whatever.

Q Yeah.

A Travis, you haven't seen my ID anywhere have you. I need to go to work soon and I can't find it.

Time 40:00

Q So I can see that you need to go to work so I'm going to wrap this up fairly soon, but I was just wondering. So he likes engaging with apps and online sites and things like that and YouTube. Does that affect or impact on how he plays at all, sort of engaging with things like YouTube, do you notice anything in his play that derives from using YouTube or apps and things like that?

B Yeah, yeah.

A Yeah they play Minecraft. You know they'll act out the computer games in their imaginative play.

Q Oh do they? OK. And is that something that happens quite often or....

A Yeah.

Q And so how do they play Minecraft?

A How do you play it Cerys. I want to know how you play the game. When you are playing with Jeremy, when you're not on the computers and you imagine Minecraft games sometimes don't you, or you imagine some stuff.

Q Would it be OK if I just recorded you for a couple of minutes telling me how you play Minecraft not on the computer.

Q Jeremy, would you and [researcher mispronounces Cerys] tell...

D Cerys!

Q Cerys, I'm so sorry, Cerys. Right I will learn it, I'm really bad with names so I'm very sorry about that.

C Trust me, everyone does it. Everyone will know ??? Cerys. There's only been one person who ??? who actually says Cerys's name right for the first time.

Q Sorry. I will try and get it right from now on. But I wondered if you and Jeremy could tell me about how you play Minecraft when you are playing it in real life. So when I say 'real life' I kind of mean not on screen on the computer, which is also real life, it's kind of confusing.

A When you're imagining.

C If you mean in real life, we did used to run, basically we've been regular players ??? being friends when Cerys got him, which is basically a collection in Minecraft. Now obviously we've another senior member and then there's a topical ??? here are ??? because if you land on a pressure crater in the drop you'll be exploded by TNT.

D Specifically nine pieces of TNT.

Q Nine pieces of TNT?

C Yeah, one TNT can blow up about 20 blocks. There's applied block radius in every direction.

Q And you play this. Where would you be when you were playing this? You'd be outside?

D Outside or in my room.

Q In your room?

C Outside in the garage, or on our way home from primary.

Q Oh so you would play it while you were walking?

C Yeah. But then another ??? kind of stopped because it got boring. But we do sometimes look back on it because there were a funny times. I still remember one, when we were playing it and I tripped and I fell in a puddle.

Q Oh did you? Oh no!

C It got one in my face.

Q So Herobrine is a glitch in the system and...

C It's a glitch.

Q Oh a glitch.

D It was added into the game but ??? and the creators took it back out because he was too powerful.

Q Oh right, so he's like a character who shouldn't have been there?

C He was ??? Hogwarts, ??? gliding, throw fireballs, had an indestructible pick axe, he could literally throw ??? out of it.

Q OK.

C He was able to throw ??? come back. He had super strength and was able to lift Fadamo like 300,000 troops with a single arm and then ???

D Well technically everybody can because you've got the inventory.

C Yeah but then again, I mean like, I mean like if it was in real life.

Time 45:00

Q So you would be playing the...

C And he can fly.

Q So what would Herobrine be doing in the game that you were playing?

D He'd probably be wandering round your Minecraft world and you would have to try and find him, then you would probably have to battle him.

Q So you were doing this sort of as you were walking home from school, were you looking for him and....

C Oh we were friends with him.

Q You were friends with him, OK.

C And then we'd troll players together.

Q You'd troll players?

D Yeah. Basically you could blow up their house or their creations. You could make traps to kill them. Or just do funny pranks that won't kill you but look deadly but aren't deadly.

Q What sort of funny pranks can you think of?

D The lava trap, where you push someone into a pool of lava. We have signs underneath so then they fall straight through and into a piece of water.

Q OK.

D And then normally it gives them a jump scare.

Q Oh right, yeah a jump scare.

D You could flood their house.

Q Right.

D Blow up....

C ??? lava because they won't just jump in there will they?

Q So you could flood their house with lava.

D You could make a trap door trick where you can get a sticky paste and the switch can pull back blocks and you can flick a lever when they're above a block and then they could fall through it into a block of lava and die.

Q Oh right.

D And probably lose all the things in the inventory.

Q Oh right yes, if you lose everything in the inventory that's not very good is it?

C Which is very funny if they have a million ???

D That reminds me. Whenever we're on Minecraft where we didn't have to keep inventory, Jeremy would have creepers? after him, they're about to blow up, and then I would try and hit the creepers but I jump into the explosion and they had ??? on me, so I would die and drop all my stuff and I would panic and tell Jeremy to pick up all my stuff.

C Yeah, and I'm just there like 'huh, oh'. Yeah but me, when the creeper was about to explode I'd jump out there and not get hit..

D And I would still be exploded.

C ....while Cerys would just jump in there and try to return and...and then I'd be like ???

Q So is this when you're playing on the computer or when you were playing outside?

C Minecraft, near when we first got it she'd always jump in to improve the blasts.

Q Oh right OK.

D ???

C It was funny, because every time we saw a creeper I would fight it, almost kill it...

D And then I'd jump in the way and get hit and then the creeper would explode and I would die.

C Yeah, basically I would be about to hit it and then Cerys is just like 'hello, bonk' and then I hit her. I jump back and then she explodes and dies. It was very funny. Every time we'd always laugh.

Q So you were saying that you look back on when you played Minecraft on the way home and there were some funny times. Can you think of any sort of funny times that you had?

C The one that I fell into a puddle.

Q You fell in a puddle. What were you trying to do when you fell in the puddle?

D Not cool.

C That wasn't because of anything, I just tripped.

D I remember another time when we were coming home from school and I was playing Minecraft and Jeremy was walking and accidentally slipped on a banana peel.

C Wasn't that me?

D Yes, I said it was you.

C Oh, I thought you said you were the one who slipped.

Q So how long have you two been playing Minecraft for then do you think?

C About a year now.

Q About a year?

B Longer than that.

C Yeah quite long.

D I think as well 2 or 3 years.

Q 2 or 3 years.

C Yeah probably.

D We were only at our friend's house when we were around ???

C So we learnt it at our friend's.

D At our friend's around the corner at this area. And we eventually became better than her at the game, even though she had it before us.

A I've got to go now.

Q No problem. Thank you so much.

A Yeah, no worries. You carry on.

Q2 Nice to meet you.

A See you later, yeah next time.

Q Yeah we'll see you next time.

A In a week is it? What time is it roughly?

Q Yeah, half past five.

Q2 Twenty past.

Q Twenty past five, OK. Right then, yes it will be the visits are sort of planned every sort of fortnight, but it might be good because the project sort of started back in August and whether we could catch up and do a couple of visits sort of week after week if that's OK.

A Yeah sure that's not a problem. Just check with ??? when you're coming.

Q Sure, we'll check a date before we leave if that's alright.

B Yeah, yeah.

Q OK that's great. OK I'm going to turn the recorder off now, so that's been brilliant, I've really enjoyed talking to you.