

- 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 Okay, so I'm going to start by asking... we've talked a bit in the past about different types of things like apps and games and toys that Jeremy and Cerys have or that are available and out there. And I just wondered what types of digital devices, things like phones or apps or games, in your view, promote or encourage play for children? Either Jeremy, Cerys or more generally.

A I think PC does, just because they definitely use that as a learning tool, whereas when they're on the phone, it's really just pure play. They're just apps, like shoot-em-ups or whatever. Cerys is more creative, more into drawing, but she could do a lot more with that in a computer, anyway. I suppose they both have access to YouTube, which is where a lot of their learning comes from. But I don't know. I just think when they're sat at the desk at the computer, with the big screen, it focuses the mind maybe in a different way for being a bit more educational and not just messing around.

Q Yes, and what about what encourages them to play? I think in the past, we've mentioned things like doing phone tic and things like that, which I thought was a really interesting game. I thought it was really fun. Can you think of anything else which really inspires play which can be related to tech or apps or games or something like that, and encourage them to be creative in their play, maybe?

A That's a hard one. No, because anything I think of, I'm usually trying to think of things to get them off it. Because their natural default position is to want to be on the computer. They wake up in the morning. They get the computer or the phone or whatever, so any time, I'll spend my time thinking about things for them to do, it's to get them off or into the real world, get them out into play outdoor stuff. And then their default position is to just go, yes, you can do what you want, and they'll go, boom, back to them.

Q Right, so it's quite... you feel that you find it quite difficult to promote different types of play. Is that right?

A Yes, constant struggle to just get them to do anything other than be on their apps, really. I mean, my kids accept the fact that I boot them off. They had some friends round to play at the weekend and when I asked the kids to shut the computer off when they were down, because I wanted them to play together, the son got quite miffed and turned around and said, my mum doesn't do this.

To which his elder sister replied, yes, she does. You just ignore mum. But yes, I think all us parents really have the same struggle. The kids want to be on it all the time, and it's not knowing how much they can have and how much it's going to

screw them up if we let them have unlimited access. It's the modern dilemma, as far as I can tell.

Q Yes, so what type of technology, in your view, limits play or creativity?

A It's just the not talking to each other, not making eye contact stuff, really, because you're staring at screens. It's very important, isn't it, physical language, like we communicate 60%, apparently, is physical language rather than our verbal spoken language. So anything that just has them sat on their bums and staring at screens rather than moving around, because they're children and they're meant to be active. And if you don't develop core strength and stuff when you're little, apparently you never get it.

So it's always about them understanding what life is for the rest of their life, as well. They've got to understand that there's times for which you turn off the computer and you go and do exercise and that you might not like it but you eat vegetables anyway because they have a purpose and a function that's healthier than other choices. So I don't know, just trying to lay down that. It's really hard.

Q So do you see creativity as something that's collaborative or social? Because I'm just thinking in terms of...

A Not always because for kids, definitely, it's all sitting and being meditative and all of that. So it can be very antisocial, but it's about thinking through and processing emotions and thoughts about what you see and observe in society. So it is still related to being social. If you're not social, and you're not communicating with others, and you're not even just negotiating the difficult sides of being a group of kids trying to figure out how to play together without having an argument.

That hierarchy and all of that, all of that social jostling and social scales, they're really important. And I don't know, maybe this society's a bit screwed up on so many levels anyway, I don't know. I just don't want it getting any worse. And that instant gratification thing is a bit of a worry as well, the fact they don't know boredom and boredom is the room [?] of creativity, they say.

Q Is there any kinds of technology they do get bored with, though? Have you ever seen them get tired of a particular game or a particular...?

A Yes, they'll get tired of each other's games, if it's not quite their choice of way to play. So is it Minecraft, where you've got the two levels? You've got one where you've got to fight and kill level, and then one where you're building things more. They argue between which level they play on. Cerys prefers creating, Jeremy prefers killing. Cerys more likely to get bored, full stop, just come down and say, mummy. Have we had enough screen time yet?

Q Really?

A Encourage me to boot them off so that Jeremy will go out and play with her. I don't think Jeremy has ever done that. Cerys does it reasonably frequently.

Q Just going back to the creativity, though, one thing I was thinking about was that you spend a lot of time on festival sites and I was wondering how technology is integrated into the modern festival circuit.

A Very little, because at the end of the day, it depends where you are, to be fair. The festivals we work at are solar powered, off-grid festivals, so just having any technology can be a challenge because we are constantly struggling to just have the basics of enough lighting.

So no, it's very much paper-based systems still. Not GDPR. I don't understand GDRAF [?]. And it's all pretty low-tech. They watch us build things with scrap wood that we've literally dug out of bins at times and leftover paint pots and whatnot. So it's more the other end. It's more like the Wombles.

Q And so at the festivals, is the music mostly acoustic and things like that? Or is it just performance as well?

A No, we've got better over the years, because solar power has come a long way. So no, it is now... it used to be a lot just acoustic or not very much music at all. But now we've got main stagers playing proper runs [?], as you would expect it. And a little bit of spare for light shows and stuff like that, but yes. It's very difficult in a field to do this high-tech stuff, because electricity doesn't like damp. And people with high-tech kit, it tends to be expensive. So they don't like inclement weather conditions, so yes.

Q How do Jeremy and Cerys react when they spend a couple of weeks or even longer maybe away from technology and devices and things like that? Do they miss it?

A I think if we just went somewhere where it was just us in a field camping, and they were deprived of their tech, they'd probably go nuts with boredom. But because we go to environments which there's other people, a constant influx, actually, for quite a period of time, up to thousands, and because there's a lot going on. And because they're encouraged to get involved with it, they work alongside them as much as they can.

When they were little, I had them out, dressed up as fairies or whatever, shaking collection buckets, collecting money. Jeremy last year was being much more responsible and went out with a 16-year-old volunteer to rake grass for a fire risk in one of the campsites. So yes, I sometimes worry before we go in, and I do tell them to pack it, but there's only a limited amount that we can recharge it for them.

So they'll have moments where they miss their technology and they'll whinge that they're bored and they want it, but they tend to be if the other kids haven't arrived on the field yet and the weather's bad. As long as they can run around and play, then they're happy. If they can jump on the back of a tractor, they're loving it. If they can do the old school stuff, like jump around in hay bales and climb trees, they're completely happy.

Once the other festival stuff comes along and all the shops and the stalls and the acts and the bands and the dancing goes on, they don't need their technology at all because all of that is stimulating. But then I think that actually, Jeremy

probably does at that point tend to go back to it again a bit more, because he's ASD probably. He just wants to go and have a little safe, curled up, lockdown space, and just playing a familiar game over and over on his phone for a little while is his way of calming down or whatever.

Q So there's a relationship perhaps, you think, between his ASD and his finding technology soothing or escaping or what do you think?

A I've been told by my friend whose son was diagnosed with autism at an early age. He's much more severe than Jeremy's ASD. But the doctors recommended specific computer games for that reason, so I've looked, then, at Jeremy, and observed him a bit. I feel it in myself. I wake up and I play Polytopia most mornings, like meditation.

So yes, I think for sure he does use it as a... it's weird, isn't it? Because playing a familiar game is at once stimulating and quite relaxing. It's that lovely interesting balance that you can't really get from anything else. I don't know. It's quite addictive. I don't want to say it's like heroin but give me some of that.

Q So which game do you play in the mornings?

A Polytopia. It's a bit like a game of chess, because you've got various characters that are trying to kill the other characters and they all only have certain ways that they can move and they're different ways. But you can have up to ten opponents or more, so it gets more complicated than a game of chess.

Q So is it like a problem solving game?

A Yes, it is. It's a battle but also, yes, it's... there's a tactical way to become the best and I can't figure it yet. I'm stuck.

Q Has Jeremy tried to play it at all?

A Yes, he's played it. He likes it, but he prefers it more not just playing the computer but playing against a real person. Because you can opt to play a swap and play game, or whatever, and he seems to always prefer doing it that way.

Q And would that be somebody who's online or would it be you or would he play it with you in the house?

A It would be me, but they've changed the game now so you can actually do it with other players online if you know the [unclear] because I don't care about playing with others. I'm quite happy playing the [unclear] beating me.

Q So when you are away, does he take his phone when you go to the festival sites?

A He does take it but it tends to get left in the tent and abandoned and forgot quite a lot. Like I say, once it's run out of charge, then there's often not much we can do to recharge it, I'm afraid.

Q Do you get internet access on the sites?

A Yes, so it varies. We do Tewkesbury. Not so much at the Green Gathering. I like them not having it. I like to know that they can survive. It's not long. It's only

two weeks, without having to be addicted to their phones. So yes, I challenge them to get on without them as part of it.

Q Yes, but do they do anything with their phones while they're out there? Again, like the phone tic or do they do any filming?

A No, not really. They'll tend only to use it when they come to sit down, when they're tired and they come and huddle around a phone. And they might have loads of mates sat in the car with them, sitting round it and sociably be watching things. Or they might just get in with a bunch of friends and then find a phone and completely ignore their friends while they play their game instead.

Q Can you think of any of the games that your friend recommended that might be good for ASD?

A She didn't actually recommend any specific ones? She just said the doctor recommended them, and that made me think, and then just what... and think, which ones might be the ones that could do that? And I thought, they're using Minecraft in schools, aren't they? So I don't really feel like that's a bad one.

Q Yes, they are using them in schools, aren't they?

A And it looks pretty educational. I can see how you could learn how to be a graphic designer or an architect or something and easily use those computer games. Sorry, they're not called games. That sort of computer software.

Q Can you think of any other devices or toys or things like Minecraft that encourage creativity? Any toys that you can think of that maybe encourage creativity?

A My husband would probably say Raspberry Pi, because he's constantly trying to encourage the kids to get involved with it but they just go, whatever.

Q Really? Have they ever done any coding with him?

A They do a little bit at school, I think, and then I don't know if he's ever managed to get them to join in with him at home. I think he's more trying to show off what he's done [overtalking] they could maybe manage later.

Q So he wants them to have the context.

A Yes, I think so. He wants the world to have the context, not just them.

Q What's he working on at the moment? Do you know?

A Not really. The last thing he did with his Raspberry Pi was create a little pop-up cinema so that's just proving that you can have a little projector and a Raspberry Pi that literally fit in your pockets and they had the ability to show a little movie wherever you go. I was quite impressed. He proved it. It worked. He hasn't proved it to the whole world yet, though.

Q Do you think that their engagement with online sites like YouTube and apps and things like that, can you see any evidence that it impacts on their play at all? Cerys and then maybe Jeremy, that it has any impact on their play.

A Their engagement with YouTube specifically?

- Q Yes, YouTube or any apps that they use or online sites that they visit.
- A For Cerys, that's where she's finding her videos for how to draw, and maybe her more so with things like other girls dancing to pop videos, kind of stuff.
- Q Right, does she do that?
- A Well, her friend [girl's name] put the TikTok thing on her phone and that's what she seemed to like about it, and like doing back. But now she can't into it and I'm happy that she can't because I really hate it. Leaving that one there for a while. For Jeremy, yes, YouTube, that's his science learning, isn't it?
- That's where he's learning about astrophysics and all sorts of stuff that he hasn't even begun to touch at school yet. But you talk to him about space and he knows everything, so yes, how does it impact on their play afterwards? I don't know.
- Q Have they ever tried to make their own YouTube videos or anything like that?
- A They dream of being bloggers. It's more about making videos about making videos, I think, rather than anything else.
- Q That's very meta.
- A Yes, I think they'd like to but we haven't really cracked the technology of how to achieve that for them and they're a little bit young and I'm not sure I want them broadcasting themselves over the internet, anyway.
- Q No, so they've not got a YouTube channel or anything like that?
- A No, Travis's got one, so there are little bits and spats of them up on YouTube.
- Q Does he use that for his film stuff?
- A Just family memory stuff, I think, mostly, to be honest. I don't really remember what he's got up there. I remember his private thing for fans and stuff. I went on it. I didn't know you had that. I'd forgotten he had a YouTube channel.
- Q So you've got a family YouTube channel, then, basically?
- A He does, and we forget it's there. But yes, in theory we do, yes. There's... it's mostly stuff from the kids that he's put on there but the other stuff relates to our memories and our life, I think, everything that's on it.
- Q So who can see it? Is it closed or do you just let friends see it?
- A I don't know.
- Q Is it videos that the children have made themselves or is it videos that you've made of them?
- A No, it's stuff mostly that Travis shot, like when we go to the beach. And I'm a professional photographer so I photograph everything but the children. And Travis's the one who actually takes the memory snaps and the clips and video of them, like splashing in the sea.
- Q Are they interested in filming themselves at all? Has Jeremy or Cerys ever expressed an interest in filming themselves?

- A Only in terms of being bloggers. No, like I say. Cerys got TikTok and then she instantly filmed loads of little bits of herself. So she's clearly interested. Yes, and I don't know. What's the point of filming yourself if you're not going to broadcast your film. It's one of those again. I don't know. It's selfie culture, isn't it? People just like pointing stuff at themselves, but I don't get that either.
- Q Yes, what sort of thing has Cerys put on TikTok? Is it just with her friends or is it on her own?
- A No, it was just her on her own in her bedroom. There was a little bit of a clip of her playing on the computer. There was a little bit of a clip of her singing along with a song. I think she did one of her drawings. It's just like my diary, I suppose.
- Q Self-documenting.
- A Yes, a little bit diary-esque, I suppose. Just vlogging.
- Q Yes, one thing I've not asked. Have they ever [unclear] played with virtual reality or anything like that? Have they ever had a virtual reality experience, used the headsets?
- A Yes, we did quite recently for something. I can't remember what that was now, but they were asked that question and reminded me that they'd used it at the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival. Because one of our colleagues there is actually very high-tech so he brought a VR headset about five years ago or something. So long before anyone I knew had ever got near one, we'd had a play. And that was...
- Q What was it like?
- A Weird, because you're sat in a field and then you look through it and you're still in the same environment. It's set out to be roughly the same, but instead of seeing your friends, we were looking at a Hawk Jump Jet fighter plane.
- Q Wow, I thought you were going to say some knights or something like that.
- A No, it was nothing to do with the festival, and then if you're not wearing it, it's just hilarious. Because people with these goggles there, walking around like this, going ooh. That's amazing. And they're staring at their feet, so yes, it's weird. Where did you use VR recently, kids? You didn't? I thought you did recently. I did just the other day at the Van Gogh exhibit.
- Q At where, sorry?
- A I went to the Van Gogh immersive exhibit up in York.
- Q Wow.
- A And they have the room where they're projecting everything but they also have another room where they've got a VR headset for you to do a walk through Van Gogh's life and paintings and stuff on that.
- Q Wow, that sounds magical.

- A Which is... it's interesting but it's a little bit pixelated. Not quite as nice a view as I'd like, and some of the movements were, you don't walk like that. You don't slide down in that way and my brain felt a little bit nauseated at those points.
- Q So it was a little bit like feeling seasick.
- A Yes, I'm not convinced I'd want to live in a VR just yet.
- Q No, so it's not something you would get for the family if it was the opportunity?
- A Not yet. I think the technology's improving remarkably quickly and coming down in price like they all do really quickly too. So maybe, in five years' time, it'll look something more tempting. But I don't know. I don't really know what its use would be in play or anything else, really. Of course, you can see how it could be used in science or [inaudible] a little bit easier. But what I'm going to do with it with the kids at home. Imagine there's a dragon, and then what? Just point sticks at thin air. I don't know. What's the point? Yes, so no. Not tempted yet.
- Q No, what about... so if not VR, then are there any things, devices, technology, that you would or you do play with Cerys or Jeremy? Do you ever play with Cerys with technology?
- A Yes, I don't play with the kids hardly at all at the moment. Life's been busy. I don't know. I'd like to say yes but I'm woefully inadequate in playing, full stop. And if I do, it's probably more, again, non-technology play, something that's... apart from cuddling up in front of the telly, I suppose.
- Q I was going to ask, yes, do you do TV viewing as a family?
- A Yes, we...
- Q Is that you and your husband?
- A Try to get like a whole family thing. At the moment, it's Lyra's [?] what do you call it? The Northern Lights series. That we're cuddling up with, and we're also enjoying Scorpion, so...
- Q Scorpion? What's that?
- A It's on Netflix, that one, so it's...
- Q Is it a martial arts thing?
- A No, it's a bunch of geniuses that go and work for Homeland Security and solving problems and they're all very different. It's a bit like the A Team. They have to create stuff every week in order to save the day.
- Q That sounds fun.
- A And my husband actually said if they were the A Team, who would be who, and we realised they kind of did have the characters. They did have the comedy one, the boss one, the slightly silly one, yes. They're really enjoying... Jeremy particularly is really enjoying that one. Because there's still a lot of maths and learning that you can get in it as well as just being a lovely story.
- Q So do you think that's what appeals to him?

A Yes, definitely. Back in the day, did you ever watch a program called Northern Exposure?

Q Yes, I did.

A I loved it.

Q That was really good.

A And very few people did because it was on about the same time as Twin Peaks. So the whole world was really into Twin Peaks.

Q No, Northern Exposure was really gentle, wasn't it?

A Me and my friend [male name] obsessed over it, and both for the same reason. We both loved it most during the era of Chris the DJ. Because Chris the DJ would come on and his show was, he was talking to the show within the show, so he was talking to these things, would be about a book he was reading. Usually a book or something, but it would be themed. And then the whole show would be subtly based around the lessons that were coming out of this book.

So he did a call of the wild episode, Jack Kerouac, nature, roar and tooth and claw and all that. And they had people going off into an expedition into Alaska and experiencing as he's talking to it. But it was done subtly, but they also did visual art. So there was an episode in which they were talking about whether or not to catapult a cow and then somebody said it'd been done in Monty Python and stuff.

But it was in the end, they catapulted a piano and it was like poetry in motion. It was like an introduction to what visual art might be to someone who'd never seen it. But then another episode might be a bit more historical or political. So I said about it to my dad, years later. And my dad had been an avid fan of this show.

He'd got me hooked on it in the first place. He was watching it first, and I referred back to Chris the DJ and said, I used to love all the lessons in it, all of that, and my dad was like, I've got no idea what you're talking about. I thought it was just a drama about some nice people in the village in Alaska. I'm like, it was. You weren't wrong, dad. It was really subtly done. That was the beauty of it. I think my son, yes, he gets the undertones. He doesn't miss those lessons when they're in there. So I think they're far less subtle, really, in Scorpion, anyway.

Q What does Cerys like watching?

A Cerys, nature shows, an awful lot. She likes the Dangerous Animals Show probably most at the moment, but you're also into, what's that Sam and... Cerys? Sam and Cat, is the Ariana Grande series, seemingly quite old because I didn't realise it was Ariana Grande till she said, it does look like her, ten years ago or so.

Q I don't know what Sam and Cat is.

A No. Again, it's one they found on Netflix.

Q I might ask Cerys in a bit about what Sam and Cat is. So it's Ariana Grande? Is that what it is?

- A Yes, seemingly.
- Q Is it animated or is it...?
- A No, it's real. They're like a comedy sketch show based at teenagers, basically. Two girls, are they at college or school together, something like that?
- D Cat still goes to college and Sam goes at college online.
- A She doesn't. She sits online and doesn't. Sam's like the naughty one, the Ariana Grande character, she's still the good one. She's all squeaky and innocent.
- Q When they're watching TV, does Cerys or Jeremy ever play when they're watching television? And what kind of things do they do? Would they maybe have their phone at the same time or be doing something that's related to the show?
- A Most of the time, they pretty much just engage and watch. Sometimes, yes, they'll definitely do the double up and have two technologies at once thing. They'll have the phone and watch the telly at the same time if they get the chance. Don't waste that screen time.
- Q I definitely do that.
- A I do it too. Can't blame them. Anything else, I don't know. I think Cerys will be more inclined to be ignoring it and drawing at the same time. Jeremy, yes, if he's not on his phone, he'll just probably be actively watching it or just get bored and go to sleep and just give up on life if it's too boring. Anything that's not technology. Real life. It's terribly boring for you, isn't it, Jeremy? Yes, see. Cerys agrees with me.
- Q Why do you think Jeremy is bored of real life?
- A Because you tell him to get off his phone and deal with real life and his immediate thing that he'll first do is go to bed. He'll be like, I'll just sleep through this bit, until I'm allowed back on my phone again.
- C It used to.
- Q Has something changed or...?
- A They can't get to sleep anymore, and I boot him out if I catch him in bed. And tell him he has to deal with reality and boredom.
- Q Reality and boredom. So you don't play using technology with them.
- A Yes, we used to. When they were little, I used to sit and play with them. Mario Kart. That was a favourite for a long time, that you could compete against each other, which was really good. Even when he was six, he'd beat me. But yes, I worked less then. I work more now. Reality's got in the way. They're a bit older.
- We can leave them home and focus on the fact that we really don't have enough money, because it's just one of them, isn't it? If the election goes the way I want tomorrow, maybe life will get a bit easier. But if it goes the wrong way, I'm dreading it, to be honest.

- Q Has Jeremy been following it at all? Do they follow current events online?
- A They don't follow it. They dip in and out. They occasionally announce something that makes you realise they have more awareness than you might expect. And then at other times, completely clueless.
- Q2 Cerys said that she heard about global warming at home.
- A Yes, she probably heard about it more at home than at school. We do organise an environmental festival, so it might come up, just once in a while at home.
- Q So how important, then, do you think technology is for Cerys and Jeremy? You're saying that Jeremy is engaged, very engaged in technology. How important would you say it was for Jeremy?
- A Very. More than I'd like it to be, I think. Yes, Jeremy is the one where I think if technology, all of the internet went down tomorrow and he was asked to survive without it, would struggle. Whereas Cerys would whinge a bit, get bored for a day or two and then move on. You wouldn't struggle? I think you would if all technology just went down and ceased existing. I think it would take you longer to get over it, that's for sure. I think it's more important to you.
- Q2 What would you do, Jeremy, without technology?
- A He can't go to bed forever.
- Q Is Travis likely to play any technological games with them?
- A No, less likely than me.
- Q Less likely?
- A He doesn't play video games at all, ever.
- Q Does he not?
- A No, he's more likely to sit down and play a game of chess or a game of cards or something like that, or again, just get them outdoors. Go and do some gardening.
- Q So would you say you're more or less likely to initiate play with technology rather than without technology?
- A Less likely to initiate play with technology, I'd say. Most of the time, I'm trying to initiate play, it's to get them away from the technology and have some off-screen time.
- Q What kind of things do you suggest for them to do?
- A Mostly just go out to get some air, play with friends, knock at a friend's door, that kind of thing, go and be sociable.
- C Not as much in the winter.
- A Not as much, no, because it's dark and it's cold and you can't play out anyway. It's harder then so they get away with more screen time. But then it means in the summer, I'm like, right. Change of habit. Come on. Get out.

- C It's my house. Get out.
- Q Cerys's recently got, is it a fishing rod that she got for her birthday?
- A Yes.
- Q Where's the pond?
- A Over... there's one up here as well, apparently, because the new housing estate as well. But there is in the woods over there as well, there's been a fishing pond there that's been stocked up for, I don't know, a good ten years.
- Q Jeremy, can I ask you a bit about... I think when we first came to visit you... I'll ask you something, Jeremy. I think the first time that we came to see you, you were going to see or you had seen the superheroes thing at the arena.
- C Yes.
- Q What was that like?
- C That was... first, I thought it was boring because I brought along my phone but in the end I never even played on it.
- Q Really?
- C Yes, it actually interested me. The lighting was actually amazing because when they had to do like a box, like it was invisible but it would be invisible if you hit it. So they had to get some lights and the lights ended at the perfect moment. So it looked like it was a light, that there was a box and the entire floor was a light and the play was just amazing overall.
- Q Yes, it sounds really good. Are superheroes something that you're interested in?
- C No, not really.
- Q No, so do you watch any superhero shows or anything like that? No, so it was new to you?
- C I used to watch them, so it wasn't that new but it really amazed me.
- Q It sounds fantastic, but you took your phone just in case you needed something...
- C To entertain me.
- Q To entertain yourself.
- C Because I wasn't about to sit there for about two hours bored.
- Q Is that something you do when you go to shows and things like that? Do you take your phone?
- C Yes. Last time I went to the Steelers, though, I felt a little sick so I went home.
- Q You felt sick? Is that when you were not very well?
- C Yes.
- Q What else would you take your phone to, do you think?

- C A few pantomimes.
- Q Pantomimes as well?
- C Yes, I don't really enjoy those so I get bored.
- Q So what do you look at on your phone when you're at a pantomime or something like that? Why do you not enjoy pantomimes, do you think?
- C I just don't get entertained by them because I see them pretty often and none of them are really ever that good. So I never really enjoy them.
- Q So you take your phone just in case.
- C To then play on it to distract and isolate myself.
- Q To isolate yourself? No? But do you...
- C It's just so I can do something that actually doesn't entertain me instead of having to sit there bored for a couple of hours.
- Q Do you take... have you got a headset or headphones or anything like that?
- C No, so I just play it quiet.
- Q Is that your typewriter?
- C Yes.
- D I can't find it.
- Q Don't worry about it. It's fine. We've got a book here with a lot of your pictures in. Is this it? Or one of them?
- D One of them. No, it's the one that's full, and that I've done the drawings in.
- Q Can we talk to you about your drawings, because I think we've talked about some of them but you've done a lot more since. So if it's all right if Alex takes some pictures and we have a look at them, if that's okay. So what would you like to show us? There's some fantastic pictures of animals here. Is that a picture Jeremy drew?
- C No, she drew it but it's my [unclear].
- Q That's outstanding. That's amazing, so how did you get the idea to draw that?
- D It's off YouTube and it's how to draw with the number two, and then I've done how to draw a tiger, and then I've also got a king cobra.
- Q Was that a how to draw video as well?
- D Yes.
- Q They're amazing. They're really good. I love the shading.
- D There's more pictures. My favourite one's [unclear] I did. And there's a mountain lion somewhere. I'm not sure if it's in here.
- Q What's that picture of? Could you just talk a little bit about that?

- D I just got bored so I decided I'm going to do a person with wolf ears and wings.
- Q And the wolf in the background.
- D And I've got this dolphin and the wolf is this way. That's a mountain lion.
- Q That's lovely.
- D That's the wolf.
- Q Wow, that's beautiful.
- C It looks like a husky if you look at it.
- Q I think the eyes are really good. I like the eyes, and was this from a how to draw video as well?
- D Yes.
- Q It's really good. How long did that take you to draw?
- D Half an hour or an hour. Half an hour to an hour.
- Q And how do you feel about that picture?
- D Proud because it's my favourite one and it was my first go at doing it.
- Q Was it? Your first attempt at doing it as well. That's really cool, so is that your favourite picture in the whole book? Are there any other pictures in here that you'd like to let us look at?
- D I can't remember because there's lots of animals that I did, but the king cobra was the first one I did.
- Q It's fantastic.
- D I can't see any more that I've done. Those are ones I've drawn myself without a YouTube video.
- Q Is there anything that you've drawn that is influenced by anything that you watch or anything that you play or anything like that?
- D No.
- Q So how do you get your ideas for your pictures?
- D I've just got a very creative mind, so I just come up with them and then I try to draw them. And I just decide I want to draw it, but some of the time, they don't come out as the way I think of it. But most of them I do like.
- Q Yes, that's great. Thank you. Thanks for sharing your pictures.
- A Sometimes, she wanders around going to everyone else, what shall I draw? What shall I draw?
- Q What's the craziest thing you've been asked to draw, Cerys?
- D Don't know.

- Q Don't know, okay.
- C So then maybe a [inaudible].
- Q So just a few more questions. Do you have parental controls on any laptops or computers that you have? Or on your computer upstairs in your office or anything like that?
- A I don't on my computers because they shouldn't be using them anyway. You used to when you used it, but you shouldn't be on it now because you've got your own. I did put a control on Jeremy's and it wouldn't let him use the internet after 9pm but I think he's managed to turn that off or something. I don't really know that that exists anymore.
- Q Have you?
- A Can you use the internet after nine o'clock or does it ban you? I can't remember now.
- C It doesn't ban me anymore.
- A No, I didn't think it did.
- C It stopped after it updated.
- A That's what it was. It went to Windows 10 and I haven't done the parental controls again. That's what it is. Cerys, on her phone that she's just got, her Google account's linked to mine as a family thing. So she has to ask me for permission to download stuff, but Jeremy doesn't have that on his because I don't know if it existed when I set him up.
- C It did.
- Q So are you able to see what Cerys's looking at on her phone or what websites she's visiting?
- A I just see which apps she's downloading. I don't actually get on her phone and look at the cache to look at what she's been visiting online. I haven't bothered to because they're open about it. They're not hiding anything from me. They're not behaving in a surreptitious way. I see what they're doing and there's nothing that worries me. If their behaviour changes and they look like they might be hiding things, I'll get more curious.
- Q Do they have... what sort of apps do they ask to have put on their phones? What sort of apps would Cerys ask to put on her phone, or has she asked?
- A Just lots of different things that she wants to try that she's never had before, but huge numbers of them were different creative drawing games. So that definitely – there's probably about five different ones of them. And then I'm not sure. You're got a dragons game, haven't you, Cerys? She likes looking after baby dragons.
- Q2 Is it okay if you show me some of those after tea? Is that okay?
- A I don't remember what else you've got. She's gone.

- Q So do you help them with apps or would you prefer them to figure it out for themselves?
- A I leave them to it. Most of it's games anyway. If they can't figure it out for themselves, then they just [unclear].
- Q Do you ever recommend anything? Have you ever been recommended a phone app or anything for a tablet?
- A No, I only do the opposite. I only say, don't take... so they're expressly banned from any shoot-em-ups that are bloody.
- C Yes, we can still play shooting games, just not really bad.
- A Yes, just not graphically violent. They are banned from Snapchat and I've got massive reservations about Instagram after the police reporting that it's the favourite place for paedophiles to groom children. So we'll probably avoid that one too.
- C I'm not a fan of Snapchat.
- A We don't need it. We've got WhatsApp and that serves that purpose.
- D I can't sign into WhatsApp.
- A Why not?
- D There's a four-digit code I need to enter in.
- A Okay, that's interesting. I might have set that as a parental control.
- Q Are you aware of age ratings and things like that for games. Is that something you take into account when you're looking at games?
- A Yes, the phone Google thing with Cerys, the link bans her from attempting to get anything above a certain ratio. I didn't really know about the ratings but it had them in it so I just chose one that was about age appropriate. Slightly older than she is but I can police it till she's there. I don't know. Jeremy has got more free access, just because I was a bit more clueless when setting him up, really.
- C Yes, but I don't play that much stuff anyway.
- A Again, I've seen what you're doing and I'm not worried about it.
- Q So what sort of apps do you have on your phone?
- C It's a bit of a variety. One game, where you have some abilities which you can choose but you fight.
- A Is this your phone number? I don't know. It doesn't say send again.
- C And basically, your [unclear]. You have a button which will charge up your power so you can shoot again. And you can block attacks, but there are a few which ignores the block. There are multiple levels you can fight. My friend got a character there. I forgot their name [?]. But basically, this... my favourite character, I unlocked it. Basically, it's one of the characters that gives you, and as

you go along, it unlocks more characters which are stronger. But I've only ever stayed on that one. I never switch.

Q So you've never gone up levels or anything like that? You've stayed where you are?

C I decided to.

Q You decided to. Why is that?

C Because once you get the characters, you can decide to equip them for the fight or not. And I just decided to stay as it. I'm not sure why, but then, if I am really desperate, then I sometimes just want to see what the other ones can do. So I go onto a weak level and then choose the same character again because I am used to using that one.

Q I see.

C So I never really use any other character.

Q No.

A Do you have much left that you need to do?

Q Not that much, no.

A I need to leave for work shortly.

Q That's fine. I'll ask the last few questions quite quickly. I know we've talked in the past about rules about using phones after a certain time at night and things like that. I just wondered, are the rules the same for Cerys and Jeremy? Do they have the same kind of controls or rules about tech use or internet use?

A At the moment, yes, but Jeremy breaks the rules and Cerys doesn't?

Q How does he break the rules?

A He's constantly sneaking his phone into his room and playing it in the middle of the night.

C And Cerys doesn't turn off her computer when she's supposed to.

A She tends to fall asleep before I get around to telling her to, so she'll fall asleep with it still on. But that's not the same as you deliberately hiding yours under your pillow.

Q So who makes... can I ask, who makes the rules, before we go down?

A Who makes the rules?

Q Do you ever get a say in the rules?

A Do you ever get a say in the rules?

C Kind of.

A A bit, yes. You get, sometimes you push back, don't you?

C Yes.

- Q So there's just a couple more questions. Can you suggest...
- D Yes.
- Q Any kind of toys or product that you think Lego could be developing in this digital era?
- A Interesting. I don't know. I suppose anything with LEDs and flashing lights, so everybody likes things that sparkle, don't they? So I suppose if you could build your own house and actually wire it in with electrics and have displays and projections on the walls or something, that would be supercool, wouldn't it? Like the way actual houses are starting to look.
- Q It's actually becoming more realistic.
- A Yes, like we don't just have bricks and mortar, do we, now. So if people are playing with LEDs. Certainly, they've started, haven't they, doing a bit of being eco-conscious. So they've got, I understand, no plastic bricks now.
- Q What are the bricks made out of then?
- A I have no idea. But they've got... the first one's come out that's no plastic, and their first kit that they made of it was a build your own wind turbine. So that's brilliant, I think, because it's very educational. It's basically bang on topic, isn't it? And if the kids aren't worried about climate change, I really don't know who is. So I think they're fairly hitting the market quite well there. So carry on. Get rid of the plastic, so chiefly that's all I want out of them.
- Q And one final question, then. What types of technology-mediated play do you think you see Jeremy or Cerys expressing joy and happiness when they engage in it?
- A Technology-mediated play? I don't know what you mean.
- Q2 So maybe when they're using technology as the platform for their play, they may be playing games or communicating through technology, if that makes any sense.
- A They're most loud, if you can take from that that they're most happy. Is when they've got their three-way games going with [girl's name] across town, so they're still being able to play with someone who's not able to be physically near them.
- Q And I suppose technology-mediated could also mean play which doesn't actually involve technology but is maybe influenced by technology in some way.
- A Yes.
- C Only increases boredom levels.
- A I haven't even seen them. They used to play Minecraft but they're playing fantasy games based around other things now, at the moment. I haven't really even seen them.
- C Just got bored of it.
- Q You got bored of it.

A They do.