

Q = Julia Bishop (researcher)
Q2 = Beth Nutbrown (researcher)
A = Susan (mum)
B = Craig (dad)
C = Alison (6)
D = Chloe (4)

D Goldilocks and The Three Bears.

Q Ah, Chloe's showing us a book she likes too.

D ??? so I don't want to get too many.

C I like this one.

Q Oooh.

D 'The Cat Likes Custard'.

Q Alison can tell us. What's it called, Alison?

C 'The Cat Wants Custard'.

Q That looks a great book.

C And at the end he wants mashed potato.

D And he eats a potato. And he eats a ??? It's a bit naughty.

Q Does he get the custard as well?

D Yeah.

Q That's a great book. Oh I love that picture where he's saying 'Yuck'.

C And he even does this.

Q2 Oh brilliant.

C That's why I like this book. This is the page what I really like.

D Can I do colouring? I love colouring.

Q2 And you're very good at colouring as well.

C I really like this one.

Q2 Why don't you read it from the beginning?

C And because it says how about ??

A He wanted it straightaway, so it came on Prime the next day. 10 Little Robots, and I was like 'yes'. So they get just as excited.

Q Do you have a routine when you do reading?

A Yes. Every night before bed.

Q Yes.

A Except for in the 6-week holidays, only because the children have been watching whatever they wanted to watch just before bed as a treat. And mainly because we're tired from doing stuff in the day.

Q So whilst the [GoPro footage] film's taking a while, would you like to do some colouring for us? Also I think Beth's got some pictures she was going to show you later too.

C Look, this is a real starfish. It's real.

D Look at this whale, this is not real.

A We saw lots of these on the beach, didn't we, when we went camping?

C Yes.

A And what else did we see on the beach? What made you cry?

D A crab being eaten.

C A crab being eaten.

A It's the crab and they had a bit of a trauma and we had a moment of 'the circle of life' and explaining and then we chased after seagulls to get them back.

D Look at this mummy. The sea. The seaside.

C I like this.

Q Do you? Which is this one that you like here? Are we on CBeebies or...

C Yep, CBeebies.

Q And what programme is this, Alison?

C I'm missing it. I'm missing it.

D This is a baby starfish, a baby starfish.

Q [We're] Multi-tasking here with the shells and watching CBeebies at the same time.

C Yes. I've got ??? a star, ???

Q Your mum has sent me some great photos actually, when you were at Bradford Science and Media Museum. [F2p_20190817_p001 and F2p_20190817_p002] Was that when you were on your holidays Susan or was it...

A No, that was a date with dad. I was out for the day so he decided to take them there and that's what they did. He likes to come up with something new to go visit. And he's been wanting to go there for a while, so he doesn't drive so they had to catch two trains and a bus to get there. It was a crazy journey for them but they loved it. They loved learning about space and doing ???

Q Alison, is it OK if I sit by mum and have a chat with her? And then perhaps you two can chat with Beth because you've obviously got these lovely shells to show her.

C I love my favourite purple.

D This is my purple.

Q2 Is this your favourite colour?

D Got to start colouring in then. Me and Beth can do any.

Q So what brought on a trip to the Media Museum? Is it a place that you wanted to go?

A Yes. He's been wanting to go for a while and so because I was out for the day, when I'm out he tends to take them somewhere on an adventure. And with the weather being rubbish he decided to go inside into a museum. Let me just find...well I hope it's all on this phone actually because we've just swapped phones. I can tell you what they did.

D I haven't seen these for a while.

C I like this because it looks like a unicorn's horn.

Q2 It does look like a unicorn's horn.

D These ones look like unicorn horns. I like this one the best because it looks swirly.

Q2 It's swirly isn't it, it is. I can see what you mean about it looking like a unicorn horn.

C ??? I got it stuck ???

A Oh no it's not on here. Sorry.

Q You sent me these lovely couple of pictures that were great, I mean did he know there was a LEGO thing there or did he just happen upon it?

A No he just happened upon it, yeah. You built a rocket, didn't you, Alison? At the Science and Media Museum that you went to with Daddy?

Q I wasn't quite sure, is this the rocket here? Is that your rocket in the picture there?

C Yes that's my rocket.

Q Lovely. What made you decide to do a rocket?

C Daddy helped me.

Q Did he?

C Because I didn't have an idea. I didn't know what, I didn't know what to make. Daddy made it and then I put it into pieces and when Daddy made it I holded it and then daddy took a picture of it and then I looked on the picture... And then I copied the picture.

Q Oh I see. Do you mean you took a photo on his phone?

A Daddy built it.

Q And you copied.

A And then he took a picture, undid it and then she copied it to make it...

Q Oh that's a good idea.

A Because she was struggling to come up with her own idea. Daddy helped her out with that. But she still did it by herself though. From following the directions.

Q Yes. Do you know if she built it in exactly the same way or was she able to introduce some slight changes and...

A I think she did build it in the exact same way. That's the one that she built.

Q Oh I see, on the photo here. That's brilliant.

C And I'm show and tell at school. Look.

A Are you taking them to school?

Q Is that, you know, would you say that that's a kind of thing that you might do with anything they struggle with? Is that an approach to kind of bringing them on with that?

A Yeah, dad does a lot of things with, when Alison's doing drawing, he'll see her drawing and then he'll take it apart for her and show her how to build a person up...I wish I had the picture...she did a self-portrait at school...let me see if I can find it for you and we were talking about different ways to build a body up, picture, shapes and we were showing her how to do that and she did like a little plan first and then did the self-portrait because it was this little art competition at school...Yeah because it is lovely.And Chloe has done a self-portrait as well at school.

C This is really soft ???

Q2 It's really soft. What do you think that's made out of?

D That's me.

A I don't think I've been given Alison's back. No. But she did herself in her school but she did a, she used threads for her hair and we, me and Alison together, wove her dress, you know out of cardboard? To make a chequered gingham style dress.

Q2 That's awesome. Brilliant.

A We had fun doing that, didn't we?

Q So how did Craig go about that with her...how did he...you said he did the same thing with her breaking that down into...

A Yeah, he showed her how to do the body parts using certain shapes.

C Yeah I'm showing show and tell.

A In fact they do have a book that they've used as well because Alison's always been into her drawing. [F2r_20190829_p020]

Q2 If you had to choose a favourite toy, what do you think your favourite would be?

D It's my Meerkat.

A This is the sort of concept that he does with them.

Q2 Oh OK, so this is like a book that does something similar is it?

A So start with shapes, build them up to create your ending. So you do one on one side you plan and then you do it for real without the shapes to build up your characters.

Q Oh I see and did Craig sort of, did he already know about this?

A Yes he does it ???

C I want to do the sausage dog. It's a sausage. I'm doing the sausage, sausage.

A I can't find it now. I know...there we go, it's a hot dog of a dog, oh it's making me hungry. There you go.

Q And do you ever use, I've seen similar sorts of things in apps and things like that, do you ever do anything using electronic media of the same sort of thing?

A We've not thought about using that but that is something we can move onto definitely. She's used drawings, you know, on the CBeebies app they have a drawing app on there. Where they can use lots of different paints to create a picture. And she's used those before.

Q That's Alison?

A Yes.

Q And how has she got on with that and do you think she has got a preference for doing it on paper as distinct from on the app?

A She's obsessed with paper. She goes back to paper all the time, yeah. She is like that from, do you know, waking up? She's always looking for paper and pens like she came down seven o'clock this morning and immediately started writing in her maths book that's on there. She just got straight to work. She always has to have a pen and paper in her hand.

Q Has she been like that for quite a long time now?

A Yeah, yeah. Getting worse. Because it's like a minute not doing anything is a minute wasted to Alison when it comes to crafts because she just wants to keep creating and I just can't stop her.

Q Does that extend to making with other things as well? Does she like to you know have material objects and hold them in her hands in order to make stuff and handle things?

A Yeah. They did LEGO the other day, creating their own little shops and whatnot and at the beach, I think I sent you the video actually [F2p_20190829_v024 to F2p_20190829_v026], at the beach instead of playing in the sea and swimming and things like that she wanted to make things in the sand and she just got this idea in her head that she just wanted to make a house for crabs to keep them safe the day after what happened [seeing crab being eaten]. So she wanted to make a sandcastle house and a bit for water to go in and just...she wouldn't come out of it, she just kept doing it.

Q So how do you two sort of react when she gets an idea in her head like that? Because that's quite a project, isn't it?

A Yeah. I mean we just can't stop her. We don't mind so much when she's on the beach but when we're at home we have to like, we've got stuff to do, I can't get all the arts and crafts stuff out when we've got to clear it up in fifteen minutes' time, so it's learning how to balance it.

Q Yeah and will she be able to sort of plan that project herself or does she need support or how would you...what's the way you would approach sort of supporting her to achieve those things, if it's feasible to do?

A I wait for her to ask. If you start butting in she doesn't like it at all. She likes it all to be her own. If she's got an issue or a problem she'll ask you how to solve it but if you start butting in and telling her what to do she doesn't like it. She likes it all to be her own idea and that project is hers.

Q So she's got a really strong sense of ownership, yeah. So did she manage the sandcastle house for the crabs? Did that come off?

A She tried but it was a bit too sloppy the sand so it kept on, so daddy had to help her and show her how to push it in and get the drier sand and a bit of wet sand not lots of wet sand to make the sandcastle in the end, yeah.

Q Do you have any pictures of that?

A This is Alison starting her project. Chloe was catching things, she was a bit...

[Video plays]

A What are you making?

C I'm making a house for the crabs.

A For the crabs?

C Yeah.

A What are you making it for crabs for?

C I forgot to make the door.

A You forgot to make the door. OK. I was trying not to film people so I was kind of pausing it and cutting people's heads off.

Q Oh that's brilliant. Would you normally talk to her as much as that or was it because you were filming?

A Yeah I was filming with you guys in mind.

Q I was just wondering because we're interested in your interaction as well.

A I would ask her 'What are you doing?' first, because I wouldn't want them to be, because this was on our way home and I didn't want them to get too messy because we were waiting for the sunshine to come back out.

Q Where is this again?

A Cayton Bay near Scarborough. A really nice pool. It is a beautiful beach and it also had...oh hang on, so we started to make a moat sort of... and then Chloe's joining in but even though Chloe was joining in Alison wasn't, she was having to deal with it and share. She wanted it to be her project, but because it was a family holiday I was like 'No, only fair' and then dad had to make the sandcastle because it kept on falling over and they wanted me to take a picture.

Q How did Alison feel about that when dad, when you'd got to that point? Was that taken...

A When dad started taking over to do the castle because he needed to she kind of like abandoned ship, like 'You finish it now' and ran off and went into the sea but she also really

enjoys exploring. On the first day there was the rock pool so she got straight stuck in and trying to find crabs and seeing animals. She loves it, absolutely loves it. And she loves climbing and she went straight, even though she got a massive gash down one of her legs because she fell off one of the rocks because she went on the seaweed, she just wanted to go and explore in this massive rock pool. The day we was at the beach, this was all covered because the tide had come in and she was gutted that she couldn't go out there so that's why she started building a sand castle instead.

Q Yeah, so is she, when she is looking at that do you think she is imagining anything in her head, is she saying that she is being an explorer or is it more...

A She was saying she wants to be an explorer. She likes to discover new things but I think that's down to her dad taking her for walks in the park and to discover new things, and he does that with Chloe too. They always go on little walks and there's always an aim to find something or to look for something.

Q Yes, so would that be natural objects or things...

A Yes. Nature, yeah.

Q What sort of things would they seek out in the park then?

A Types of birds, squirrels, they'll look for certain plants that they do that when he does it with Chloe it's usually horses because of where they go for walks because it's usually when they, Alison does gymnastics and Chloe does swimming. So while they're doing the activity the other one goes and has a walk with dad and while Chloe has her swimming there's a big pond and they'll have a little walk for Alison and then when Alison goes to gymnastics there's a big field with stables with horses in and so they just go and discover them.

C [referring to Chloe's meerkat, the favourite toy that she is talking to Beth about] She got it from a machine. No she got it by some game, didn't she?

A Yeah at the school fair.

C No not...

A It was at the school fair. It was.

C It was at a place.

A What place?

C That park.

A Where?

C On the park.

A It was at your school fair.

C No it was at that park.

A When you pick out the tickets?

C Yes. At that park.

D I got it from, not Alison's school fair, I got it from my different place with some games and the tickets and I got a white ticket, I got it, then I got my Meerkat.

A Some sort of fair we'll go with.

Q [Referring to nature walks] So when they find the object that they're seeking in this sort of exploration is there sort of other things that they'll do?

A Yes they like to take pictures to record it, mainly to show me because I'm not usually there, to show me what they've found.

Q Is that using Craig's phone?

A Yes.

Q And do they take the pictures or...

A Yes. They love taking pictures. Yeah they like to take lots of pictures. I don't think they've taken any...I think Chloe tried to take a picture of us but she cut us off.

Q And how do you feel about them using your phones as a camera or perhaps in other ways?

A There we go [shows picture]. She cut Dad's head off a little bit but that's Chloe taking that photo for us. I asked her if she could take a picture of me and Dad because we'd taken some fun family pictures on the beach and we drew in the sand.

Q Oh that's a great selfie, there.

A Alison did hers and she asked me to take a picture. So she made that knowing to take a picture to take a memento away from it.

Q Yeah. That's interesting, like a souvenir, writing in the sand...

A We were a little bit cruel to our Chloe.

Q Whose idea was that then, that message?

A That was Dad. I'm not that mean. There you go. But it's such a great picture of her jumping.

[Video plays in the background]

A I don't think you can see the girls on here, but they're dancing.

Q Oh right. Where's this?

A This is at the park where we were staying. This is at the campsite.

Q Oh there's like the evening entertainment.

A Yeah, a little bit for the children and their favourite song came on that they'd been requesting.

Q Is this it?

A Oh no this is doing dad dancing. Chloe's just there and Alison's just...

Q So do they like dancing?

A Yes.

Q Do you all like dancing or is this something you do because of them?

A Yeah. I do force dad up with them, it's his job, I'm usually exhausted. I'm just trying to find the ??? so on the way to the holiday they were saying 'Oh I hope ??? is on' and it's a ridiculous song. ?? Oh here we go.

[Video plays in background]

A Yeah I mean we went away a couple of years ago and every night we went to the entertainment and this is what they did. It's just basic things where you salute, arms out, fists clenched, put your shoulders up and bum out and just do a ??? but they absolutely love it. So...

C We even sang it in the car.

A Yep they did.

Q Did you? What after you'd done it here or when you were on your way?

A Before we'd even got there they were requesting that ??? and then sang it for us.

Q So how do you listen in the car? Are you on like...is it on your phone, do you plug it in or...

A No they sang.

Q Oh they just sang it from memory without any music from you.

A Yeah from memory.

Q Yeah and would they do that at home? Do they dance or do anything like that with the TV here?

A Yeah they put Google on in the kitchen, the Google Home Hub and they put the Disney songs on and they sing along to those.

Q Oh I see. I haven't actually asked you about the tech that you've got around the house actually so maybe I should do that now.

A We've got a TV, we've got a Kindle, but I can't remember where I've put it since the holiday.

Q Is it a Smart TV?

A No it's not a smart TV, no not yet. There's one coming. Yeah, hopefully within the next month we keep on deciding which one to get and mainly because we've been teaching them not to touch the TV and that's why I've not bought a new one yet because that's a very old TV and we're desperate for a new one but not until the girls have learnt not to touch the screen because if I turn that off you'll see little fingerprints where they've touched it when I've not been around so they've been learning not to touch TVs so that I can buy them a new one. Because I don't want it to get ruined or scratched or anything like that.

It probably is to do with them using the Kindle because they know they can touch that one, but that's why I've been trying to say 'That's a TV, it's not a touch screen, so please don't touch it' and it's very ancient that poor thing.

Q I see. And they haven't tried to swipe it or do stuff with it that you would on a tablet?

A No. They do have knowhow to use the remotes as well so they're clued up on, they don't know which numbers, they just know various things mean that you can go up and down a level.

Q Have you taught them that?

A No they've just picked it up.

Q From watching you?

A Yeah.

Q From trial and error as well? Have they tried...

A Probably. They've done it when I've been out of the room and I've put 'The Chase' on and they're like 'No I want Disney Junior on' so they've probably tried to change it again definitely and we've got a Home Hub in the kitchen and they know to say 'Hey Google' and it'll listen to their demands. In fact, sorry, it's connected to my phone as well so as soon as you say it it picks it up on my phone. So that's connected to this so whatever's been playing I can see and keep tabs on but yesterday, Chloe can you remember what you say to Hey Google yesterday?

D No.

A Did you say 'Hey Google, I love you'?

D Yeah. 'Hey Google, I love you.'

A And what did Hey Google say back? Can you remember?

D Give you a hug.

A He gave you a virtual hug.

D Gave you a virtual hug, a pretend hug.

A Yeah so if you say 'Hey Google, I love you', it responds 'Oh thank you. Here's a virtual hug'.

Q Yeah. Have you had that long? The Google Hub?

A I think it's about six weeks we've had it. Actually may be two months actually.

Q And how have the girls reacted...

A They love that they can get onto YouTube and listen to Disney songs whenever they want and if I'm tired or stressed and trying to work dinner out and I have to, they'll come in and they'll play it and I'm like 'Please stop, please stop because mummy needs to figure out this recipe' because we've been making new food

Q With the hub?

A Not with the hub just with a piece of paper, but I'm rubbish at cooking so I'm trying to learn to be better. We're trying to discover new types of foods just to try and help us a little bit so yeah, especially when it's fish and I don't like touching fish and so it already stresses me out.

Q Maybe the Hub can help you as well.

A I'd not thought actually to use the Hub to get recipes. I did ask Hey Google how to eat a grapefruit easier because it's, I have a lot of grapefruit and I cut it and it's always squirting out and goes, I have to clean my glasses afterwards because the juice that comes out of it, it's really sugary so it sticks to your glasses so you can't just wipe it, you've got to scrub it afterwards so I thought I'd ask and that was too complicated to do because it's a lot of cutting.

Q So did you actually teach the girls to use the Google Hub or...

A Yes I did. I said to them if they say 'Hey Google' and I said 'You have to say that first otherwise it doesn't understand to, it doesn't understand to listen to you without that being said first' because at first they were just saying 'Oh can you play this, can you play that?' and they were saying too much at once so I said to them that you have to stop, say 'Hey Google' and then ask them what you want and make sure you, they actually picked up

on saying the exact right words for its, what is it, Alison? Can you play the thirty top Disney songs, to get the right...

C Top 30.

A Top 30 Disney songs to get the right YouTube channel to play the ones that they want because sometimes when they say to play Disney songs it'd come up with really weird old fashioned songs but the top thirty is all the songs that they know from the films that they go and see.

C And I like Toy Story. Toy Story 4 the new one.

D Toy Story 4.

A We've been to the cinema to see Toy Story 4.

Q Oh have you? Tell us about that.

D And my favourite character in it is Gabby and then it's Bo Peep and I've got the doll of it.

Q Oh have you? Of which one?

D Of Bo Peep and I've got the teddy of it.

Q Yes. And have you seen the other Toy Story films as well?

C Yes. Toy Story 1, Toy Story 2, Toy Story 3.

Q You're looking up there, is it in your DVD collection?

C I think so. I think it's on Netflix.

A On our TV.

C On our TV.

A Yeah they know as well about Now TV and Netflix, two new, two different things to use.

Q Would you say that that's quite new that they've become aware of those or that you've got access or ???

A Very recently they've been referring to Netflix more often because Netflix we use at night and they watch an episode of Dora before bed. Dora the Explorer.

Q Oh Dora the Explorer, oh we're back to the explorer theme again.

A Yes. I never thought of that actually...I've never even, I've not put that one together. That might be where she's getting it from actually.

Q It might not be a connection, I'm just...

A No it makes sense because they do, they love watching it and they get involved in it. When I'm upstairs I can hear them shouting which way to go. And to shout out the map and things like that, so they get really invested into it. Yeah, they do love it.

Q They both do that, do they?

A Yeah, yeah and then they come down and they practice their Spanish on me.

Q Oh wow.

A Yes because they teach them Spanish in the Dora the Explorer.

Q So they are really it's quite an interactive, it's a programme, isn't it?

A Yes, it asks you which way should they go via ??? steps previous so yeah I can hear them downstairs shouting which way to go. Maybe I'll use the camera to...

Q Yes that would be really interesting.

A Is that part of the play?

Q Definitely. Yeah. It's, I'm interested in both the sort of devices they use and the content, the media, the apps that they like to use and how they play with it at the time, but also how that might, as you said, impact on other areas of their lives.

A Well, to be fair in the summer we've not been very, we've not been using technology that much apart from the Home Hub to listen to music, because we just get out. We get out all the time as much as we can but maybe I'll get Craig to write something about what they did at that Media Museum. Yeah, yeah I'd not thought to, because when he told me what they were doing I'd had a very long day at a business seminar and I'd got a cold. I'd just come down with a cold that wiped...It absolutely wiped me out for the weekend and it was my busiest weekend doing weddings so I was like in the bath, sniffing and I was like 'Please tell me what you've done today because I've not heard anything' because I'd been out and then I'd come home and gone straight out to work and I'd not even asked the children what they'd done because grandparents turned up. And then after that I immediately fell asleep which wipes my brain anyway so...I'll get Craig to send you details of what they did because there's even some stuff that they brought home about space because it was about space, you know from the moon landing? So yeah, they did lots of stuff about that, yeah.

Q And it just strikes me that possibly when you're both working and busy do you use like WhatsApp to communicate about his, you've said oh you know 'Take a picture to show me', you know you were saying earlier when they've done the exploring.

A Yes. We are a bizarre couple in that we are always in touch. I...while he's at work I'll get at least ten messages asking me how my day's going what he's up to. We never stop talking and when we, when I'm doing things with the kids, it's like 'Quick, stay there, take a

snap for dad, send it to dad'. As soon as, when I had Alison, I was very aware of how much the other parent misses out and I didn't want that so I mean it seems as if Craig never missed out. Probably overkill sometimes but...and it's the same when I went back to work he did the same back. That took some training because he's not very good at taking pictures. So I had to get him into a routine of 'If I'm sending you pictures you send me pictures' to make it fair and that's even now when they go out and they have dad dates he'll send me updates and I'll send him updates when we're doing stuff in the summer and things like that so. Yeah.

Q Well that was, I was thinking around that, so we were talking about sort of recording those things for each other so I was thinking do you kind of archive those things in some way? Do you keep them together, do you kind of put them in folders, are you organised, what do you do?

A Yeah. They've got a folder for certificates from school that I've just started putting together.

Q An actual physical folder.

A Yes, it's a folder and they've got their certificates in there when they've achieved things and then they've got a box upstairs and I've put their school books in there and then in a couple of years I intend to then go through it and just keep the best bits and then get rid of it. I don't want to get rid of it straight away but I want to take the best bits out of it and keep a record. So then they've got something when they're older they can look back on and see bits and bobs.

Q You know about the photos because there's obviously quite a big accumulation of photos going on there. Do you print them off? Do you keep them on your phone or...

A They're on the laptop. They need sorting out because it's running very slow and I'm getting blamed for it and I need to buy a hard drive to put them onto, mainly because when you're taking pictures of children they don't stay still so it's like 50 pictures of one moment. So they need whittling down and just choosing one, but it's a job that I keep on avoiding.

Q I just wondered if you did like to keep them.

A They're all categorised, they're all in date order, so I know when I go on there which one they're in and sort out the date from there.

Q Yeah. Do they request to have a look at them sometimes?

A They, when I've got the laptop out, and I'm sorting, I have sent a few times just sorting through, they love looking through old photos and old videos. I'll just set it going and they'll just...can't believe it's them but they used, because my house is covered in photographs. I love having photographs out. I'm just like proud as punch so maybe that I've missed that one out, that one's missing.

And then all up my stairs, there's like a gallery and I'm slowly starting to fill that out and I actually update them so that one is the next one to be updated and I'll take those out and I'll add new ones in. I'll keep maybe one or two if they're extra special to keep them on there, because I don't mind keeping all pictures up but I like to keep them refreshed and keep special family moments on the wall, just to remember.

We have, where have I put it? This got updated as well because it was dad's birthday. Family moments and it will get updated next week for first week of school.

Q Yes. Oh so that's lovely, so that's like a running board. Can I take a photo of that?
(F2r_20190829_p021)

A Yeah, of course.

Q Oh thanks. So you update that one pretty regularly then?

A Yeah I do and we also update them, it's a bit morbid but we also update them on anniversaries of when we've lost people.

Q Oh I think that's a lovely idea.

A And we always light a candle for them too.

Q Oh that's lovely.

C Yeah. I'm gonna take a picture of you.

Q Oh thank you. Cheese.

C You look angry.

D You look angry on that picture. Look?

C Look through that hole.

Q Oh! That's a trick! Ooh.

C Because this button makes different one the...took a picture of you again, your little baby.

Q I'm a baby in this one?

C Yeah, have a look...

Q Let me see. I'm getting a bit worried here, what am I going to look like this time? Oh!! Show Beth so she knows what we're talking about.

Q2 It's good isn't it? It's brilliant.

Q Have you seen this?

Q2 Yeah.

C You look like a baby!

Q2 So what's this from? What are the pictures from?

C It's from Transylvania.

Q2 Wow. From Transylvania 3.

Q Shall I take a photo?

Q2 ??? that's very cute. And what do you like about the camera?

C Oh I bet you want to play this game with us. Do you want to play this game with us?

Q What game is it?

Q2 Why not?

C It's because, it's a monkey game. Treetop Fall game. You have to get one of the leaves and if a monkey goes down and when all of the leaves are gone you have to count your monkeys and if you've got a less number and somebody's got a bigger number, the less number guy wins.

Q I see so it's the one with the fewest not the one with the most.

C Yeah.

Q And are you good at that game?

C Yeah, I like this.

Q Mm hm.

C A tree top.

Q Oh there's the tree top.

Q2 Wow.

C That's the ???, the ground....

D ???

Q2 Wow.

Q Oh what's that? Is that a leaf? Wow.

C Do you want to play Treetop? Chloe do you want to play this with me?

D My kid needs to have less food it needs have a cake and a lollipop, this lollipop and here's my car keys, my car keys and here's a ??? what she has for breakfast this morning.

[Beth and Julia play Treetop Fall with Chloe and Alison]

Q Are you all right? Sorry I feel like I'm making you get everything out.

A No it's perfectly fine. I've been looking for that and it was in such an obvious place.

Q That's fine. Is that your Kindle?

A Yeah, this is the Kindle and this is the ...

C Tablet.

A What's this one called?

C Tablet, I think.

A Google....Gooogle...Nexus, Nexus. But this one's stopped charging so we've been using this one. Let me just have a look for a charger for you.

Q What did you say about lighting a candle? Is that something you do in your house? Do you have like a place that you ??? out for people that you've lost and you're remembering them?

A Yes it's usually on...

Q On the mantelpiece yes.

A There's a candle on there just to make the house smell a bit better but we do usually have a blue one. I may have given it a new home since yesterday.

Q So that's just on the mantelpiece and... And you'll put a photo on the anniversary.

C My granddad told me...

A Yeah.

Q Yes that's lovely. Do the children... do you think that's important for the children to be involved in remembering?

A Yeah. Definitely and understanding when we've lost somebody that they need to have a moment of remembrance. This year we lost somebody that we're not actually close to but we've had a close connection to in a weird way. She was my friend who lives in Canada, the children have never met her, her grandma passed away and I've never met her either but when I had the girls she knitted them a lovely blanket.

C It's Shana.

A Shana, that's right her name was Shana and the blankets are called 'Shana's blankets' and so when she passed away we printed out a lovely picture and lit a candle for her and I thought it was important to tell them that this lovely lady that had made them the blanket has passed away so they wanted just to remember her and light a candle for her.

C And Granddad Ted.

A Yeah, Granddad Ted passed away a year ago.

C Yeah a long long time.

A Yeah and when his first anniversary came up this year we lit him a candle and put some lovely pictures up for him didn't we?

Q On the anniversary.

A Yes and actually last Easter when we did... at Easter time when we did the Easter bonnet she drew a special rose for him and put it on her bonnet as part of the remembrance.

Q Yes. Oh that's a lovely thing to do.

A I actually underestimated how much his passing affected Alison last year. I didn't quite, it's hard to understand how it affects children and I think it affected Alison more than what I realised and I only realised at the end of this year because when it was coming up to father's day she was getting upset a lot at school and remembering Granddad Ted even though she wasn't doing it last year even though it was right...it's kind of taken a while for it to come out and this year it got to her a bit more but we try and keep it positive and remember that he had a really long, good life and he is always in our...

C Hearts.

A He was the first death that we came across and we had to explain it to the children so...

C And he was the first one who was born.

A Yes because he is older.

Q Yes, is that your dad?

A That's Craig's granddad.

Q Right, right.

A So great-granddad to them, granddad to us.

Q To you, yes. Yeah and so one of the ways that you remember is through the photos or through the making and sort of that memorialisation?

A Yes. I was just looking through the photos the other day and we've got a picture of Granddad Ted giving Alison a hug goodbye because they've got two and she was just so taken by the photo because she doesn't remember that but now seeing it she has a memory of it in her head, so, it's really nice.

Q Is that something that just comes from your own value system or is it influenced by church or anything like that?

A Well we decided not to go through a religious route to explain death because me and Craig tried to be religious but we just didn't get on with it at all so I just don't think it's going to be for us, so...the children are christened but that's just as we've evolved as a couple we've kind of realised we don't want to go down that route. It's not for us. So to explain it, to explain death and what happens in another way we wanted to do it so it doesn't scare the kids so we talked about going on a new adventure after this life. Because you never know what comes along next so that's the kind of way that we explained it and Moana was quite big at the time and the grandma dies in that one and becomes a Stingray so through gentle nudging we showed them that you know there could be other things afterwards or, but that death is part of life. Like Alison realised this weekend with the crab it's all a part of life and she said 'But what about the crab? He's got feelings' and I'm like 'He's growing a bit faster' you know 'There's always something if you went into a shark infested water what would happen Alison? They'd try and eat you because you're dinner so you've got to look after yourself and enjoy the moment'.

Q And you from that and just other ways of memorialising your family life and preserving those moments, the photographs particularly seem to be an important part of that.

A Yes and going over to check on Grandma Maureen to make sure she's OK. We always make sure we go over to visit and you know keep tabs on her and it actually helps Alison knowing that he's not there anymore, she's not alone, she's a very independent lady and it puts her mind at ease about it because when it first happened she was constantly worried about grandma being alone.

Q Yes. How about...so how about Chloe, is she, because she's younger, I'm guessing her understandings a little different from Alison?

A Yes she says she misses him but I don't think she quite understands it. I think it's she's accepted it more because she's younger whereas Alison was that little bit older so she could question it more. So that that was the difference, that 15 months difference meant that she could accept it, and she had to question it so she struggled with it a bit more because we couldn't give concrete answers, I didn't want to give concrete answers because I don't know what happens. And I always want to be honest. I didn't want to sugar coat things so I just gave honest answers all the time.

And seeing her struggle on Father's Day we were debating whether to take her to visit his grave because she's got some friends and I've seen on Facebook that they have and I've talked to their mum and I was like 'How did you approach this? Because I've avoided this

part because I don't want to scare them'. Like we've walked through graveyards and things but I've never explained what's there, why they are there and things like that because I didn't want to go down that route at all and I don't want to cause them nightmares because it's something that they would latch onto, but she seems to have bucked up a lot so maybe she doesn't need it as much now.

Q Mm, so you decided not to do a grave visit.

A Not to go down that route, yeah.

Q Are you someone who uses Facebook yourself or other social media to post photos and sort of preserve, not obviously in that context, but I mean in terms of your family lives and...

A Yeah. We use Twitter to keep in touch with the school. The school uses Twitter to record things so if you send a picture in you tag them on Twitter and they can pick it up, they'll get the notification. I've had to learn Twitter this year for that because I'd never used it before then and then I use Facebook all the time and Instagram. I love taking photographs and having that one photograph to show a moment.

Q Do you think it is having an impact on them at all? Have you seen any of this practice of yours...

A They enjoy seeing the memories pop up and I can show them 'Oh a year ago I did this with you guys'.

Q On your phone?

A Yeah so they like to see that. Alison, whenever she sees me on a phone she wants to send people a message because she has learned that I can communicate with people through messages and she has actually written a couple herself, messages to people, when she's said 'Oh I want to say this to Auntie Annie'.

Q You mean she's actually typed them on your phone?

A On my phone and showing her how to type. She's been learning how to, where the groups of letters are because she's still thinking it's an alphabet and it's not it's a keyboard isn't it? It's different, it's Qwerty. Yes so she's expecting it to be A, B, C, D, E, F, G... But it's not and I've been showing her this is how the letters are put together.

Q And does she just do it with her index finger at the moment?

A Yes, one at a time and she likes the emoji board to show certain things. She likes to send little smiley faces. Sometimes longer than writing the message out because she wants to pick just the right ones.

A What are you doing?

C Slow motion.

A Oh yeah we do slow-motion videos, so that's probably... So that's when, because when you're playing them it messes up your audio, doesn't it? So 'It will sound like that' [drawn out], you know, that's what she was doing.

Q So are these slow-motion videos that you'll make on your, you'll do a video normal speed and then you'll...

A Have I got, yes I have got one. See I've not been thinking I've been using technology enough and then talking I realise how much I do use technology because we was at Jump Inc, which is a great big trampoline park.

Q Oh yes. Is that the one over in Rotherham?

A There's one at Meadowhall and that's the one that we went to.

A That's the photo actually [referring to a photo mentioned earlier?]. I'd completely forgotten and I think it's because, actually, I'm remembering now. When I had logged onto this phone because it's Google phone it's linked to an old Google account and I didn't realise it's saved all these pictures, I've got these pictures on the laptop anyway, yeah it's backed them all up so I was like 'Where have all these come from?'

Q How old are they there?

A We had just moved in here so it would be 2015. Hang on, 2016 because Chloe's a year old. The way that they ??? the rocker.

Q2 [Looking at the photos of different devices as per the research tools] So do you know what they're playing it on? Do you know what this is?

C A tablet.

Q2 A Tablet again, yeah. So do you know, have you seen this game before?

C No.

Q2 No? So have you played on a tablet before

C No.

D Yeah we have. The tablet is like a Kindle.

C Where is the Kindle?

A I've just put it on charge, Alison.

D Where is the Kindle?

C Where is it still? I just want to know because I like it.

D The Kindle is like a tablet...

[Video plays in background]

C That was when I was really really small.

A So she knows that when we're doing a video, we were singing 'Happy Birthday' to send to her uncle in London, using my phone.

Q Is that the one you stayed with when you went to London?

A Yes.

Q What's his fantastic name again?

A Bamboo.

Q Bamboo, that's right.

D Yeah.

A I'll show you the one on slow motion.

Q Yeah when you were doing the slow motion. Is that funny?

D Yeah.

C [Looking at photos Beth is showing] I bet that's Pokemon

Q2 Yes so have you ever played Pokemon Go? Have you heard of it?

C We haven't but I bet we have seen it on TV I think.

Q2 Oh I see.

A Daddy plays Pokemon Go.

C On his phone.

Q2 Yeah. Have you ever played on phones before?

C No. Glasses.

Q2 Glasses. Do you know what this one is?

D It's on a game when you sit in a chair and you put them on and then you close your eyes and then it moves a lot.

Q2 Yeah. It's a bit like that isn't it? So it's called virtual reality and you put some glasses on and it's like you're in a game. Have you heard of that before?

C No.

D Have you got them?

A I haven't, no. I haven't, I'm sorry. If I had some I'd let you borrow them.

C We have them.

Q2 Do you?

C On a game I've played. I've seen them.

A Yeah at the media centre, that's what they did.

Q2 Ah so did you have a go on it there?

D No.

C We didn't have a go because we were too small.

Q2 Oh I see and did you see other people having a go on it?

D Yeah.

Q2 What did they look like? What were they doing?

D They were like...

Q2 Did they look funny because they couldn't see what they were looking like, what they were doing?

D No.

C No I didn't see their faces because it was all black because when you move, when it moves your face is all black.

[Video of slow-motion film plays in background]

Q So you film it at normal speed and then you can play it back, or can you actually film in slow motion?

A You have to film in slow motion.

Q OK.

A And you can remove it afterwards.

Q I see. Is it an app or is it just...

A It's just part of my phone.

Q And what phone is it you've got there?

A This is...it's Google Pixel XL.

Q So you used it to get them to do the jumping but they picked up on the sound. Is that you talking or dad?

A Yes that's me talking.

Q It's unrecognisable that it's you, isn't it? It's so deep.

A I'm not too sure that dad actually sent you that picture. Did he send you that one?

Q I'm not sure, no he didn't send that one. Is that from the Media Museum?

A Yes that's from the Media Museum.

Q Is that, why are they doing this, is that...

A Alison, what was that for? Why were you doing the...

C It's because it was like that picture on the wall.

Q The picture behind you?

C Yeah.

A OK, so you were making a Milky Way behind you. OK.

Q Oh I see.

A I've just sent him a message to see if he can send me some pictures through. See if he can send us some more through.

Q Thank you very much indeed. It's really interesting to see how it all links up with what you're saying. So obviously you're sharing your mobile phone with them but do you have any, thinking forward about when they might get a mobile, how do you feel about them having their own? Have you...Alison already?

A Yeah she's been asking for one and when she saw her eleven year old cousin...I don't think it's a real phone, I think it's like a....maybe like one of those smart iPod sort of things because you can go on Instagram and onto the Internet ??? phone. When she saw her cousin with that it got even more intense.

Q How do you feel about that?

A It's hard because when I was young we weren't allowed one until we were 13, 12/13 years old but that was completely different then you know? And I said to dad when she's ready to start walking to school by herself is when...When she starts to want to walk to school by herself is probably when she'll have one mainly because, I know I walked to school by myself but it's a completely different world now and I wouldn't feel, it's just over there, it's not that far, but I would want a phone where there's a tracker on it just for safe of mind because... yeah... I don't like it when they stay away because I want to know are they OK? And they've only stayed away, they've not stayed away a lot. They stayed with their aunt in

Doncaster for an extended period of time as a holiday but like we checked in, did video calls, that's how I like it, but I'm quite open to them having a phone but obviously having the restrictions on there to make sure what content they can and can't see especially when it comes to social media and they need to know that at all times when they hand over the phone that I've got every right to check what's going on in there just to make sure because all the stories you hear...???

Q Is that stuff just sort of you hear about on social media or on the news or people you know personally?

A No I've not come across it personally. But I want to avoid it at all costs and just to make sure that as a family, there's no such thing as privacy. There is in like getting dressed and things like that but day to day when I hand over my phone I don't freak out what might be on there because I know everything's fine and it's OK. I share. When they're, I have to be careful sometimes when she's reading over my shoulder my messages and you know, what content that we pull through, but I don't think we should hide things and I want them to feel they can speak openly. I've always been about that especially when the NSPCC have gone to school, I've kind of like kept talking about it, you know afterwards to keep it going because I don't want them to hide anything because that's a toxic environment.

Q Where do you think your ideas come from in that respect? Is it something that you share together with Craig? I'm just wondering where those sort of values come from.

A Craig struggles with this. He is having to put up with what I say about that because I'm very fierce about women, girls talking, and not accepting bad behaviour towards them and things like that and I think it starts young. You need to stand up for yourself especially as a woman. We are very feminist in this house. Poor dad. Because you know, I have to, seeing in the news and things like that and seeing what women have to put up with and bringing up two girls, it's really difficult for me to accept that my kids are going to have to put up with that still when they're in that generation so I'm teaching them from day one.

Q Right is there something particularly that's in your mind that you're thinking about that's been in the news?

A Everything from being overlooked for jobs, the 'Me Too' movement, talking. Don't be victims, be strong women because it's something very very close to my heart so bring them up in that mindset of talking and not accepting second best and if a boy is going after something that you want, you've just got to try harder, you know, and you've got to beat them down, you know. We're smashing that glass ceiling in this house because it's just I don't want them to think that they're being overlooked or...I've had that myself, you know, being a woman I've found it difficult and frustrating and seeing things in the news makes me angry and I'm like 'No'. And like dad, he's not allowed to say anything like 'silly woman' or, I'm like 'No, don't bring gender into it'. I'm very stern on it and he struggles because he is a guy and guys do not understand the 'Me Too' movement as much as what women do. They might say they do but I don't think they do and I say to him 'You have to accept what

someone says, what a victim says that it is the truth and believe them because it's just not worth making up'. So I'm very big about that.

Q I can tell you're very committed.

A I don't want them to, because, honestly, bringing up two girls and seeing what I see on the news. Oh it's hard, it's hard and I've actually written about this a lot on Facebook and I do find it a struggle so I have to try and train them now, because I don't want them to struggle at all.

C Mummy didn't want us to know about people killing people.

A We do switch over the news because she's been picking up on it too much and I don't watch the news because it's too depressing.

C And upsetting.

A It is.

C It's bad the news.

A Yeah because that's what people like to hear. They don't like to hear all the nicey nice stuff. So...

Q Thank you for sharing quite a lot of personal stuff. If you feel anything you've told later 'I wish I hadn't told...'

A No I talk about it all the time. Because more people need to talk about it and be open.

Q So long as you're comfortable with that.

A I'm perfectly fine with it.

Q That's great. Girls, would you like to watch the GoPro films before Beth and I have to go?