

Q = Main interviewer (Cath)

Q2 = Second interviewer (Beth)

A = Mum (Ria)

B = Dad (Miles)

C = Zander (boy)

D = Greta (girl)

Q What we were sort of hoping is, Zander talked to us sometimes about playing on the computer with you and playing on games consoles with you, so we wondered if....part of what we want to look at is Zander actually sort of playing and using tech and things like that, and we understand that you're the person that he plays with it the most.

B Normally yes, yes. But you know normally he's been more ??? and then I'm more the tech person.

Q OK, so what sort of things do you play together?

B Me and Zander like playing Mario Kart on like the Wii.

C Yeah Mario Kart.

B Yeah on the Wii, or just any of the Wii games and stuff like that. And obviously on my laptop we play sort of a few of the games.

Q OK, what sort of games are they?

B On there, there's like a website through school, so obviously some of the more educational games. But then he's got some more of the fun games on the side of that like Danger Mouse and stuff like that.

C Like Danger Mouse.

B Yeah, and then....

Q So are these games sort of through.... Danger Mouse is like BBC isn't it? Are they like CBeebies games?

B Yes exactly CBeebies yeah. So obviously he does sort of his educational stuff but then I think CBeebies has been introduced through school.

Q Has it?

B In their like down time. So obviously Zander likes to do that on my laptop sometimes.

Q Right.

B And then obviously on the phone he plays Minion Run, which is a bit like Temple Run you know where you're just sliding it, and he loves that. Obviously that's normally for in the car for a long journey or else he'd be like that....

Q So does that come from like the film The Minions?

B It does, and he absolutely loves Despicable Me and the Minions stuff.

Q Does he?

B So obviously when I saw that I downloaded it. And he's got his own tablet and that's where he does most of his play. And you've got loads of new games on that haven't you? So he obviously gets all that. That is more what he plays on his own that one, because obviously it's more of like a one player type thing. But for the multi-player stuff obviously things like the Wii because we've both got controls, for doing the sports stuff or the Mario Kart, we'll be doing the driving game. So obviously we can do any of those.

Q So are you kind of on the lookout for games to sort of upload or download? Do you have a sort of like....are you quite into gaming anyway?

B When I was a kid I absolutely loved it. I grew up on all the old consoles. We used to live in Hong Kong actually so we used to get the consoles before people did here. And then when we moved back when I was a kid obviously I had a Mega Drive before they'd actually made it to the UK and stuff. And then like a lot of people, we were more the Sega, so we had the Mega Drive, then we had the 32 bit and then the 64 bit system. And then we got into the Playstation. But we also had the Nintendo 64 at Uni where everyone played Golden Eye, that was like a massive game, that. Mario Kart has been a game I've played since I was young.

Q Right, so you've seen it go through all the different evolutions.

B Exactly, which is why when I realised it was available on the Wii and you could get the steering wheels, then I thought I could share something that I used to be as a kid, with Zander. Although it's a bit different with the Wii, like the steering wheel's like that. Obviously the graphics are a lot better than they used to be. But obviously I was a huge gamer, but then as I got older and started work and got married and stuff like that, I had less time to do that. But I see now all the games that are available online with the headsets and stuff, and I'm just jealous. But I'm excited for when Zander gets a bit older. Because we've just been on holiday with one of my best friends and his three kids, and two of them....one's 7 and one's 8 and they're already on the Nintendo Switch, and Zander was, as soon as he saw that he was besotted by it.

Q Right. What's it got that....

B Well what I like about the Switch is, it's a console that clicks out to become a tablet, so it's transferable. And there was this new thing they were doing with cardboard – I've forgot what the name....

Q2 The labbo?

B The labbo, right, and his boys were obsessed with it, and Zander got into it. Where they use the cardboard and there's an app on the phone where it shows you how to fold and how to clip it together. And then you put it on like robot armour or something like that and then it actually bluetooth's with the actual game, so then you can play it on the screen, but you've just done all the building of the cardboard and stuff. So Zander's shown a big interest on that.

Q2 It's really cool.

B And we sort of flagged up about that 7 years old would be a perfect time for like the Nintendo Switch (I'm just whispering). So we think next year we'll introduce that. But right now Zander just shows a very....he's excited about racing games and anything sport related. And he likes sort of the role play games.

Q What sort of role play games are they?

B On the tablet there's one called Lego Batman.

Q Oh right, yeah.

B So it's like a strategy role play game.

Time 5:00

Q So do you play the Batman character or....

B Yes you play the Batman character but you can switch to the different characters, so I think you can be Robin as well. But obviously because he....because I'm a big superhero fan and obviously at an early age he was introduced to Lego films. And then I sort of bridged him off to the superhero Lego films and he absolutely loves Lego Batman. So obviously when we're looking for games to download on the tablet, as soon as I spotted Lego Batman I downloaded it and he was hooked again sort of thing.

Q Right. So what do you think he likes about it?

B Probably a bit of the fact that as Batman he can sort of fight the enemy and stuff like that.

Q So the bad guys then?

B Yeah exactly, the good guys versus bad guys, which is obviously really the staple of what the superhero thing is. And he likes sort of taking on The Penguin or The Joker because they're the characters he knows from the TV show.

C I don't like Penguin.

B What's that?

C I do not like Penguin.

Q You don't like Penguin? What don't you like about Penguin?

C ???

B Why don't you like Penguin Zander?

C I just told you.

B We didn't hear though bud, what did you say?

C I don't like the Penguin.

Q Why?

C Because he's a penguin.

B That's a good reason.

Q That's a really good reason not to like The Penguin is because he's a penguin.

B And I think probably because....the reason I like those games is because they're very strategic. When I first introduced the game to Zander years ago he was trapped in the room the whole time, because he was just pressing the button but he didn't know what to do. But as he gets older he's figuring out that you've got to do something to get to the next stage and the next level. And that's what I like about those type of games, because I know that they're good for Zander to develop him as well you see.

Q OK. What do you think he sort of gets out of it then?

B Well just sort of like problem-solving, like figuring out that you've got to do something to move on to the next level, or you've got to defeat someone to go to the next level. So like....Zander, what was the game you were playing not so long ago, the Sonic game, and that was like end of level bad guys? So you do the Sonic Run but then you're fighting end of level bad guy. And it happens with Danger Mouse.

C Danger Mouse.

B Yeah it's Danger Mouse sorry isn't it? Danger Mouse you get end of level bad guys which you've got to defeat to go to the next level. So he's sort of learning how like you've got to progress through the game by accomplishing certain tasks and stuff. So he's starting to like that, whereas it's not quite just the repetitive nature of it. And I think with....I'm jumping I know, but I think with the driving game like the Mario Kart, he just loves the fun-ness of driving but also he really likes to compete with daddy to see who can finish higher and stuff like that. And obviously I've always been quite a competitive person so he's probably picking it up from me – and like I don't let him win too many often times as well.

Q Oh, so sometimes you do?

B Occasionally, and then I'm thinking 'well he'll learn most from sort of watching me'.

A ???

B So he does, he really likes those sort of games as well. And he went to a kids party a few months ago and some of the older kids were upstairs. And him and his friends, after playing downstairs ventured upstairs to see what the older kids were playing, and they were playing FIFA on the Playstation. Now Zander's never seen a....we've got a Playstation we use for DVDs which is my old one, but he's not really seen those type of games. And because it was football he just watched for like half an hour. And then afterwards he was saying can he ask Santa for the football game on the TV.

Q Ah yes.

B So I mean we feel that that's a bit advanced those sort of games, but the fact that he's shown a big interest in it obviously it's triggered us to start thinking about like what's the next thing that Zander will enjoy. And a lot of the time we find that he'll come home and someone will have talked about something. So even if....

Q Oh right, so he's hearing from like friends, is that right?

B Definitely. So even if we think we haven't told him. Like Ria says 'oh Miles must have told Zander about it', I'm like 'no I've not told him about that one'. That's how he got into Pokemon because he came back with the Pokemon trading cards and all of a sudden he was hooked on that. So there's stuff I introduce him to, and stuff that he introduces himself to. Because he's actually quite good now on Netflix, scrolling through it, and even Amazon Prime, so he'll scroll through to what looks good.

A And buy it!

B And sometimes I'm at work.....well yeah sometimes I'm at work and something's been purchased and I'm like...yeah he already knows what the pass code is.

Q Ah, so has he actually bought things online before?

A ??? films.

B He buys....he normally asks you first, but then I get that email to say he's just bought like Despicable Me 3 or something like that. So he's getting good at doing that but he knows he's got to ask permission first, and obviously we've got this set up so he's not allowed to go above the PG level. But he knows to ask before he presses the button. But he does know how to search for it, better than you really doesn't he? He knows how to search through and actually purchase what he wants to.

Q Did he learn himself how to do that or did he get shown?

B I think I showed him the first time, but he picks it up quite quickly because he's got a good memory. Like some of his games sometimes, he plays tablets more on his own but he'll call me from time to time because something will have flashed up that he has to read and he doesn't know exactly how to get out of that menu. So sometimes he'll call me and I'll come and I'll talk him through the menu so next time he knows how to do it. Because unless it's

sort of like really visually obvious and if there's too much text going on, then obviously he's going to be a bit lost of what it's saying and stuff like that.

Time 10:16

Q Right. So is there kind of like the reading element to it as well, do you sort of have to sort of help out sometimes with the words?

B Certainly on these sort of games he's downloaded recently that I've helped him look for – because obviously we went on holiday recently and that's where the tablet's ideal – some of the games are easy for him to pick up on the play side but when it actually comes up to the menu systems, all the different weapons or the health sort of devices you have to sift through, there's a lot of reading in it. And that's where I feel like someone at Zander's age is going to struggle to understand what that menu is. And obviously he can't progress sometimes because it's saying 'you've got too many characters' or 'you need to switch weapons to go beyond this point', but he doesn't know what it's saying. So obviously that stumps him on that particular game sort of thing, that's what I find.

Q Yeah. My youngest plays Plants versus Zombies and I think some of the cutaway scenes there, sort of they have like almost comic bubbles of speech, speech bubbles, so I have to sort of step in and actually read so that he knows what to do to go on to the next level.

B Well that's right, because on some of the earlier games, like the end of level things, it goes into like a cinema type thing but it's all talking and visual. But when you're on a tablet and it starts to be the reading format then obviously that's where I have to sort of obviously assist on a little bit at the moment. But obviously his reading is improving at school, so he's starting to pick up the words and he knows how to Exit and Start and Run, but it's where there's a big text going on about what this particular item is for, he's lost with that you know.

Q So do you think there's any kind of like effect on his reading by interacting with these games at all?

B I would hope it's improving. Certainly like I mentioned, with the whole obvious ones like Progress, Run, Exit, he knows them now and a lot of that will be from the game side of it because it's that repetitive seeing it on each level.

Q Ah, so the words pop up again and again.

B Exactly. And like when he's doing his racing games he understands that there's different track numbers and stuff like that and there's different number of stars you can get. So he's starting to see those numbers and patterns and what they mean and he realises that the gold trophy is the highest one, the silver trophy is second place, the bronze trophy is the third place – that's more like a Mario Kart thing. So those sort of games are definitely teaching him about numbers and orders as well. Like when we're racing in Mario Kart it's like there's 12 people, so he's seeing how if he takes over he moves up the places, and if he wins the race he'll come first, and if he comes fourth he realises that there's three people ahead of him. So I think games like that are fantastic for understanding order and like ascension and descension and stuff like that.

Q Oh right OK, that's really interesting.

B That's what I find, yeah.

Q So when you're playing things like....you were saying that Zander's sort of quite, you feel he might be quite competitive?

B Yes, that's probably because he gets it from me, because I've been told I'm too competitive. So when I'm playing with Zander he sort of sees that I get excited about getting in the lead or stuff like that.

A And you're very vocal aren't you?

B And I'm quite vocal.

Q Do you shout?

B Yeah, even like when Zander's playing football I'm on the sidelines and stuff. But because of that I think.....

A ???

Q You're like taxi driving!

A ??? basically to cheer them on are you, you say 'Zander come on'.

B But I think that's good for Zander because he sees me enjoying the game and I think he sort of gets more enjoyment out of that. Because I've always found watching someone else have fun makes it fun for you. And I think Zander sort of picks that a bit up off me. And I know as we've done the race he'll say 'can we do it again daddy because I want to try and beat you this time', so he's getting the idea that it's all for fun but it is nice to try and progress to a level where you can actually finish the race first or something like that.

Q Yeah.

B And like his other games, he likes to try and get to the next level, because there's only so long you can walk around the same level before you want to progress and stuff like that. I'm waiting for him to get, if he's got the full competitive gene that I have and my brothers have, but I think because there's a big age gap between Greta and Zander, and Greta isn't playing games with him yet, and you're not a competitive person Ria at all are you? So if he's on his own there's no-one to compete against, it's only really when he interacts with me....or like the other week he was interacting with my mate's sons who are obviously more his age, then you see Zander sort of change a bit where he wants to be one of the boys and he wants to do what they do, do you know what I mean, away. And so I think when he plays properly with people I think that sort of aspect will come out a bit more.

Q Yeah. What's he like when he is sort of playing with people, does he get quite excited, does he sort of....

Time 15:00

B I think so. I mean it will depend on who he is playing with. Because if he's playing with Greta then obviously he's more looking after her and trying to teach her. Because she'll be playing with toys that are now below his age level but he will show her how they work, so he's sort of interacting with her on that level. Whereas if he's playing with – like the other week we were down in Lyme Regis and he was playing with my friend's sons, they're teaching him something because they're a bit older. So they were teaching like a new game on the tablet, or how that Wii was working. So it's quite good to see how Zander is interacting with different ages. And then when he plays with his friends at school they're all the same age and then they're just laughing their heads off at playing the sillier games. And they like to make the characters do silly things, so that's the school games.

Q Ah right. So do they, if when they're playing....is this like on the computer or is this them acting out games?

B No this is like if I ever go and pick him up and I'm like 5 or 10 minutes early and they're at the computer, they're all normally around the one screen. And the person who is not pressing the button is shouting and laughing at the other people to press the button. And I can see they may be like educational games but they've got like maybe a silly nature to it. And obviously you can see them laughing and like telling the person who is maybe controlling it what to do. So like interacting quite well there around that screen.

Q OK. So you think there's kind of a social element to...

B Definitely. But one thing I've noticed now Greta is getting a bit older, because Greta is 2 and a half now, Greta is starting to enjoy dressing up more and she absolutely loves putting on her big brother's outfits, even though they're too big for her. So what Zander sort of grew out from a little bit, which was all the dress up, he's actually going back to it now because he's starting to enjoy it with Greta more. And he's putting outfits on that are now a bit small for him, and Greta is putting on these ones that are way too big for her. But a lot of the time he'll say 'come on Greta, let's dress up'. And the older Zander gets he's now realising that he's putting on outfits.....so let's say Lego Ninjago....

Q Oh was he into Ninjago?

B He was into Ninjago, and he's been out of it for about a year but recently he put the green Ninja outfit back on and he was playing differently....

Q I can't remember which one the green one is.

B Lloyd.

Q Lloyd. Lloyd with two 'L's. [NB - this is a joke in the context of the film]

B So he put that on and all of a sudden he was playing full role play as Lloyd. Whereas when he got the Lloyd outfit two years ago he wasn't really role playing. He'd put it on but then he'd sit and watch the programme.

Q Oh so he'd actually sort of dress up and then watch the show?

B But now I'm watching him put it on and he becomes Lloyd. He picks up the sword and he talks, and you can see him starting to like create in his imagination. So it's quite cool to see him going back to something but playing with it differently to how it was there. And that's really just the age and his level of, I guess, sort of maturity coming through.

Q It's really interesting as well to think about how something like Ninjago can sort of work at different age groups and on different levels.

B And that's why I thought it fascinating. Yes. And this obviously segways nicely into the fact that he obviously is big into Lego right now but he's had a switch where it was all about Lego and superheroes, but in the last 3 months I introduced him to the Star Wars films and he watched episodes 4, 5, and 6 which are the original ones that we grew up with.

Q The New Hope and....

B Exactly, and absolutely.....

Q So what sort of made you decide he was at the right age to watch Star Wars?

A I don't think he is.

B Well firstly they're a U so they're acceptable age.

Q ??? this did not come from a critical place with my kids so I was just wondering about....

A ???

Q More it's kind of like I'm quite interested in the fact that you were saying about Ninjago which, you know he was getting something out of it at one age and then something out of it when he's a little bit older. And then Star Wars again, that's a whole franchise and a whole world for them to dive into, so it's kind of like 'if I let them loose on this now I might just sort of like....they'll disappear into this'. So it's kind of judging time.

B Well basically I always try and....there's loads of things I want to introduce Zander into. Because growing up I mean I was into all this, and I still am, I'm a big kid sort of thing. But obviously I've been very patient and waited til I think it's the right time, you know age wise. But a lot of these things I end up introducing Zander into because I realise in the social circles that his friends are now introduced into it. So now he knows characters like Darth Vader, or Yoda, or Luke Skywalker, but he's not watched it. So then I ask....

Q Oh that's really interesting.

A We feel like we're quite, not behind but I think because he's probably the youngest in his year I think that's a big factor.

Q He is really young for his year isn't he?

A He's really young.

Q I only just realised this the other day.

A Yeah. It sounds awful because you feel like it's like bowing to peer pressure, that's how it feels, but then you also think....you don't want him to not get ???

Q Ah, so if everybody in the playground is playing something or talking about something, then there's the....

A And at play dates and stuff, you think they're all doing that, everyone got dressed up and you kind of think....

Time 20:00

B Yeah, and they actually talk about the fact that they've seen the film, do you know what I mean. So then obviously I'm getting together with some of the dads at like football or after school or something like that, and we just sort of ask 'so are your kids watching this yet' and some of them say 'oh yeah they've seen Star Wars, they love it'. So then I think 'right', so it's an age thing, it's a U, I'm ready, he's showing an interest. So we sit down and he's hooked and we watch all three over the space of two weeks, and now everything's about Star Wars. So his Christmas list for Santa is all about Star Wars. And you can see.....Zander, just show this ship that you've built right now.

C This is not a Star Wars ship.

B No I know, but you started building all these spaceships because of Star Wars.

Q Ah OK, so it introduced to the whole idea of outer space and sci-fi and....

B Exactly, and now everything he builds now is spaceship related.

Q Oh wow.

B Now he puts the different characters on.

Q Ah, Spiderman's flying that one.

B But if we venture upstairs you'll see next to the shower is he's got a Luke Skywalker in the ship that he's built. And all he wants for Christmas from Santa now is Star Wars related Lego. But what I like about it is, because we haven't got the Star Wars related Lego yet, he's going back to his original Lego and building. And you can see this is a bit like one of those sort of like Thai fighters and stuff. And I talk to him about how he can work out the way of getting the wings out. And you can see he's got the nice symmetry in it and how he knows that there should be guns on the end of the wings, and how the wings help it to fly. And he's got the seats, and then he has sort of passengers on it and stuff. So he's getting all that from the big Star....

A You see I've got to be honest that's why I don't really like this whole thing about fighting ??? I think we've always been so like 'no'. And I think that doesn't sit...

B That's within your family, yeah.

A It just doesn't sit right with me. Like I like the idea of it but even when I see it on TV I'm like it feels quite violent still, do you know what I mean? I think we're showing him that, and I still don't know how I feel about it to be honest.

B Well the other thing he built the other day is, he built a very large gun that like Hans Solo has, and it was very clever....

A Plastic.

B Yeah plastic, and it was very clever how he did it because he had a gap for his finger, he had like a handle to hold, and then it had the big barrel for the gun. And then he makes the sound effects like 'doo-doo-doo-doo' because like they do with the Storm Troopers. So I see that as obviously role play and I understand why he's doing it. But I think it upsets you a little bit because it's guns and shooting, but obviously I see it as a fantasy element, he's not trying to....he's not watched like The Godfather and trying to simulate that, he's just...it's about the lasers and the fantasy element. And at the time now I can hear him like upstairs playing, he's like 'doo-doo-doo-doo' and you can hear him like shooting and stuff and I know he's probably like trying to fight the Storm Troopers. But I'm a bit more lenient than Ria and I see that just as progression, and kids do that. It's like you can buy light sabers and there's no age restriction on it, you know, and he knows about light sabers now. And when he's sort of chopping them down, but I always sort of tell him that like the good guys don't kill the bad guys, they normally use the weapons in defense and then they put the bad guys in jail.

Q Right.

C ???

B They do. What do they do with the bad guys?

C They kill each other.

B Oh Zander they don't, I've told you. No but obviously he has seen the likes of like Darth Vader falling to his death in Star Wars so he understands that level. But Ria feels a bit more sort of upset about it and stuff. But again, like he had swords and shields in his dress up area from years ago that he never really played, but then he's putting the Ninjago outfit on and he's picking the sword and shield up. And now you can see he understands how you swing and how you block and stuff. And that's that progressive age coming back where he's actually returning to some toys and playing with them slightly differently, maybe understanding more of what the purpose is for them.

Q Yeah I was going to say, what do you think has sort of influenced that, is it the...

B I think as well, I'll be honest, it's a bit of what he's getting into but it's Greta now. Now Greta is old enough to play with him, Greta can pick a shield up, Greta can swing a sword, that Zander has someone to play with.

Q Battle with.

B And although the age range is still quite big, Greta desperately tries to keep up with Zander – as a young sibling does – and Zander is starting to enjoy and getting some enjoyment out of playing with his sister. It doesn't last long before there's the crying of Greta, because everything Zander touches she wants you see.

Q So is she learning about things like....when you talked about Zander learning from his friends at school about Star Wars and coming home and talking about Darth Vader and things like that, is she sort of learning about these ideas sort of from Zander, is she learning about things like Ninjago from Zander?

A I think so definitely.

B Absolutely.

A And that's another thing. I think that's another one of my things, that I think sometimes....like Zander wasn't really exposed to it at this age, do you know what I mean? It's not the fact that I'm against it or anything but I just think ??? really young. And even on TV, like we're quite careful actually about he only watches like ??? stuff actually when he's on his own, when it's like we have a film night on Friday and that would be when he would watch it and Greta would be with me doing something else.

Time 25:10

Q Ah right OK.

A And then even actually even on those nights if she's there we'll put something else on, like an animal film. Do you know what I mean, like I'm conscious that it's got to be something that's OK for her as well.

B Well I find it fascinating, because Zander will watch something a bit more grown up like Star Wars with me, but he'll happily sit and watch Peppa Pig for hours with Greta. And he's still really....

C I do not like Peppa Pig.

Q You don't like Peppa Pig.

B Zander, just show what you were doing then with Superman. You see Zander just came up to me and he's obviously playing with Superman, and he's obviously created this bad guy, and he was obviously doing the fight with them. But what did you say about their strength Zander? Say again?

C Strength 53/74.

B So what he's doing is, we play a lot of Top Trumps, and now he always asks me what strength level is so-and-so. Like we've been watching Star Wars and he's like...he asks me like when Star Wars first starts, 'is Luke strength level 4?' and I said 'yeah he's about 4, he's not a Jedi yet'. And as he progresses through the films he's like 'what strength level now is he daddy'. And that sort of links to the Top Trumps cards we used to play a lot. So he understands like the higher the number the stronger they get. And if they've got a bigger

strength level than him – so he's like Hans Solo and Luke Skywalker....so the other day he had four people on a ship and he asked me what the strength level of each of them were. And then he added them all up and said 'so they can defeat Darth Vader because their strength level is bigger than Darth Vader's strength level'. Which I thought was really cool. I was like 'well yes, as a team they can defeat Darth Vader' whereas individually they were lower. And Zander was adding it up on the ship. It was quite good.

Q Yeah. So you think that's part of the social thing as well, sort of he's getting any kind of lessons like that on it.

B I think so. I think because he plays Top Trumps when we go on holiday with friends, he plays it with me and he plays it with his grandad, he likes that element where you've sort of like got to take the cards from each other by having the stronger people. And as he then watches films where there's like fighting and conflicts on screen, he's then taking both elements of those and putting them into play with Lego figures where he's creating the good and the bad, they're having the fight, and he realises that one is stronger than the other and he talks about the levels of strength they've got. So it's quite cool how it all sort of comes back around.

Q It all comes together.

B It all links together quite nicely, yeah.

Q So he'll see something on the screen and he'll take elements of it, and then you'll see it in his play.

B Absolutely, yeah. And like he'll build a little gun for one of the characters, and it's like a blaster you get in Star Wars, but Spiderman's holding it. Or like right now Santa is driving a Spiderman vehicle. He likes to mix and match all the sort of creative sort of stuff like that, which is quite cool.

Q So what do you think he gets out of it in terms of creativity, do you think things like new media and games can be creative?

B I think so. The thing that I have watched Zander over the years, especially from Lego, get out of it is the understanding of structures and buildings. Because when he used to build like big long ships they would be very flexible and sort of feeble strength-wise in the middle and they'd always break apart. Now when he builds his ships and his structures he understands to bridge with extra pieces across the joints to stiffen it all up. And you find that a lot of his big ships....like Zander, can you show the ship that you built the other day to the lady. Zander, it's on the fireplace. This one is very difficult to break because of the way he's built it now. And so Zander's created all this, and again this is from Star Wars. So you can see that he's got multiple places for people to sit, the pilot and the person who might be doing the shooting and the lasers.

Q That's incredible.

B And he's very logic and symmetrical in nature like I am, you know everything's like obviously got to have perfect symmetry, because obviously it wouldn't be stable otherwise. And I love watching him just create his things from Lego you see. But you can see the

elements is this looks very much like the Return of the Jedi type ships, and he's always got the wings because he knows it needs to stay in the air. But I find it fascinating because I'm into a lot of this, that I can see him pulling elements out of stuff he's getting into now and mixing it. Like he used to always do cars, now he always builds planes. So this is yet another plane which looks a bit like Star Wars ??? the way he's put these jets on.

Q Oh yes, yeah.

B So this is all him mixing sort of the stuff together, and obviously a lot of it is space orientated right now.

C Daddy, I need one of the connect things to go with it.

B You do buddy, yeah.

Q They're really, really good. And it's really interesting as well from like you were saying about the Star Wars Lego kits, they're just....he's using Lego that he's already got.

Time 30:00

B Absolutely. And that's what I'm finding. Because obviously Santa hasn't had his list yet and some of the Star Wars Lego is quite expensive so you know we'll let Santa get that. But obviously he's not letting that stop him creating and having fun out of the sort of Star Wars world right now because he can still build the ships. And in a way building a ship like this is full of his imagination, whereas if we get the Star Wars ship he's building it from a magazine which someone is telling him where the pieces go. So this for me is a lot more creative sort of thing. But he does like the Lego books and he can follow the manuals and how the pieces go together, he's very good at doing that because he's always been into Lego, and he always ends up having Lego.....am I talking too much? Sorry.

Q No it's fascinating, please carry on.

B We've always bought Lego like a year or two older than what the age recommends because he seems to be able to cope comfortably with that. But obviously now he's asking for sort of some Lego things when we go into the shop that are like for 12 or 16 years old and we're obviously saying 'no, that's more adult level'. Like he wants the Millennium Falcon that he's seen now.

Q Who doesn't?

C I don't want it.

B You don't want it now? Why?

C Because that would be my only present for Christmas.

B That's right, because it's so expensive you can't expect Santa to get that and other things can you?

C No. I got this one.

- B So is that....what are you putting on the wings there buddy? What are these?
- C I want Luke Skywalker's ship and Darth Vader's ship.
- B Luke Skywalker's ship and Darth Vader's ship. What did you put these on the wings for?
- C Jet engines.
- B Jet engines, is that to help it fly?
- C Yeah, to make it go faster than normal.
- B Normal? And what is it like the Millennium Falcon does on the film, with it's....
- C Hyper speed.
- B Hyper speed, yes. So he understands that more power creates the faster travelling object and stuff like that, and obviously he's always building like jet engines so it can travel faster now than the other ship. So he's sort of learning that there's obviously different speeds to things, which is what I....and that's why I'm glad we introduced him to Star Wars because he's pulling so many elements out of it that he's then relating back to other toys. And it definitely is helping him understand mechanics and the engineering side of things because he's asking how things work more. And that bit is what I'm enjoying him being part of the Star Wars universe with.
- Q So do you sort of build Lego together ever?
- B Yes. I mean normally he'll build something and show me, but sometimes then I'll build a ship that maybe the bad guys are going to fly, and then obviously we'll fly them together and stuff. So this is where obviously it's good because he does love playing on his own, but if I'm around especially, or like Ria's around, then he likes playing together. But then he's also very good at going back with Greta to the Duplo stuff, because obviously Greta plays with more Duplo. But what he does, he basically builds the same things but they're just bigger scale. But then he helps Greta with her development, which Zander never had as he was younger. So we know Greta will probably develop quicker, because we've seen it in our friends who have older siblings, because they're trying to keep pace with them. And the thing I was saying to Ria is, ever since we had that little holiday with my friend's brothers who are a bit older, Zander showed such an interest in the things that are maybe the next level....
- Q Was that like the Switch and....
- B The consoles, the Switch, the gaming, that you could see that he is primed for readiness for that, it's just that he hasn't had the exposure.
- Q Yeah.
- A Also I worry about him doing that too soon because I think there's still a lot...I just want him to be a child, does that make sense? I think I want him to....

C I am a child.

A I don't want him to automatically that's the first thing that he thinks of when he comes to entertaining himself, that's what I'm trying to say, when I think there's a lot more creative play that doesn't involve screens just yet at the age of 6, do you know what I mean? That's just my opinion but....

B But Ria, think about it. We introduced him...but I introduced him to Nintendo Wii and Mario Kart, and it's not very often he asks to play with that.

A True.

B He'll remember it and we'll play, but it doesn't stop him playing with other things.

A But he loves it so much that I worry that...do you know what I mean...the more exposed he is to it the more it will become his first like go to choice, if that makes sense?

Q Right OK yeah.

B But what you're seeing here is basically like two reflections of childhood. Because Ria had a childhood which was very much jigsaws and arty and paper and stuff; I was in a household with two other brothers where it was very much more like co-operative role play play, straight into consoles, and then we all were absolutely hooked on the computers.

Q What was your first console that you had?

B Well we used to....

C ???

B No Zander, that was the first comic stuff I'd read. So basically when we were little we used to have the small hand hold consoles.

Q Oh right.

Time 35:00

B Now these are really old, like you can still find them today if you Google them. But they were like a little box and it had like a left and right button down and two buttons, one little screen, really, really terrible graphics.

Q Was it like Donkey Kong and things like that, and Snoopy Tennis and....yeah.

B Like Donkey Kong, exactly like that, Donkey Kong, and that was it. And me and my brothers would sit in the car and play with them, because we used to travel a lot.

Q Yeah I had one of those as well.

B And then the first console we really got was a Mega Drive and once we got the Mega Drive, and obviously it comes with like two pads and stuff, then it was a case....and we had three brothers so someone always had to sit out, and that was it from then on. And then what happened is, one of my other brothers would get a different console and then sometimes you'd play in your room with one of the consoles and sometimes you played together. And then throughout our childhood we just, like a lot of kids, just got the latest consoles as and when they came out, talked to friends at school, and that was a big thing. But obviously I've had a Playstation for a long time but ever since I've had kids it gets used solely as a DVD player. And actually nowadays for streaming it actually doesn't get used at all other than for the odd DVD.

Q Yeah.

B But as soon as that gets older I'm excited to get back into that world, because me and my friends were huge into consoles, and like some of them now who don't have kids are still playing like the co-opted games online with the headsets and all that, whereas obviously I've sort of like took myself out of that world a bit. But I can see it going full circle and then playing again with that. It worries me a little bit because it's very much more like....it's co-operative play but actually it's not very social, I can see people sitting in their dark rooms with their headsets talking to some other people around the world but there's not much interaction. That makes me a bit nervous, because when I grew up I would travel to a friend's house, we'd sit next to each other, we'd play these co-operative games, but we were actually integrating with one another. And I'm wondering what the kind of world is going to be like for Zander where a lot of it is done over the internet so you don't need to travel to your friend's house. So you're still playing with them but it's their voice you're hearing but you're not actually interacting with them. And me and Ria talked a bit about that and how that's going to be a bit different to like what I had in my childhood; and Ria just wasn't really into computers anyway so...

A I had an Atari.

B You had an Atari, yes. But what I love about it – and this is where it's good balance – is Zander is probably a bit more creative and artistic than a lot of his friends, because Ria is so good at sitting down with artwork, with pens, with papers, and they do a lot of art painting. And even creative play with like some of the ??? like building like ships and stuff. And that's the aspect that I'm so glad for Ria for, because I'm the go to 'right, what games do you like doing' do you know what I mean, so it has a nice balance. And with Greta, she loves the art as well, so we feel like we've got a very good balance, but obviously we are aware that....

A I worry that he is lacking actually in that side of things, not at films or gaming but just generally technology, we don't really have that many tech toys, and that would never be my thing either.

B Well what made that.....

A ??? which I know I probably should and I worry that he is like, not falling behind but....

B It's true. It became really apparent, because last night we sat down to fill in the form...

Q Oh yeah the survey, thank you so much for doing that.

A It's alright. It was massive.

B Well we did it over a glass of wine. But what was fascinating....

A And I was ticking and ???

B But what was fascinating is was like 14 different things listed and literally only three of them we did have in the house of the actual....

Q Really?

B And although I am aware of them all from being a boy and having friends and stuff, Ria wasn't really sure of any of them. And right now you could ask Zander and he wouldn't know any of them bar the ones that I've introduced him to.

Q What sort of things are you thinking of?

B OK. Well thinking of the list, obviously you talked about wearable devices. So obviously right now I've got a Garmin on, because I do a lot of running so I link Bluetooth to the computer at work and stuff so I am used to all that, and I understand that you can still get games on it and things like that. Ria doesn't have one, and Zander wouldn't have a clue what this is, he just thinks it's a watch. But obviously I understand all the technology and functionality within it, the way it's got my GPS and everything like that, so I use all the functionality. Zander's not been introduced to that yet. Then you've got the consoles like the Playstation. Zander at the moment knows it more as the football game on TV that he saw at the party. But then you get to the Nintendo Wii, and because he knows that and now the Switch, he understands what you mean when you're saying that. But then you add other things, like you add toys that was like tech toys, we don't really have any.

A Things like coding games and stuff like that.

B Or ones that you use Bluetooth or you use your mobile phone to control the cars and stuff, he's not got that yet. So he knows a radio controlled car but not the ones where you download the app and use the mobile phone. Because he doesn't really use our mobile phone. You know he uses it to watch a little thing in the car, or play Minions Run, and he can take photos, but one of the things is 'can you go on to the internet and go into Google and start search engines' and stuff like that. Zander's not been introduced to stuff like that yet.

Time 40:00

A He's done it with us through small bits of ???

B Oh he knows we shop via Amazon, which is an online store, but he wouldn't get the phone and say 'I'm going to call Grandad on Facetime' he wouldn't know how to do that yet because we're very, not strict but we don't like phones to be a big thing. We use it a lot when the kids have gone to bed but....

A I guess it's just that awareness of like I just don't want him to always see it in my hand and, you know on the table and stuff like that. I am quite strict about stuff like that.

B Well we're especially aware when we travel, or even go out for a meal, the amount of families – and we're not trying to judge – but the amount of families that actually have the tablets or the phones in front of a child just to keep them quiet. Or the adults are there on their own phone and there's no interaction between the family because they've all just got their phones or tablets. We've always said we don't want that.

Q Right. So do you have any kind of like....because it's been really interesting talking and getting different perspectives, I think we've spoken to Ria a bit about sort of general concerns around technology, and is that one thing that concerns you is like immersion in it?

B Yes.

A Yeah. That is the ultimate. I think that is my worry now, that I think by starting it at this age, letting him have more and more time, I think that is the ultimate thing, I wouldn't want it to ever damage a relationship, do you know what I mean? And I know I think I'm probably the extreme and I think it's probably my own like.....because I didn't really have anything like that when I was a child and I think that's probably how I....but I know you've got to move with the times, do you know what I mean, I know this. You know I don't want him to like be behind.

B No but it's not about moving with the times though, because even when we were growing up it was different in that I was a gamer - and I understand that and I get the benefits from that, like hand eye co-ordination and logical thinking and problem-solving – I mean that's pretty much for a job I do all that kind of stuff now and I'm still on a computer and all that. Whereas Ria is very creative and artistic but she's certainly not a gamer. You know even when we were first together she wouldn't sit down with the rest of us at university to play Golden Eye, she'd be with the girls maybe reading a book or going for a coffee or something. Whereas you do get some girls that like the gaming side as well, and some boys that just prefer....

Q You're such a gamer.

B Exactly, do you know what I mean? But I'm fully anticipating trying to get Greta into that world, you know, but obviously if she isn't into it...I mean this is why I like the...

A I don't think it's about gender, I don't think it's really about gender at all, it's just about my own....

B Yeah but I'm saying that me and you had a different upbringing, that you didn't have the gaming side, I did have the gaming side. So I'm not as worried....

A I think it's about getting the balance, we need to find a middle ground, do you know what I mean, I think that's where it ???

B We're both worried about security wise and the immersion level like you say, and how it can actually be more solitary playing, because you're playing on your own. But I see a

lot of benefits to computer games for the reasons like logical like sort of solving puzzles and things like that, I see it as....as long as it's the right balance it's a positive tool to add.

Q One thing I did wonder about when you were talking about people playing in a solitary way is, do you have any kind of thoughts about tech and computer gaming and emotional sort of well-being and things like that?

B Well I understand, like films, computer games have the age restrictions, and obviously we are very sort of aware of certain age restrictions and only let Zander get interactions at the levels we feel are acceptable. Because obviously the older they get the more elements of real world come into it, and some things we maybe want to keep him away from or protect him from right now. Because obviously, you know the world can be a scary place sort of thing. So we are aware of that but at the same time I like to see him....he asks so many questions when I'm introducing something new. Like Star Wars, it's like every two minutes he wants to know why this is like that, and I see him wanting to learn so much that I can't see how that can be a negative, do you know what I mean? And you can see how he's pulled a lot of those elements into his day to day play and stuff.

A I think with emotional well-being and stuff, I think that's the thing that concerns me, just more that you end up not living in like the real world. You know like it's just the phone, like it's almost like the first port of call, do you know what I mean? That it would be like....I don't know, I'm not expressing it very well.

Q Do you think though when you see him interacting with technology or playing games, what would you say his mood is like when he's playing?

Time 45:00

A That's what I mean, he is so into it that like he almost blacks out. I think when you were talking to him, you know it's quite hard to get answers out of him and stuff, he's like emerged – which is great because it's like he's focusing and concentrating on what he's doing. But I also think that when he's had some tablet time, half an hour or an hour or whatever, I do find that afterwards.....

B You think it affects his mood don't you?

A I think that he is grumpy.

C I'm not.

Q Is that when he comes off it?

A Yes.

B Yeah normally.

A And not just because we've said come off it, not that, because he is quite good at being like, you know 'that's enough, now I've had my time'.

Q Yeah, but ??? a mood after you stop him playing.

A Yeah. And I feel like we need to just get outside like, do you know what I mean? I don't know.

B But like when I see him playing with this now...

A I think it's like when you know when you've been on your phone and stuff like that, or you've done a lot of work on the screen, do you know what I mean, you are in that zone aren't you?

B Yeah, you go within yourself a bit don't you?

A Yeah.

B But like Zander's just spent time now looking for the exact pieces to create the hinge effect, you know that, and he's just come over to me and he's like 'yes, I found it daddy'. So you can see that emotion coming through the toy, that he's happy that he's managed to figure out that piece that actually give the movement that he was looking for, and he was happy about it and got excited about it.

Q So with that Lego he got excited when.....

B Yeah, he just came to me then and went 'daddy look', and he'd been looking for that for 10 minutes but I've been busy...

A But it's not like....he is like that with games. You know when you're playing games you can hear him. Like I remember standing here and he was like 'yes', 'no', you know he does engage with it and he is like....it is the same kind of play I guess.

B But you know like anything, you're happy with yourself when you've achieved something, and when he's figured something out he gets that happiness from it. But I was just saying to Ria what I found the most fascinating about the recent holiday we had where we actually went away with another family, and it was three boys, two boys especially around Zander's age is, I'd never seen Zander interact or laugh so hard as with those two boys. Because.....

A But that was just pure silliness, inventing their own games, do you know what I mean, they didn't really have toys did they?

B Well no but they were also like....he was being introduced to silly YouTube videos that the older boys were actually downloading, and then Zander was over their shoulder laughing his head off. And that's something he's not really been introduced to yet.

Q Right. I was going to ask about YouTube videos actually, whether he was aware of YouTube.

B Well he is, but normally if we're somewhere where the tablet isn't, we're in my car or we're waiting for something, or there's a long journey, I might go to YouTube and he knows you can watch videos like the top greatest Premier league goals, and he likes to watch the football goals.

Q Oh OK.

B But he wouldn't search for it himself, but he would say 'daddy, can I watch a video on this'.

Q OK.

B But the boys were showing him how easy it is on their phone and tablets like they'd borrowed from their parents, to do it themselves. And I can see that's the next thing that Zander will be doing.

Q So he was learning from other children about YouTube?

B Yes. And like right now he is very aware just from that holiday that from our phones there's even more you can do now that what he thought. He saw it as he can play Minions, he can take photos, and yet answer calls and do Facetime, but he now realises that this whole internet is in here, to an extent that the boys were searching for anything in YouTube and it was popping up and there were videos.

Q What sort of videos were they that he was enjoying?

B Zander, what was it that [boy's name] and [boy's name] were showing you on some of the videos that you were laughing your head off?

C Where?

B At the table in the restaurant and stuff.

A Was it people doing silly faces, or is that you?

B Zander what was it that they were getting you to watch?

C It was ???

A I think it was more them filming themselves.

B Ah, they were filming themselves being silly and re-watching it back.

Q Ah, so they were filming themselves and then they were playing it back.

B From the....obviously the camera's on the phone. But then funnily enough I saw Zander the next day when he got back together with them again, he made a film that they watched back.

Q Did he? Wow.

B So that was something he'd never done on our phones before, but because he'd been taught that day before. And then they were laughing their heads off. And it was a pointless

video of them just pulling silly faces but they found it absolutely hilarious. And that was something he'd just learnt from the day before.

Q And how did he feel about that, did you get a sense of how he felt about it?

B Well I said to Ria 'I've not seen him laugh so hard'.

A Uncontrollable, like you know that just pure silliness.

Time 49:30

B You see I said to Ria I remember it, because being the middle of three boys growing up and we were all so close in age, I laughed until I cried most days. And I said to Ria, as happy as I think Zander is and Greta is, because of the age difference and we're adults, I've not seen him laugh so hard as when he was with his friends of his own age and stuff like that. And that's obviously one thing that we realise we can't meet him at that exact level. But he was laughing so hard that....I mean the mum and dad we were with only gave him a certain amount of time on it, because obviously they didn't want....they're a bit of technology. But because they're a bit older as well they knew what they were doing, and Zander was just in his element, he was loving it. And then they were showing him new games on the tablets, and then the next day Zander wanted to play that game and was asking to play it. So you can see him really learning quickly from those boys. And this was without....none of us were having anything to do, the adults, so we were like looking after the little ones and they were teaching each other, and Zander was being taught by a boy like a year or two years older. And they were just playing so nicely and it was good to watch. And we didn't have to get involved and help them figure things out because obviously they could read and... And I found that fascinating.

Q Yeah. So kind of which types of technology in your opinion lead to sort of social play?

B Lead to social play?

Q Yeah. Because what you've just been describing is like a really sort of...making a film and turning it into like a social occasion.

B Well exactly. That shows to me though how one device could be one or the other. Because you could have the device, like a tablet, and you can play it on your own and you could be almost anti-social. And like Ria says, sometimes you're sort of saying 'Zander come to dinner' or 'Zander do this' and you can see he's so entranced in the game he's not hearing us, and then you think you've lost him for a bit. But then you see him interact co-operatively with other kids where they take turns and play it and watch each other play, and it's the same device.

A I think I notice at school as well you know when they have the laptops, they've only got two laptops and it is a very limited time, but I think I have seen when one of them is on it and the others are crowding round. I mean that is kind of a...I know it's not social but they're all helping each other, do you know what I mean, whatever they're doing whether it's a maths thing, or English, or like a game, they are all over each other's shoulders, you know

‘do that’ or ‘it’s that one’, they are all helping each other. It’s not like they’re fighting for the screen, they are all helping and like taking it in turns aren’t they?

B Well they were even telling Zander about Laser Quest, because they were having a Laser Quest party and all of a sudden Zander’s asking about Laser Quest and Paint Ball, and this is all from what he’s just learned in like 20 minutes.

A I guess that’s just a natural thing of being on his own isn’t it, they’re already there and ???

B It is yeah. But as for the actual toys that most....things like, you know radio controlled cars, we find Zander – even with Greta can play there because he creates the assault, the tracks, I mean he’s got to figure out how to go round and the forward and the backwards element and the under the tables, under the bridges. And we like that type of play because he plays with Greta, they take it in turns. Obviously Greta normally just drives forward and backwards. But those sort of toys are quite good.

A But that’s not really like, it’s not like a tech.

B No. The Wii’s brilliant because it’s co-operative play but there’s a bit of energy behind it when you’re doing basketball, tennis and there’s a bit of movement behind it. So obviously I was always for getting the Wii going, because we’d push the table away and he’d be doing his basketball and stuff like that. But then we were at Lyme Regis and we went into an arcade. Now Zander’s not really been into many arcades, and we were going to basketball machines where you put the tokens in and you’re throwing the basketball in, or the ones with the hammer, and he was loving all that kind of stuff as well. So I don’t know, it’s tough to say really isn’t it.

A It’s not really tech play though is it.

B Well they’re all electronical sort of games in a way aren’t they?

Q But what.....ooh, are you alright poppet? But what I kind of think you’re sort of saying is, it’s not so much the device as the company.

B Absolutely.

Q Is that what you sort of mean?

B I think a device could be one or the other depending on if you’re playing alone or playing with others. Because I’ve seen him with a phone where we don’t like the fact that after an hour he’s been on the tablet and we’re like ‘OK that’s enough Zander’ because you know we want you to do something else now. But if he was playing a game with Greta and he was showing her how to work things, then we may allow it to go on for a bit longer sort of thing. So I think....and when he was playing with the boys they were having so much fun, and you don’t want to stop that. And that was them playing on the same sort of thing but sharing, and almost learning and teaching each other, and watching each other, and like cheering for each other to do well. And that kind of thing, team work, you know problem-solving together. And that’s why I like it. To me, I’ve been a big just jumping....it’s all more tech based or just play based or even...

Q Any sort of tech or games that you see him....like do you get bored of quickly Zander? Is there anything you sort of get fed up with quickly?

C Yeah.

B What like Zander?

C When I play jigsaws.

B No that's not tech though. I'll tell you what tech we did get fed up with quite quickly is radio controlled helicopter.

Q OK.

Time 55:00

B And after we both crashed it about 3 times in the kitchen we moved off from that didn't we Zander? We were excited to open that and get it started and...yeah. We struggled with that one because it was very difficult within a confined space to actually fly a helicopter, and it was raining outside, and that was a toy that didn't last very long to be fair.

Q I think we had a drone that didn't make it past a couple of weeks.

B But he never, he doesn't get bored with his tablet. With his tablet and stuff like that you always have to stop him playing on it because that would....I think he'd just keep playing. He doesn't seem to get bored of games like that. Phone, actually I find with Minions Run, because it's very repetitive after about 10 or 15 minutes he would probably hand that back to me, but he would be like looking through the photos and he would move to a different element. He does understand about the fact that photos are still on the phone, he likes looking back.

Q Does he like looking through photos?

B Yeah he loves watching all the videos of himself, absolutely loves.

Q Does he? What, from when he was younger?

B Yeah. And he knows that they're on the phone and he'll sometimes say 'daddy, can I watch the videos on your phone', and he's actually been asking for that for years. And I'll pass him the phone at the video section and he'll just click and play them.

Q What kind of things does he like to watch himself?

B He likes watching himself just do anything, or remind himself about the time he did something. Well he loves re-watching climbing where he's on a climbing wall, or going down slides, or opening presents, they're the videos he goes to a lot of. But a lot of the time it's himself doing things. Well he wouldn't watch a video of me and Ria doing something, it's re-watching himself doing something.

Q Why do you think that is?

B Don't know. Probably because he likes watching himself play, or it reminds him of when he had fun doing it. Like he loves climbing, so when he's on the climbing wall he loves re-watching himself climb. Going down a slide is fun, he wants to see himself having fun on the slide.

Q Oh that's really interesting.

B And then that makes him smile again. So he's having that emotion all over again sort of thing.

Q Ah, because that's something I suppose that we didn't have in our childhoods is the ability to go back and actually see yourself do that stuff again. We've got photos but we didn't....unless the great big Betamax cameras and things like that, we didn't really have that sort of thing.

B It is. And that's the thing I wonder how our childhood would have differed because of that. Because right now you have to look at an old photo in a sort of shoe box or something, whereas Zander and his friends will be able to just go online, go on Facebook or something like that, and look at all the different pictures and they'll be able to re-live their childhood very vividly through pictures and videos. And that's something we've got no idea what it's going to be like. But that also worries me massively. The fact is, I'll be honest, like we're worried about some parents posting....

A No that's not....no I wouldn't say it's....it's everyone to do their own thing.

B But you know, you post pictures of kids and eventually that's out there for ever isn't it?

Q So are there sort of safety aspects? I know that we've talked about safety aspects as well haven't we, but are there any sort of safety aspects you worry about? You were just sort of saying about images being out there and being out there for ever.

B Once they're out, they're out for ever aren't they? And I've watched....

A And then it's not their choice, I think that's what it is for me.

Q OK, so there's a consent thing?

A Yeah, it's not their choice, they don't have a choice, and we can speak for them you know up until however old they are, but I don't like the idea that like in the future you know there's embarrassing....not embarrassing but you know like things that other people could use against him or something like that.

Q OK.

B No but I watched a documentary where they called the kids of today, they gave it a name, and it's the kids that are being brought up on Facebook and what's going to happen when they are adult – not even adults. When they're older they go into the playground and

their friends can find really embarrassing pictures that were posted of them when they were like 5 or 6, and they may get actually bullied from it. And I watched a programme saying that this is a real concern for people. And we're worried like when Zander gets his first Facebook account, or his first phone, like how you track all that. And once he posts something he may grow up and feel differently, but he can't take that back.

Q So do you have any kind of rules in the family about social media use and things like that?

B He doesn't know what it is right now.

A I think you mean like he wouldn't want ??? posting on it.

B Oh yeah, my dad's been told off by me and my older brother a few times. Because we'll go over to play and he'll post a picture, and we say 'you did not ask us permission to post that picture' which may have the odd kids in it, so he got told off a bit. He doesn't really understand what he's doing on Facebook, he probably doesn't mean to do it. But we actually, we do not post next to any pictures of our kids on Facebook at all.

Q OK.

Time 1:00:00

B Like my profile picture might have just a nice picture of one of them, and that's it. But you know we know a lot of people who post a lot, we decide not to, we choose not to.

Q OK and that's because of what you were saying about the implications further down the line, is that right?

A Yeah, partly because of that. And partly I think, you know whoever we choose to share our photos with on What's App, or you know what I mean, our friends and family, we just would do that anyway wouldn't we, I don't really think....

B Yeah, I mean we don't see why everyone in the world is going to want to see a picture of like Zander getting a trophy for a football game. Whereas our family would and so we'd send it on a What's App.

A Yeah we don't really send it on a What's App because that's ??? I just worry, I guess because I'm not that techno savvy, I guess I don't really understand the implications of it, so I'd rather just not. Do you know what I mean, I don't really know how it could be used and who could see it.

B Well I was going to say, we're not so naïve to not understand the power of social media and how people now, that's their professions, they can become very rich through it. And we know, like running your own businesses, you need to understand that level of things as well, so we understand that there's a huge positive nature to it all as well. And like when we were doing something for charity the other year, we used it very well to help raise money. So obviously we do understand the really powerful side of it.

Q Oh right, which charity was that?

B Well the charity was for....

A Muscular dystrophy.

B Muscular dystrophy, yeah.

Q Oh OK.

B So I used it when me and my friends did a running challenge, I used it to help drum up support and obviously help to raise money.

A It's just like my niece has got like a really rare form, really, really rare, it's quite life....it's quite....but obviously they used it and it's really positive, you know, documenting her story. And I can kind of see it, and the amount of community they've built, it's really incredible.

Q Oh wow, OK. So they use it as a....

A So they use it to do that.

Q So in their case it's like a support network?

A Yeah, and I think it helps a lot of people. And people are....there's so much interest in [girl's name], you know everyone knows about [girl's name]'s story, like you know ??? I think it's kind of different. And I think that's a really positive way of keeping people updated about how she is, do you know what I mean and things like that.

Q Yeah.

A But I think ??? I don't like, yeah it's just not, I don't think if I've got something to share about the kids or, you know your family and friends, you share it with your family and friends.

Q Yeah, like personally kind of...yeah.

A Yeah.

Q Is it partly because, I don't know, Facebook, you can have people who you're not close to on there and....is it something to do with like controlling who can see what?

A I guess so. But also it's more for the fact that I just don't want loads of photographs of them plastered everywhere and not knowing.....you know.

B Well it's not their choice, they're not being asked about it, and they're going to have to live with that for ever.

A Yeah.

B And then there's part of me that's like why do I want to see that they made breakfast this morning, or went there, or went there, and I barely know these people. I'm not that bothered about their intricate stories.

A But I think we're ???

B I don't know, I think we've got a lot of friends who feel the same as us.

A It's a personal choice isn't it.

Q I know that we've talked about there being an Alexa in the house as well, and I think you were talking about....

A She's off.

B She's off, but that wasn't my decision.

A She's going to be on strike I think.

Q So did you introduce the Alexa to the house?

B Yes. I got the Alexa first in the corner. Then I got another one in the kitchen. And once the kids understood about it they absolutely loved it, and they were always asking for silly things like the Poo-poo Song or Baby Shark and stuff. They loved it. But then Ria spoke to her mum and heard about the story about people are listening in on your private stuff – and all of a sudden it got turned off!

A I think again, because I don't understand the implications of it and I just don't have....I know it's really boring, it just says like what are we having for dinner, you know it's nothing....but I just don't like the idea of someone in an office....

B But you're quite private, it's OK.

A And I think that's where I get to, I think you do realise that I am actually quite a private person, like I don't...do you know what I mean?

Q How interesting.

A And I think that is a thing about technology, I think if you've got someone listening in to like....

B But then I've always said as well, it's like we want Zander and Greta to understand about technology, and they were understanding about Alexa and now Alexa's gone from the household. And like that was fun, because they'd ask for songs. And sometimes I'd show Zander he could ask for something, so he could say 'what's the population of something' or 'what's the Everton score', so he understood that he could ask and get information back from it. And I saw that as like quite....

A But I don't like the idea that people can stream, that people can like market to you in like listening to your conversations, like target you online. I don't know, I just think I'm not techno savvy enough to understand that.

B But yeah, Alexa's taken a break at the moment.

A She's just unplugged.

Q So would you say you're the person who makes the decisions about what technology comes into the house?

Time 1:05:00

B Er....I might....I will ask permission from the real boss.

Q So there's like a discussion?

B Yes. But like when it comes to getting our first console, there will only be one of us who sorts all that out – and I'm desperate for that to happen, but I'm more than happy to wait until we both agree it's right. Because that is obviously more of what I remember from my childhood sort of thing. But you know there's some very....

Q So do you think there's like a nostalgia bit to it as well?

B For me, definitely. Like I actually can't wait to introduce....like it's not quite technology but I introduced Zander to The Beano the other week because it was nostalgia from my childhood. And when we're playing Mario Kart, that was nostalgia from my childhood.

A And then when we read it we were just like 'actually this isn't really....

B Oh yeah, we realised it's completely unacceptable in this day and age, The Beano.

A It's not PC in any way, shape or form.

B 'So we'll take that back Zander'. The dad using slippers on the kids and stuff. I was like 'ooh'. It's like 'Zander, I used to read this'. So obviously some things aren't PC any more. But like when Zander learns about Mario and Sonic it makes me smile because I remember that.

Q Ah, yeah.

B And the technology and the graphics are way better than they used to be but it's something that like resonates for me, because from childhood that was a big thing with me. And like my biggest thing is, I love superheroes, and the fact that Zander gets into superheroes, and then now Star Wars, warms my heart, because to me that was massively nostalgia based.

Q So have you watched like the Lego Superhero, I know you mentioned Batman but have you....

B Yeah. Obviously all the Justice League ones we've watched, and actually in the car we have a TV behind my seat in the car, and on long journeys Zander would have the headset on watching TV. And he went through a phase of purely watching the Legacy Hero films. And because of that he knows the characters, and then he gets the Lego pieces and you'll hear him say about the Dark Side and about Thanos and all that.

Q Oh Thanos, yeah.

B That's all coming from that side of things. So he has learnt the characters from that. And later on, when I'd like to introduce him to the live action films like the Marvel films and the DC films, he'll already know those characters from the Lego films. And that's where I was. I didn't want to rush him too quickly when it wasn't age appropriate, into stuff that I love. Like I would never miss opening night on all these films. But I got to introduce him to the characters via the form of Lego early, so he knows all about Superman and he knows Superman is my favourite.

Q So Lego was quite a good gateway to the superhero universe.

B Absolutely. When I realised...because when Lego brought out Lego Batman I had as much fun as Zander did. I got all the adult stuff he didn't get, went over his head, and the nostalgia level, but he loved it. So we got to share it together. And now he knows about Batman and his butler and Robin the sidekick and all that. So I smiled that I've shared it with him. And then the Top Trump cards, we got the DC Top Trump cards. And then when he's older and I show him the real live action films he's already got that huge understanding and appreciation for the character.

Q Right. So it's kind of like a literacy sort of thing almost.

B It's a great way that I've been able to use things like Lego to introduce Zander to something that means so much to me at an early age and see that he already likes it and is excited about it. And obviously Star Wars, this has just been the thing that's exploded in the house right now, and it's all Star Wars, he wants Chewbacca teddy for Christmas.

Q Oh gosh.

B And when we went in the Build A Bear he saw Chewbacca and you can get the gun and stuff like that.

Q Oh do they do that at Build A Bear, I didn't know that.

B They do that now as well, yeah. So that's sort of huge and stuff like that.

Q So he's got sort of like he'd want soft toys that reflect his interests as well.

B Exactly, not just the Lego, he wants to watch the next Star Wars film. Like I've said no because unfortunately it's a 12, but he wants to watch episode 1, 2, and 3, and 5, 6, 7, sorry 7 and 8, he knows 9 is at the cinema Christmas. I've got a friend who will take their kids to the cinema to watch it ??? so I'm aware that he's going to be being told about that at school now. And a lot of them....I'm not saying I think maybe they're a bit old for him, but

they've seen all the Avengers films. So Zander meets kids and they're starting talking about Thanos and all that, and Zander hasn't been introduced to those characters yet. So it's us trying to work out 'well when is the right time to introduce him'. If he shows an interest and we feel it's appropriate – great, but is that interest going to come from outside or from in-house. And that's where we've got this constant sort of discussions on what is and isn't appropriate at the age he's at really.

Q So do you set any rules in the house for tech at all?

Time 1:09:50

B We do but they don't have to be too stringent because the kids aren't too....they're not really going on about them too much. Zander knows he gets tablet time at weekends, and with TV he can watch it for 10 or 15 minutes when we're having breakfast, and at night time normally if any of his learning log's been done and after dinner, he normally gets half an hour of his favourite programme. And on a Friday, Ria mentioned, he has film afternoon when he gets back from school and we can have some popcorn. He appreciates that. But they're actually quite good at respecting that. We know eventually he's going to want it more, when he talks about it to friends more and he'll want the consoles and he'll want this, that and the other, but right now you can see he's quite happy to play with his Lego even though the TV is right there. And if we went upstairs and we came back down in half an hour, Zander wouldn't just have switched that on and be sat there. That will probably come at some point, if he's allowed to watch it, and he'll say 'can I watch a film' and he'll sit in there, he'll be happy and he'll concentrate, and nowadays Zander will watch a whole film without getting bored. But if we left him he would continue playing Lego or he'd go and find something else to do.

Q Does he play when he's watching TV?

B That's an interesting one, because your form talked a bit about that. And I said to Ria 'I'll be honest, when he watches TV he watches the TV' because he immerses himself in it, like I would. You know some people are on their phone when they're watching TV, I watch TV, I completely immerse myself in it. And Zander's very much like me, he'll play with one thing and he will go into that, and you can barely even talk to him because he's so immersed in it. Whereas other people, Ria is a bit like this, we'll be watching TV and I'll look over and she's on her phone, so she's like multi-tasking. Greta – the TV will be on and then after about 5 minutes she's lost interest and she's playing on the table with toys, whereas Zander is very much in tune with what's going on.

Q I just thought it was interesting when you mentioned earlier how he'd dress up as Lloyd to watch Ninjago, I thought that was really....

B Yeah well that's what he did when he was younger. If he was going to watch The Gruffalo he'd put his Gruffalo outfit on and watch Gruffalo. And he did that with Lloyd. Now, he will wear whatever he wants to wear, and he's actually very...he makes his choices about what he wears, sometimes to the disagreement of mummy, but he'll just watch in normal clothes but then when the TV's off and he's in his room playing he'll become the character and role play. And that's something new that he didn't do when he was younger, and that's from the memory of what happens in the films, and then he's showing Greta about the character and stuff. So yeah I would say Zander's very much like what he's doing he's

focused on solely, that's very much how I was. Greta is a bit more mix and match and sort of flowing from one to the other sort of thing.

Q I'd really like it if we could sort of watch you play some sort of tech games with Zander, whether you'd be able to put the Wii on or....

B Well we could put the Wii on, or it can obviously be the tablet where we take turns in the racing game.

C Daddy, I want the Wii.

B Do you want to play Mario Kart? The only problem with Mario Kart is the last time we played Mario Kart the batteries in the controller had gone. I think we've got them in the cupboard though haven't we? And that was basically why it got put back away didn't it?

Q2 Have you seen this ice cream cart now?

Q Oh.

Q2 I think it's the best ice cream cart I have ever seen.

Q That's amazing. Oh.

Q2 So if you put a card in it says like ??? mint ice cream ??? and when you pick up the ice creams it says like Strawberry.

Q That's really clever.

Q2 Isn't that awesome. So you have to learn about colours and counting, animals.

Q That's really clever.

Q2 It's amazing.

Q That is an amazing ice cream cart.

B Can I interest you two in a chocolate? Help yourself.

Q2 I might have one, yeah thank you.

B So we'll kick off.

Q Right.

B ??? it's because, because we have breakfast at the table and the TV is always on in the background and like the programmes on Channel 5 come on, and she obviously loves Peppa Pig, it's the only thing she'll sit and watch. We've realised that Greta has now reached that level where she'll sit and she loves to copy her brother. So Zander will be sat on the couch with a rug over him watching, Greta sometimes with the TV not even on will sit on the couch, put the rug over her and ask for popcorn, because that's what her brother does.

Q Oh so she's...

B So she wants to be her brother. She always wants to do everything that her brother does. She's not actually watching anything.

Q But she's almost playing that the TV's on?

B Absolutely, and she just copies what her brother does. Like she's absolutely obsessed now with actually wearing her brother's clothes, she just wants to be like her big brother. But like where Zander will then put something on for her, she'll now watch it. She used to have no interest in what was on but she'd just sit there. If it's Peppa Pig she's transfixed. Anything else she'll last 5 minutes and she's off and doing something else. And she actually very much loves to go up to the TV a lot, I find her always stood at the TV and I'm like 'Greta, come away from the TV'. I don't know why that is. Zander was never like that.

Time 1:15:00

A Really close.

Q Right.

B She goes right up and wants to sort of almost touch Peppa.

Q Oh. Oh that's quite sweet though.

B Yeah exactly. But then it's like 'come away, it's going to do...'

Q Strange things to your eyes.

B Right Zander, are you going to set Mario Kart up for us?

C Yeah.

A I feel like I need to just put some of this Lego away.

B Well I said....yeah. You see that's the other thing, a slight restriction we have is the space in the lounge isn't ideal for the Wii because we've got to move the table. Mario Kart we can sit on the couch. But you know when we used to do the basketball and stuff, that's a bit more of a pain really and I think we'd probably do that more if we had a better set up for it. We are thinking about getting a sort of TV or Smart TV in the playroom where they can start doing things like that, where they can watch some things. But obviously things like the Wii.... are you giving me this beautiful?

Q Does Greta have a sort of....when we talked about playing and watching TV, does she ever sort of play with other bits of technology and play that she's using it?

B Yes. So if like she sees Zander playing on a tablet, yeah she will sit with her tablet, it's upside down, she doesn't know what she's doing but she's looking over at her brother and she wants to do the same thing. So she's playing at playing on the tablet and matching

her brother. And if he's got a cushion on his lap and the tablet on top, she puts the cushion and the tablet. So she's completely mirroring what he does. But then I'll come over and like 'you've got it upside down Greta', because she's not actually understanding what she's doing on the game but she just wants to do what.... And that's something that Zander didn't have because he didn't watch other people do it. So it became when he was ready he did it and then he's enjoying it. This is where we know an older sibling helps. But Greta is just already trying to push what her capabilities are because she wants to copy what her brother's doing.

Q So how did Zander first sort of get introduced to computers and tech?

B Well the tablet, which is the Kindle we got, we got on his 3rd birthday. We decided 'time for tablet', it will help educationally but it's also going to be quite good for games. Because I was looking forward to introducing him to games. The laptop he was introduced to at school through the educational game the CBeebies, and then obviously after he'd done his learning log back home we'd let him play CBeebies on my laptop. The tablet was very much our decision at 3 to play. But he doesn't really do his....the tablet is more about when we're in the car, travelling abroad, going to my grandparents. When he's here he doesn't play his tablet too much, although now he's getting a bit older and we've got a new Star Wars game for the tablet and stuff, he's starting to ask to play it.

Q Oh OK.

B So there's that change now where he's actually actively wanting to play it a bit. He understands he's got to be limited to how much he can use it, but yeah he is starting to ask to play his tablet now, which is something different because it used to be sort of for travel really.

Q2 To do with like the new fascination with Star Wars and that fixation, it's kind of anything Star Wars he wants to kind of absorb and be part of?

B That's a definite, because his tablet he's loved for ages but now after Star Wars you see the Star Wars being in the Lego now, you can see he wants to play. And when he had his tablet he said 'can you download a Star Wars game for me daddy', so I downloaded free Star Wars games for him and he was hooked on them, and it was Star Wars, Star Wars, Star Wars. Like before that it was Lego Batman, Lego Batman, Lego Batman. So yeah he's certainly taking something that he's now interested in and you see it coming across all the technologies and all the play and stuff. But Star Wars right now has ripped through the house in teddies, Lego, tablet, TV, it's all about Star Wars. Oh role play, like he wants a light saber, because he's got a sword but that's not the same as the light saber.

Q I think last time he was showing us his light saber noises wasn't he and how he could make the right noise.

B Exactly, yes.

A ??? Star Wars games as well which is really great.

B So an absolute definite that with being introduced to this new thing it's had the ripple effect across everything. Right Zander are we....

C ???

B Yeah but those pieces have been gone for ages haven't they?

Q2 I might video some of this if that's alright.

B That's absolutely fine.

Q2 Would you like me to keep you out of it?

B No you can keep me in it, but if I lose I will start...you know.

Q2 So we can get rid of it!

B Just edit some of it! Right Zander, if I can just set this up....here Zander.

Q So what game is this that you're going to be playing?

B We're going to play Mario Kart, but the tidy fairy has been around here. Let me find where the Mario Kart CD is. Zander, do you know where mummy has put Mario Kart?

Time 1:20:00

Q Do you know how long you've been playing Mario Kart together?

B Yeah I would probably say.....because I had a Wii I got it out of the cupboard when he was like 4, so....look I'll be honest, we don't use it absolutely tons but when I first got it out we loved it and played all the sports games, and that was about 4. And then for one Christmas Santa got him Mario Kart on the Wii, and I think that was when he was probably between 4 and 5, and then we played it quite a lot. And when he wants to play now, Mario Kart is normally the game he asks to play and stuff.

Q Right.

B Mummy, I'm trying to find Mario Kart but I think someone's tidied it up. Don't ask you but you will have been the person to move it. That's the Playstation game, Zander won't be playing them for a bit.

Q Do you have a Wii Me, have you ever made a little avatar of yourself?

B Yes, and Zander, Zander's got his own.

Q Has he? Can we have a look at that?

B Absolutely. Zander, where is Mario Kart?

C Oh I know where it is.

B I was going to say, you should know, can you help me find it. Ah, got it.

C Yes!

B OK so before we put that on then I'll show you the....so Zander, you created your avatar didn't you, your Wii avatar.

C Can I see my character?

B Yeah, I'll show you your character.

C I want to see my character. I want to make a new one of me.

B OK, so if we go into....

C I want to make a different one of me.

Q It can be quite addictive can't it making Wii Me's.

B Well as soon as Zander realised there was one of me and mummy we had to create one of Zander, because he couldn't play any games without his avatar.

C Daddy, I want to make a new one of me.

B Right, so here we are now. So you can see the ??? over there, don't know where the names come up, there, Miles, that's me. But that one looks like Zander.

C I want to change it.

B Look, who is that – Zander. So Zander helped create that.

C Daddy I want to do a different one.

B But that's when you had real spiky hair, we need to sort of adapt it a bit. This with the glasses in nanny. And that was....no nanny's never played. Oh no nanny came round once and Zander created the avatar with her. So that was really...and then this is Greta.

C So did Zander show her how to do it?

B Nanny. Nanny had no idea whatsoever so Zander helped. We were trying to teach nanny to be fair because nanny wasn't very good, and Zander was saying 'you need your hair, you need your eye colour' and obviously nanny's got glasses. And then we did create a Greta, you see Greta has never played but we've got a Greta there. And then down, that's grandad – and you can see grandad's got his grey hair and stuff like that. So he loves doing that. And then obviously mummy down there looking very prim and proper and ready to go out!

A I've never been described as prim and proper before!

B OK, so Zander, do you want to play some Mario Kart.

C I'm going to break this plane.

Q Zander, what have you just made?

Q2 Oh wow.

C A plane.

B Look at that!

Q2 That's amazing.

Q That is very good.

B So describe that Zander, whose plane is it?

C Don't know yet.

B But who's going to fly it? You can't fly it without someone in....

C The invisible man.

B I was going to say, because you need a pilot to fly it don't you?

C There's not enough space because of the.....

B So what can we do about that?

C ???

B No but how could we create some more space for someone to sit in. What could we do?

C I'm happy with it.

B ??? I don't know which way it goes round. Are you ready for a bit of Lego. Zander did love the sports on there as well.

Q Did he?

B Do you remember the bicycle one where we were riding bikes? That was just tiring.

Q So when you play, do you think you're kind of a family that plays a lot of games together as a family would you say?

B We try to, especially board games. Me and Ria both do love board games and we love jigsaws. We've got tons of board games and every year we buy more and more don't we. And Greta has not got the....she's not sort of quite there yet to play a board game but when she goes for her daily nap that is when we play board games. So like normally she'd go for like a morning nap and we would get board games out. And Zander, what's your favourite

board games you like playing? You love your Disney and...but yeah we love co-operative play like that because that's where we can all be part of it.

Time 1:25:00

Q Do you have any board games – when you just mentioned Disney just then – that go across all different types of media?

B Ah well this one is Zander's absolute favourite game.

Q I Found It, Disney, I Found It, ah.

B Yeah. And the board is huge and he absolutely loves playing this. And normally we wait until we've got like grandparents up, and this is still Zander's favourite game. And we're waiting until we can introduce Greta to it. And what we love about it is, all the characters he now knows from all of his TV and the Pixar films and stuff like that and the Disney films, but it's obviously the board game element that I love about it, the race to the castle. But also it's the co-operative play where we all have to look for the items, and then it's the cumulative score that helps us all move forward. So it's like a proper team. And you're not against each other, you're all trying to get to the castle before it strikes midnight. And you love that game Zander don't you.

Q Ah right. Oh it looks really good.

B And he gets to pick characters, so he can be Lightening McQueen or Buzz Lightyear and Elsa....

Q Ah, so you can pick the characters out of his films.

B Yeah, and he likes to be certain characters. So you love that Zander don't you? Excuse me Zander. But another game that I actually bought for Zander, because we were talking about nostalgia, is....

C Nostalgia, what's nostalgia?

Q Oh Scribble Scrabble.

B Because I remember this as a kid, so we bought it straightaway. And you love trying to do that don't you, and that's obviously all the puzzles and stuff like that. But do you know who loves it most? She just presses the buttons and likes the sound of the clock going, and every time she comes here....there's two games Greta loves, there's Pop-up Pirates which she actually can play now; and this which she has no idea what's going on but she absolutely loves it, you can always get it out.

Q Fantastic.

B She loves it so much that she'll tell you if you only get one of the steel balls out that there should be two balls and stuff.

Q Do you want to get it out? Are you....is it alright?

B Do I mind? Absolutely, we can do Mario Kart in a little while.

Q Yeah sure.

B Is there any time you guys have to go, because we can talk all day.

Q We won't keep you all day, we absolutely promise.

A Do you want to set it up?

B It's set up, but I think....but obviously....

A Greta, you know how to set this up don't you?

Q Oh she's.....

B Mummy.

Q Are you familiar with Scribble Scrabble?

B Oh yeah, see, she's getting the pieces out.

C Daddy look.

B Greta, do you know where those pieces go?

D Yeah.

B You see this is why it's such an exciting time with Greta because she's starting to....put it up here then Greta. Where does it go? Good girl..... planet and read a graphic novel and ??? Greta I don't think it's in there. The ball's not in there baby, it must have rolled on the floor.

Q So did you read comics when you were younger as well then?

B Yes, and I still to this day buy a few graphic novels now and again because I still love that sort of element. But when I was younger I used to draw a lot, like I'd draw all Beano, the covers, comic libraries collectable ???

C I've got a Beano comic.

B You have got a Beano comic now. And then obviously when I've sort of got into...yes so obviously there was the Beano and stuff, but yeah and then the graphic novels, when I got into comics I used to sort of love collecting, I like collecting things, and I'd collect comic....we can just play Mario Kart. You see yeah I love that. Because obviously comics are quite difficult for a child too young to read, because like you said you know the speech bubbles and where you have to read it. I've shown Zander a few comics but he's not quite there yet but he likes the pictures and stuff. OK let's play Mario Kart.

Q Yeah. I won't hold you up any more. So you were saying about you quite like sporty games?

A I quite like sporty games because it feels like when they're having screen time it doesn't really count as screen time because they're still being a bit active.

Q OK.

A Like it makes me feel a bit better about....

Q2 So games that include movement?

A Yeah, and like that football game that I've heard about where.....

C I'm ready to go on the beats.

A Well done.

C ???

A Yeah that football game where it's basically like a...yeah there's a ball balanced on a stand and you have to kick it and it kind of....

Q Oh does it show you where it would have gone?

A Yeah I think so, yeah. I think that's quite cool. I quite like the idea that there's some skill I guess involved, rather than....

Q Have you played like Wii sports with them?

A Yeah.

Q What sort of sports have you played?

A I quite like the tennis. What else is there? I can't remember, it's been a while to be fair.

B You love that bike game, the bicycle game.

Time 1:30:00

A Yeah, and basketball isn't it, yeah.

B Even fencing, you had fencing and you liked that a bit. Because that was a bit like the Ninjago stuff where you can like....

A Yeah.

Q So did you play that sort of with....have you played that with friends or have you played that with....

A I mean we used to play it. But yeah with Zander, probably just more as a family.

B We played it at my grandparents house.

A Oh yeah, we take it in turns don't we.

B That's why we created these avatars wasn't it?

A Yes that's right, yeah.

Q Have you ever played any kind of singing games, or things like Rock Stars?

A No. Again we used to, we had like all that Sing Star and stuff, but we haven't actually done it. And I know we've been to a friend's house and they had like a karaoke thing and actually it got out of hand, you know they were all shouting on it, it wasn't...you know.

Q Oh so the kids were all playing on it as well?

A The kids were all like loving it, yeah. And I know...it sounds bad doesn't it...it's just that Zander's never really shown any interest in like singing, even musical instruments, I mean I've put them all out and stuff and he doesn't really....

B But Greta does.

A But Greta does love it and she sings all the time. You know and I kind of think, don't know, unless they kind of express a bit of interest. I suppose if you had one he'd probably play it wouldn't he and....

B She was playing with that guitar a lot this morning again though, you know the one that ???

A Yeah. I think it would be interesting to do Sing Star I guess, you know songs that like he knows and something like that.

Q Yeah we used to really enjoy Sing Star. But I think as well, we live in like a semi and you always think like through the walls...

A Yeah, neighbours, yeah there is a bit of that I think.

Q But there's games you can get isn't there where there are like instruments that you can sort of....

A Is that like Rock Star?

Q Yeah, because you can get like a whole drum kit that's connected to the computer and things like that.

A Yeah, I have heard of that, yeah.

B 11 – what happened – what happened to you?

A I guess it depends like how musical as well like you are. You know because I think Miles probably isn't into music are you really?

C Daddy, I want to do a different ??? Do you have to stick on the beach thing level?

B Yeah.

C I want to have the bike again.

B Yoshi Falls is the next one. Yoshi Falls?

C Yeah.

B Are you sure? It could be quite difficult.

C I want a go on the motorbike. Mummy I'm on a really good motorbike. Mum you'll see me in a minute.

Q2 Who is the best character on it do you think?

C This one.

Q2 This one?

B No. Why do you think he's the best?

Q I've just got another question actually as well. I wondered have you ever, or have the children ever sort of played with anything to do with virtual reality or anything like that?

B I have obviously.

Q Have you?

B Zander's only sort of exposure to that at the moment is, we went to...in Sheffield there was a dinosaur exhibition outside in one of the [place name] gardens. And there there was a virtual reality dinosaur ride and me and Zander both had a go and had a helmet on, and then you were going around that and stuff. So that's the only thing that Zander's really done. But I've done like, you know indoor skydiving but with the virtual reality helmet?

C Daddy.

B Oh that's it, good boy. And obviously we've got friends at work who, even with the phone now you can put it in the VT headset. And then actually what we do as a job, we've actually used virtual reality to walk through our machines we design as well sort of thing.

C Daddy, daddy, the sand people.

B Oh the sand people, just like in the film. Yeah so he hasn't had too much of an exposure yet, but as soon as we've got a Playstation again – we'll get a Playstation 4 when he's a bit older – we'll definitely get the headset because I want to try all that augmented reality stuff now as well. Because you know when I was a kid I couldn't wait for online gaming, I couldn't wait for things like virtual reality, so I've still got that excitement inside of me to experience it all over again with Zander and Greta. So yeah I've had a bit of exposure, and Zander's had that one ride and he understands about putting a helmet on and looking round and stuff.

Q What do you think he got out of the experience, what did he make of it?

B I think he loved it because it was like a ride but I think the fact that you could look all around and see it, it was different to just watching that 2D screen on a film. But he also said he felt a bit sick after it, so obviously he got the sort of nauseous feel like that. But I think it was just because you're fully immersed in it, because everywhere you look you see it and you feel like you're really there, and that goes a level beyond just watching the TV. So I think in that sense he just loved the experience. And we also went, it wasn't quite virtual reality but like 4D. So it was one of those cinemas where you're actually on the seat and the seat's moving around and you've water spraying in your face, so it's immersing you with all your senses?

Time 1:35:00

Q Where was that?

B That was actually at a play park in Sheffield where they've got like a 4D cinema. And it was like a 15 minute short where you were flying through the city and going in the sewers, and the water was spraying and the seats were moving, and you had like the 3D glasses on so you got the 3D effects. He absolutely loved that.

Q And that was like going through Sheffield?

B It wasn't Sheffield, it was just like this city, into the sewers and up into the clouds and stuff.

C Daddy, sand people's going to go.

B OK, go on bud. You're beating them. But yeah I'm excited about that part of it.

Q You were saying you use virtual reality in your work, what sort of....

B Well we design these big sort of pieces of mining equipment, and it's all part of the big mine, like open pit mine. And we've now used virtual reality to walk through the mine, up the equipment so people, so our customers, can get a feel for actually walking throughout our structure and being able to see things up close. So we've used virtual reality in that sense.

Q So do you think that's the way things are sort of going?

B Definitely. We've brought that in, because a lot of what we do you need to make that sale. And they want – other than flying over to the....

C Daddy, daddy, look.

B Go on Zander, go on. Yeah other than flying over to the other side of the world to visit the mine site, if we can actually let them feel like they're actually walking around one of our mines in the comfort of their own office, then obviously we see that as a great sales tool. So yeah we've used it actually on a work level for that. But I'm excited to actually see it more in cinemas, because I'm massively....I love going to the cinema.

Q Do you go to the cinema with Zander and Greta?

B Loads, me and Zander loads. Greta has never been yet but me and Zander love going. And we watched Abominable the other day, that one about the yeti, and Zander loves that. And obviously where we can do 3D, I like to show him 3D because it's like that level above. And when we've gone to the Peppa Pig world and places like Alton Towers you've got the 4D cinemas.

A And like we went to that Planetarium at the Space Museum and that was ???

B Planetarium.

A ???

Q Is that the one at Leicester?

A Yeah, he was like....I mean we were all like that. Greta wasn't. And it was incredible, you know for like kids to see that, it's just that's really like.....

B But like they've got the smell and the taste and the sort of feel and movement and stuff, which obviously just gives that extra level to the experience. And I'm excited to see where movies go, because I think eventually you'll get movies where you almost put your headsets on and you can like experience different parts of the movie from different angles and stuff.

Q Like if you turn your head round you'll be in the movie almost.

B Yes. But I don't know how they're going to do, because you know a movie is all about you understanding certain key elements to the movie. And if you're not looking where you're meant to be looking as that key element is shown to you...I don't know how they'll tackle that. It worked on a gaming level because you can explore your world, but a film has to sort of follow a....so I'm excited to see how it develops. But just like Avatar came out and the 3D got better, I think we'll start to see stuff that's more augmented reality in that sense. So I'm excited about seeing that, just for me. And obviously Zander's going to get to experience. And he already gets these incredible effects on these movies already that we didn't get, so I can only imagine. And like you see it in gaming and everything now, virtual reality on Playstation, and you know as soon as we get that we'll be getting a headset and experience games like that and stuff.

A You're so excited.

Q Is there any kind of toy or game that you'd like to sort of see that doesn't exist yet? Is there something you could sort of imagine that you think would be great to play with?

B Well it already exists now, but when I was growing up and we were playing, I wanted the ability to be able to play with people when they were in their homes and interact. So not just a two player but like as many players as you want. But they do that now you know. So that's something as a kid I dreamt of it happening, and it's happened. But as for an actual toy....hard to say. I'm looking forward to...Zander likes his sports and stuff but that's weather permitting, and if you can get the sort of virtual reality where you almost put a headset on and you can play football when it's raining or something. Or like you know like a laser quest or paintball but you can do it via a headset, so you haven't got the pain of feeling the pain of paintball. So stuff like that, you can experience a lot. And also, for people who are a bit more immobile, they can still experience the fun of stuff like that, like going white water rafting. Like when I did skydiving it went up 5 or 6 levels by putting the headset on and having the virtual reality while I was doing it. Because basically we did it without, and with, and without was fun but when I did it with, the level it took it up to felt like I was skydiving. And I can only imagine if that is going to improve the experience I'm all for that in any medium.

Time 1:40:15

Q Yeah.

B And even through....we watch Apprentice and there was that one where Alan Sugar had people virtually coming into the boardroom.

Q Oh right.

B So they were at home but they put the headset on and then they appeared in the boardroom. So I can see in the future having business meetings from your own home but you put your headset on and then you appear as a hologram around the table and have a board meeting. I believe that's all going to happen, I definitely do. And I'm excited to see sort of, I like technology like that, do you know what I mean. So it's exciting.

Q So do you feel like part of introducing Zander to technology is preparing him for the future in a way?

B I do. I say to Ria sometimes, I really like the fact that they do a lot of non-technology stuff like art and stuff. But, I said to Ria, for the way the world is progressing we don't want them to lose pace. And you go to school and they've already got tablets and the mouses and stuff like that, and I don't want Zander to not understand how all that works. And obviously I have a technological job and I'm in front of the computer all the time, and we're always having to move with the times, with the latest advancements of software and stuff. And it's all the same, if you don't keep pace you're left behind. So there's the fun aspect but there's also the educational aspect I want Zander to understand. I don't want kids to be showing him things in the playground that he doesn't know what they're talking about. So it is a tough one. It's just trying to keep up with society you know, and I do want that for our kids, you know with the restrictions of the safety aspect of stuff as well. But this is for all of us as parents to figure out how we're going to sort of get through this, because we didn't have this in our childhood. Just look at when we were kids, we didn't have mobile phones, and now everybody has one, everyone carries round this device that can pinpoint your location in the

world, you can speak to anyone in the world, and for them that's normal. So what's it going to be like in another 10 years, do you know what I mean? Who knows?

Q Just one final question, if you've got the time so I can just sort of...and then we'll look at the GoPro. But we talked a lot about sort of creativity and toys that expand play and cross media and things like that this morning. Is there anything that you can think of that just like limits play, are there any toys you can think of that you think are maybe particularly restrictive or don't have those kind of options?

B That would limit play?

Q Yeah.

B No. I mean I worry about....weirdly, what I said before about how like when you're restrictive for movements and stuff this kind of technology might help you experience stuff you couldn't experience, there's the opposite where people could get very lazy by not needing to go anywhere to experience something. And physically that's not going to be good for you. Because if you can do everything from the comfort of your own home, you can almost create your avatar who can be a sporty avatar and you can be a very unsporty person at home, which isn't going to be very good for your future health. And there's even a film like that called The Replicants, where you obviously create your perfect body and they go out and live in the world, and you're at home in your dressing gown you know severely out of shape eating whatever you want, because you can be someone else.

Q Oh wow.

B And that makes me nervous. Even in films now there's this thing come out the other day that they're going to create James Dean, bring him back via CGI. And there's a lot of people saying this is very worrying. Because firstly, people who actually want to be the actors are going to be out of work again, but also if you can put yourself as the perfect representation of yourself what's it going to be like for the real person? Because you can look like anything you want to be and you don't need to care about yourself. So I'm worried about the health aspects and physical aspects as technology goes forward.

Q That's a really interesting point. OK well thank you ever so much, you've been fantastic and really, really helpful, thank you so much.