

Q Julia Bishop (researcher)
Q2 Beth Nutbrown (researcher)
A Marina (mum)
C Anna (7)
D John (5)
G Grandma (Nannan)

Q I'll put this on and then we can capture all this. So you are going to show the nest, do I need to come as well just very quickly or.....

A There's nothing in it.

Q I'll tell you what, you go Beth and I'll talk to Marina.

Q2 Yeah, that's cool.

Q And Anna, if she's not too disappointed can show me later. Lovely. So sorry yes, she found something else on Alexa?

A Yeah.

Q Oh tell me some more.

A Called Beat Box. It just like makes a beat and she just keeps asking her all the time, so....yeah and she just keeps asking Alexa different things. But yeah it's funny. Because my mum's got it upstairs and downstairs.

Q Oh I see. So how long have you had Alexa?

A Since Christmas.

Q OK then. And what was the idea behind getting it, did you have any reason to in particular, or just a bit of fun?

A Because I've got dyslexia and things like that, it helps me with their homework. Because sometimes I can't do the homework so my mum and dad helped her with her homework. But if I don't know it I can ask her and she tells you everything. So it's like, I think it was 7 conti.....I can't even say it....like Antarctica and all that, and it told her all the other....

Q Oh all the different continents.

A Yeah that's it, continents.

Q Oh fantastic.

A And it told her everything about it.

Q And had your mum and dad already got Alexa, did you see it in action here?

A Yeah they've had it a bit, so....and yeah.

Q So....are you alright?

A Yeah, it's my pen. She'll get you doing everything.

Q2 Yeah that's fine, don't worry.

A Yeah and all these different apps that are on the iPads as well. So they show me all different things.

Q Yeah. So do you find it's often a case that they're showing you things and stuff they've discovered, rather than you as a parent showing them? Or is it a bit of each? How does that....

A It's a bit of each. Anna loves taking photos, and she does like a little journal, she likes doing that.

Q Oh yes? How does she go about that, does she make an album or something or....

A She videos it on her iPad, she'll go 'hi guys' and then.....she did one with my mum, I think I showed you that one. Is this Anna ??? yeah.

Q Do you think she's copying anything in particular, or where is she getting her ideas from?

A I think she's getting it off YouTube. Because she's started to watch something called Ryan, it's a big American thing, and he does all that. So she's trying to copy I think.

Q Ah that's interesting, yes.

A So whatever she does she tries and does the same, or....yeah.

Q And have you ever sat and watched those with her?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q And do you have any concerns about her using YouTube or anything like that, or do you have any safety devices.

A Sometimes I have to check it. So once she did come up to me and said 'mummy I've been watching someat and a face come up', and said 'oh right', and she says 'I won't go on that again mummy'. But yeah I keep an eye on her to see what she's watching and things. But it's just usually YouTube.

Q So do you have any concerns about her.....I mean do you put any parental controls on it or anything like that?

A Yeah my mum and dad's done all that, so yeah, she can't go on adult YouTube or anything.

Q It's the Kids YouTube.

A Yeah, they're both on Kids YouTube.

Q Can you remember how she got started on YouTube and, you know when she first began to use it?

A It were mainly here at my mum's. Oh hello!

Q I'll pause that.

[Voice recorder paused]

Q I'll put this back on again. So we've got [Grandma] as well as Marina here, that's lovely. You can play a game now, can't you.

D I don't want to do.

A You don't want that?

Q2 And what do you think about it?

A So did you want to know about what I used to do before?

Q Yes please, yeah shall we go on to that. I think we've sort of lost the thread of it there. So I think you probably told me some of this before but if we could just go through it, so how old are you please if I may ask that.

A I'm 39.

Q Thank you, and are you employed?

A Not at the moment.

Q Not at the moment. Did you used to work?

A Yeah I used to work at B&M, yeah. The children's dad used to work during the day, that were my ex-husband, and then I used to work 4 while 8, so he used to look after the children. But then I had to give up work because of his circumstances. And then we split up, so it's just us three now. But I did enjoy working.

Q Were you a retail assistant there?

A Yeah, I really enjoyed it. But because of the circumstances I had to give everything up to look after my children because they're more important.

Q And how long is it since you finished at B&M?

A 2017. When I finished B&Ms....or were it....it were October 2016, weren't it?

G 2016, yeah.

A 2016, October.

Q Oh so the children were very young then.

A So yeah, we'd not been married that long, only a year. So yeah I had to give up work and everything.

Q Yes. And can I ask you, did you go to a school locally?

A Yes I went to [secondary school in North East Derbyshire].

Q Oh OK, yes. And how old were you when you left [secondary school in North East Derbyshire]?

A It was 1996 I think. I think it were.

Q Can't do the maths. What year were you?

A I left in Year 11.

Q Right, so is that after GCSEs? I get muddled up with the years.

A Yeah, straight after GCSEs. Then I went to college. I did childcare.

Q Was that like a BTEC or something, did you get a diploma or something like that?

A No I didn't end up finishing that so....

Q Oh I see.

A And then I got a job, so I left to do my job. And then I done quite a few things since. Yeah. I've been a Travel Agent, I've been a Florist. So I got qualified as a Florist and then the florists closed down really, so yeah, due to floods. So yeah.

Q OK that's very interesting, thank you, that's great. So would you say your highest qualification was the GCSEs then?

A Yeah I've done First Aid and things like that.

Q Oh yes. And you qualified as a Florist you just said, I don't know what their qualifications are.

A I don't know, they all keep changing don't they. But it was like diploma when I first did it, but if you did it now I'm not sure what it is.

Q No that's fine, that's absolutely fine. And how would you define your ethnic status? Just like White British sort of thing?

A Oh yeah, British yeah.

Q Fine. And does anyone in your family have a disability – you don't have to answer this question if you don't wish to.

A No. I've got intracranial hypertension but that's not a disability.

Q And you've just had an operation, yes.

A Yeah, my bypass, but that's not a disability.

Q So normally, yes.

A Yes I'm usually fit and well.

Q That's great. Thank you.

A John's got speech therapy, and we think Anna's also got dyslexia like me. So we're just waiting. When she goes back in September she'll be having another test because she's just at that age now, so yeah we'll find out. Because I didn't find out I was dyslexic till I was about 16/17.

Q It must have impacted on you quite a lot at school, I would imagine.

A They just said I was lazy and things like that. But you didn't really know much about it in them days I don't think, now you know about it all the time so....

Q And you've obviously been watching for it I would imagine with your two.

A Yeah. So any paperwork or anything my mum and dad help me, because some long words I don't understand and things, so mum and dad have to help me with everything.

Q It's a team effort, I'm sure it's two-way.

A I don't know what I'd do without them.

Q Ah. It was interesting what you were saying earlier, that you felt Alexa and maybe other new technologies are actually quite helpful in that way.

A Yeah, they're helpful with some of the homework, so yeah.

Q That's great, thank you. Do you own a car?

A No.

Q OK, that's absolutely fine. So I think if we can just recap for me the ages of the children, I think John's changed age since I saw him last.

A John's now 5. And Anna's 7.

Q And what are their dates of birth?

A Anna is 2012. And John's is 2014.

Q And congratulations, belated congratulations for your birthday John.

A So we went out for your birthday didn't we?

Q Lovely. What did you do?

A We've been to Canon Hall Farm and we met the farmer.

Q Oh lovely.

A We've been to Runaround. Yeah we've just been.....

Q Cleethorpes.

A Been to Cleethorpes, yeah, just getting out and about before my operation really. And then now it's just like resting. So my mum's been taking them out to the park, haven't you, and shopping, and I've just been resting.

Q Yes. Do you think it's important to sort of have activities for them to do and arrange things?

A I think so, because they get bored and then they start to argue and things. But they love getting up and going in the pool and things like that.

Q Yes. And do you feel you get a good balance between perhaps sitting and looking at screens, and getting out and doing things, do you watch for those kind of balances and things?

A Yeah. So I think it's important that they have time for what they want to do, and then like family time as well. So it's like they like to go on their iPads, so I let them go on their iPads, and then we'll watch a film. But I always make sure that they do their homework as well. So they get homework every Wednesday, and if I can't do it they bring it here on a Friday and my mum and dad help them.

And they can't wait to go back to school. They don't go back till Wednesday though.

Q And what year groups are they in?

A John's going to be in Year 1, and Anna's going to be in Year 3. So they're growing up too fast I think.

Q Do the children have any LEGO products?

A Yes they do.

G It's not actually LEGO, it's like LEGO but it's not the original LEGO. But they have got.....where's your LEGO pieces, go and find them.

D We don't do the....

Q And are they aware of sort of LEGO products ??? or LEGOLand, or films and stuff like that?

A Yeah, they've not[?] been to LEGOLand have you? And same with CBeebies and things like that. Because it's still the same price as an adult, so yeah.

Q It's a lot of money, I totally agree.

A So I prefer to like go places like the seaside where you don't have to....I know it's still money but it's not like a hundred and summat pounds just to get in, and then you've got your food and things like that.

A My mum does everything with them.

Q Yes. And I'm interested in the dynamic between the two of you. Do you think the way you approach organising their days and the childcare, do you think that's coming from your mum, or the course that you did?

A Yeah definitely from my mum. My mum's always organised, I'm not.

Q So what access to technology do they have at your house?

A They've got the Saga Megadrive that they play with. They've got the TVs, the iPads.

Q Have they got a TV in their bedrooms?

A Yes they have.

Q And do they share a room or is it....

A They've got separate rooms.

Q Separate rooms, and each with their own TV?

A Yeah. And it's also got a DVD player so they can watch....I let them have an hour before they go to bed. But sometimes they just want to play on their iPad that hour, I let them choose. But yeah. And sometimes they show me how to do things on the iPads and Alexa. So you've seen that video. But yeah. And the toys, they love playing toys. We were playing a game the other night weren't we, called Uno. And they loved that. Hopscotch, Snakes and Ladders – I love that game.

Q You weren't doing this online, you mean just physically doing it in a space?

A Physically, yeah. They've got a hopscotch, I mean they have it on the floor. They've been playing croquet....it's not called.....

G Croquet.

A Croquet, croquet!

Q Oh wow, thank you, so this isn't actually LEGO? I'm not very good at spotting the brand.

G No, I don't know what brand it is. Somebody bought him a big boxful weren't it for Christmas.

A They're not really into the named things at the moment. Because they're so little they just like the little bits don't they, they're not bothered about logo and....

G But he's getting more creative now isn't he, he loves making guns. At the minute he's obsessed with guns. But he'll make guns and then we have to sit and play and shoot at each other.

Q So he'll make one for you as well, or do you have to build your own?

G No, no, he part makes a smaller one for me, yeah.

A You try and make one and he's like 'no, no, me make it, me make it' because it's not right.

Q Right. So what does a gun have to have on it, can you talk us through these guns? It's a lovely colour, this one is a yellow and blue one.

D Yeah, and there's a green bit.

Q And there's a green bit there. So is that significant the green bit, does that do something special?

D Mmm. You then get flick it up and the green ???

Q Oh can I take a photograph of that? Just hold that bit up again. That's lovely. Let me just get on to photo – yeah that's got it. And would you show it back together again please John? Thank you. So how would you fire that gun in your game, can you show us? Oh that bit goes on the top there. ??? oh there it is.

A And he'll make sure that it's got all the same colours. He always looks for the same colours.

Q That's interesting. So it's partly about the look of it as well as the figures.

A Because if I've gone to put the wrong colour on and he's like 'no, no'.

Q Oh right.

A You like your colours don't you?

D ??? I don't know if I choose white or....

G Do you want any help?

D I'm looking for the blue broke one. There's a broke one.

G There's a broke one?

D A blue broke one, a longer one. Oh, this is it.

A Oh that one, I've seen it now.

D You have to put it on, then you hold it and put ??? very hard.

G I don't think you can – oh you can.

A Do you want any help? No? Sometimes you let me help you don't you?

D No.

Q So is guns the main thing that John likes to build out of LEGO?

A And buildings, yeah.

Q Buildings, right, what sort of buildings?

A It's just stacking things up really isn't it, it's like a stacker. And then he likes to knock them down. He likes Jenga.

Q Oh right. Oh shooting Nan there. Thank you, sorry it's good to take advantage of these moments.

A Oh, nearly hit you then. Oh no.

Q So how long has he had the LEGO for?

A He's had that for ages haven't you?

Q A couple of years?

A Yeah at least, yeah.

G I think it weren't last Christmas, it must have been the Christmas before that he got it, yeah.

A Yeah. And he's got big bricks as well hasn't he that he likes to play with.

G Yeah but I think we....didn't we get rid of them, or are they at your house? They're not at mine.

A Probably got rid of them. But they've got like a playroom in there, I can show you.

G In my dining room!

Q Right. I was hoping maybe we could do a little play tour at both of your houses. If we're likely to come here again without imposing we could perhaps do that next time if that's OK?

A Yeah.

Q And also at your house. Because it's interesting to see what they've got access to at each place. So would you say that you'd sort of helped him a bit more initially, and then he's sort of taken off with it? How does it....

A You usually start him off don't you, and then he carries on. But if you put the wrong colour on he takes it off doesn't he? He likes everything to be the same colour.

Q That's interesting. What do you attribute that to? What do you think is behind it?

A I don't know.

Q Is he like that in other ways, like clothes or drawing or anything?

G You said he were weren't you, with his speech therapy, you had an issue didn't you?

A Yeah, because they wanted him to play with different coloured bricks but he just wanted like two colours to put together, or just one colour. So they said it could be....is it AD....I don't know, something. So because he's only young they'll do tests on him and stuff. But I think he's alright.

Q Yeah. So you have to play gun games with him.

G Yeah, and shops.

Q And shop, right. Just going back to the gun games, is that particularly....is it just like general shooting, or do you think he's influenced by films or TV or anything that he's seen?

A It's his dad, isn't it.

G Well his dad were into games, but not films I wouldn't say. When his dad comes and he goes on the XBox or whatever it is...

A PlayStation, he plays Call of Duty, they want to play that. But I don't know, he likes like policemen and things like that doesn't he, and things like that. And I don't know where he really got guns from, but....

C Alexa just said 'you need to pay for it if you want to listen to the song' and John, he said 'yeah'.

Q Oh dear.

A Well Grandad will have to check it again then.

G What are you listening to now then?

C He were listening to a Rock Star song.

A Rock Star music.

Q So I think we were just talking about LEGO films and things like that, have they watched anything like that?

A Yeah they like the LEGO films, with Batman. And we also went to the cinema with school to see that as well. So I went with Anna and then we've watched it at home with John. But yeah.

Q Oh that's great, thank you. So we were talking a bit earlier about....I just wondered if we should....we've got some questions about the way you feel about the new technology and that sort of thing. And they seem to have a lot of access to iPads and things like that, we were talking about that, and I just wondered whether you feel that technology is particularly positive or negative in any ways for little ones and what your views are about that.

A I think it is because they're using it a lot more in school as well.

C Look through the window.

A Because they're doing Spelling Shed at school as well and that's some of their homework, and it's to help in spelling.

Q And that's an online?

A Yeah. You have to like get an account from school and then they do like different games, they're like spelling apple, or sat or sit, and it's got phonics on it as well. And they are introducing it a lot more I think. Because I think they're enjoying it even more than writing it. But Anna loves to draw, she draws everything doesn't she?

G Yeah, she'll go on her iPad and ask for a drawing game. And she watches how they do it, and they do it in stages, and she'll do it on paper. She's quite good at that isn't she?

A Yeah, she gets our [niece] to do that as well doesn't she, her auntie?

G Yes.

Q So is there a particular app that she's getting that from, do you know what it's called?

G I don't know.

A I don't.

Q Oh we'll check that out with her, yes.

A Yeah she'll just go on it. She knows them all doesn't she, and she shows us. But yeah they're all children's ones, I'm always checking aren't we to see. And they've got a code on it as well so they can't get on anything else.

Q So what happens in terms of downloading apps, are you kind of like on the lookout for ones, do you hear about them, or do they tend to be the ones.....

A They can't actually do them themselves because we need to put a code in. So if they try to get an app they can't just get it, I have to put my personal code in. But yeah they always have to ask first. And the sometimes they have too many apps and then we have to delete some. She likes hairdressing and stuff like that, and putting make-up on, and different apps.

Q Oh yeah. And how do you find out about the apps in the first place?

A She goes on something called....is it App Store?

C ???

A And then she talks to people at school as well. Because your friend, she tells you a lot doesn't she, your friend, that there's these different apps.

C Yeah, like Hairdressing.

A Yeah Hairdressing.

C But you got rid of one.

A Yeah I did get rid of one because you needed....you didn't have enough room for it did you, so we had to delete one to get a different one.

C And you deleted your friend's.

A Yeah.

Q So how do you feel about those sorts of things, do you think they...obviously she's taking it from the screen, so she's not actually repeating the drawing on the screen, she's doing it on a piece of paper you were saying.

G Yeah, I think that's quite good, yeah. Because it just keeps them away from playing games all the time and things like that, you know. And get ultimately a drawing, because she's not that clever anyway is she, you know she's a bit behind on her reading and stuff, but if she likes to do that then let her carry on and draw.

Q Well you can see that she's sort of streaking ahead in those things, maybe the academic things will come later.

G Yeah.

A He'll be watching Power Rangers.

Q Ah right, that's one of his favourites isn't it.

A He loves Power Rangers.

Q Oh that's interesting.

A That's where he gets this sword from. And they have guns, but they do lasers.

Q And how has he got into Power Rangers, where has that sort of stemmed from?

A He's been watching it on TV, because we like watching Power Rangers, and we also like watching Power Rangers films. And he's got all the costumes as well.

Q So he likes to dress up in Power Rangers things.

A Yeah, Power Rangers, Paw Patrol, yeah. But he loves all stuff like that. But him and his best friend are always playing Paw Patrol at school.

Q Really? Do you mean in class or in a playground setting?

A In the playground, yeah.

Q Oh yes. Does he talk about that when he comes home?

A Yeah, he tells me what he's done and things like that. And ??? But he's been doing some reading, and he's quite good, he's more advanced than our Anna, our John. Because she's on I think it's Pink book and he's now on a Blue book, so he's actually one in front. But yeah they help each other out. And he's doing so well with his speech as well now, because it used to be '[xxx]' and now it's 'Anna'.

Q Oh that must be good to see. So the Paw Patrol thing is really interesting. So is Paw Patrol a programme on Netflix or something like that?

A You can get it on Netflix, you can also get it on the iPad on YouTube.

Q OK, is that how he watches it then, off YouTube?

A He watches it on both. He's also got DVDs. And they watch it at school as well?

Q Oh I see, in the classroom you mean?

A Yeah. On a Friday they have Golden Time and it's an hour and they can choose whatever they want. It's a whole school. And John always chooses film.

Q So has he got a favourite Paw Patrol film and a favourite Paw Patrol character?

A He likes Chase and Marshall, because Marshall he's got a hose and things like that. He also likes Fireman Sam and every time he sees a fire he thinks he needs to put it out. It's like my dad had a BBQ didn't he the other day and he thought it was on fire, and he's like 'we need to put the fire out, come on nannan'. But yeah, whenever he sees a fire he's like 'we've got to ring up haven't we, there's a fire'. And he's got a fire engine as well and he loves that. That's the best thing I've ever bought him, that.

Q Is that like a pedal car that I just saw as I came out, or is it one that you've....

A It's electric. Yeah they just drive it. And Anna's got a quad.

Q Oh my goodness, right.

A They're both electric.

G Yeah, you notice how they're at nannan's house!

Q I did notice that, yes!

A All the noisy stuff are at nannan's house! You've had it nearly a year now haven't you?

G Over a year, you bought it last year for his birthday, didn't you?

A Yeah.

Q So they're presents from yourselves?

G No, Marina.

A From me, but I haven't got room. I ain't got room for it so they're here.

Q So how do they play with those, what do they do? Are you alright?

A Oh she's always doing that.

Q She sort of fell forward there, yeah.

G At the weekend they just drive up and down and round the gated area.

Q Just on the patio here or something like that?

G Yeah. They don't go outside the gates with them.

A Unless we're with them.

G Well we tried it once, there's a little park around the corner, so we tried it once. But they were that slow and took ages didn't they? And then when they were coming back down it were a bit too steep for them weren't it? So John loved it but Anna didn't. So we've never ventured outside the gates with them since then have we?

A No, just up to the park, that were it weren't it?

G Yeah.

Q They're better on a level surface.

A They're better on here, yeah.

Q So I'm interested in that because I've never seen children really playing in those, I just wondered how they do play. Do they like pretend to be, or are they just themselves?

G No, they just race about – especially on the quad, they'll race about, yeah. They just take it in turns don't they, just driving up and down.

A Yeah. And then on that bit when my dad's not parked on there they go on the bigger driveway, but they can't get out of the gate.

G Yeah, they like that better don't they because there's a bit more room.

Q Yeah. And you said it's one of the best things you'd ever got for him.

A Yeah both of them, they love it.

Q What do you think the attraction is for them in terms of what they do then?

A I don't know, they just like going on it don't they?

G Yeah.

A John likes it because it's a fire engine and it makes a fire engine noise as well.

G And the quad makes a noise as well, they just like these don't they?

A Oh yeah, music, yeah.

G Weird music.

A She's always got that music on, yeah.

G And I just think it's something different for them you know, because like they come here at the weekend so it's something different that they can do and just ride about on them isn't it, rather than....I mean they've got their bikes at home haven't they, but it's not the same.

A Yeah.

Q And how often would you say they played with the cars?

G Oh every weekend, yeah. I don't know if John broke the quad the other day didn't he, did your dad manage to fix it?

A Yeah he's fixed it now. It was Anna. But yeah he's managed to fix it.

G So they do like to play about on it.

Q Oh that's great, that's really interesting.

A But yeah we're here every weekend. But we've been here for nearly 6 week haven't we?

Q Because of your operation though and things.

A Yeah. My dad keeps saying he's going to sell this house and get a smaller bungalow. I says he can't because we stop here. He's only messing about.

Q It sounds like the toys take up quite a lot of space for a start.

G Well there's not only her, we've got another granddaughter who is...is she 22, 23?

A 22 now, she's 23 next.

G Yeah next month. And she's just come back from university, so she's taken over two bedrooms with all her things because her mum hasn't got nowhere to store it, so it's all at my house. So I've got all her stuff, plus these stuff – can't move upstairs.

A You like it though!

G Yeah (laughs).

Q So you see the family, do they stay over at the weekend or are they just for the day?

G Oh yeah, yeah they stay over. Yeah, my other granddaughter, if she's not at her mum's or her boyfriend's she'll ring up and she'll say 'I'm coming to yours'. Or she'll just turn up, and even if we're not in she's got her own key – everybody's got a key to my house haven't they, both my daughters and my granddaughter. So yeah they just turn up whenever.

A You've had Anna since she was like two weeks old haven't you?

G Staying over, yeah, every weekend.

A Every Friday, yeah. And then when me and The children's dad split up she had us all then. Yeah.

Q But you must feel that you've got quite a strong relationship with them both.

G Oh yeah.

Q Well all three of them. And obviously you've provided....I mean they were telling me I think, did you provide the iPads for them?

G No you did that didn't you?

Q You did the iPads, OK.

A We bought them together didn't we?

G Well yeah. Because I'd already got an iPad, so it was alright when it was just Anna because she could play on my iPad. You look at my iPad it's full of kids games. But then they'd argue, you know when John came along and he wanted it, he'd argue. So we sorted them out one Christmas. Oh I bought Anna one didn't I?

A Yeah.

G Not an iPad....what was it?

A A tablet, like a tablet.

G Yeah some sort of tablet, but she didn't like it as much as the iPad because she couldn't get the games that she was used to playing on the iPad.

Q Yes it's different isn't it.

A Yeah tablets, it was everything to do with Amazon weren't it, you had to have an Amazon account, oh it was just a nightmare.

G So they ended up with an iPad.

C Mum, can you make me a gin and tonic.

A It's not real gin and tonic! She tells this everybody.

Q It's alright.

G Not in the daytime! You don't have gin and tonics in the daytime do we?

C Please, I want a gin and tonic.

A She tells everybody at school that as well.

Q That must raise a few eyebrows. What is it really, is it like fizzy?

A Tonic water. Because my mum will have a gin and tonic...

G On a Friday night.

A On a Friday night, and then she wants one.

G Anna wants one. So I just give her....we have tonic water don't we with....what do you have in your gin and tonic then?

C Pink stuff.

G Oh you have some pink stuff. What else do you have?

C Ice cubes.

G Yeah. What else, what else do we put in? What fruit do we have?

C Salted nuts.

G No, what salted nuts in your gin? No, what fruit do we chop up and put in your glass?

C Cucumber and strawberries.

G Yeah.

Q That sounds delicious, that's a great drink.

C Can you make me a gin and tonic.

G No you don't.

A It's not the weekend.

G You can't drink during the daytime.

C I'm waiting, I'm waiting though.

G I'll get into trouble.

A I once got called in for school for that because she told the teacher she'd been having gin and tonics, and we had to say....

G Not during the daytime, you can only have them at night can't we? At nighttime and weekends.

A But yeah it's not really a gin and tonic.

Q Your nanna was telling me about the iPad that she....

A Anna, come here.

Q Oh it's alright, no it's alright. I was just going to say, your nanna was telling me about how you used to play on her iPad.

G You used to like my iPad, didn't you?

Q What were your particular apps that you like to play on nanna's one? Does she call you nannan?

G Nannan, yeah. Do you want to go and fetch my iPad, Anna.

Q Oh thank you, that would be great if you would. So you're quite comfortable with the iPad yourself?

G Yeah.

Q Do you like iPads, have you become a bit of a fan of them?

G Yeah I do, yeah. I don't really do a lot on it, you know look on Facebook, just look what everybody else is doing really, being nosey.

A That's what I do.

G Yeah, and like for holidays, and play games.

Q Yes. So do you have your own games on there?

A Keeps me in touch with the family.

Q How did you come to get your iPad?

G My husband bought it me for my 60th birthday.

Q Do you mind me asking how old you are now or how long ago that was?

G I'm 63.

Q Very good, yes.

G So he bought it me for my birthday, and then plus Anna wanted it and I used to let her. So we've got loads of games downloaded.

A And now I've got one, haven't I?

G Yeah you've got one now.

Q You've got one as well?

A Yeah.

Q Right, so there's three in your household, with the two children and yourself, and then you've....

G There's just me, my husband he's got Amazon Tablet and an Amazon Reader one.

Q Oh right OK, yeah. Do they show any interest in your husband's tech there?

G No, no they don't. I think it's because like....well with.... Anna, I thought you were fetching my iPad. Go and get my iPad. Go and fetch it.

Q So the games that you said came into yours once Anna took an interest, were they ones that you sought out for her yourself at first?

G Yeah, yeah.

Q What sort of thing did you look for, can you remember?

G So it's the same again, they can't download anything because you have to put a code.

Q No, of course. But presumably are you searching stuff up that you thought she'd be interested in?

G Yeah. So you know....

Q What sort of things did you look for?

G I'd like some of these things in the playroom.

A Well it's the dining room.

Q Oh wow, look at this wonderful iPad, it's rose glitter pink, that is gorgeous.

G Show Julia how you do my iPad. Come round. She even knows my password, except on my phone now.

Q Did you teach her or did you....

G No, she just picked it up.

C Er.....

G Don't say it out loud.

Q It's alright, I'll pause this while you.....

A Let nannan, where are your games on here.

C I know.

G Let me have a look. Turn it round so Julia can see you.

Q Mine is a bit low on battery. Do you want to come in?

A Batteries go really fast on them though don't they I think.

Q Yes they do, always keeping it charged becomes a thing you have to do.

A Even on the phones, yeah.

Q May I just have a peek around the back as well, I was just interested in what you had on there. Do you remember any of the games that nannan got for you?

G This is one of the games you haven't got on yours have you?

Q What sort of things did you look for when you were looking for things for Anna?

G I went for free games for children and their age section to start off with, yeah.

Q And what would you do now, do you think your technique in checking stuff down has changed? You know because there is so much on offer I was just wondering how you.....

A We haven't downloaded none for a long time have we, they just seem to...

G No, no, I think I just stick....

A They seem to use the same ones all the time.

G Yeah.

Q Are there any that have been a particular success, is this one of them?

G Yeah, she likes this one.

Q What do you have to do here Anna, what's the game?

G What's this game Anna?

A Show them what you need to do on that one.

G Is this what we were playing....oh is this what we played yesterday didn't we, like a pinata game.

C It's got bananas.

Q2 So do you have to beat the computer?

G Yeah.

C You have to ??? (laughs)

G You have to jump to this one. Oh that weren't very...oh I did, I got 9. Ah I got 3 stars! Play one of your other games. What other games have you got? There we are.

C I know one. I remember one.

G Oh we're not playing elf game, no. Play one of your other games.

C I did.

Q2 What do you have to do on this one?

G What do you do on this one, Anna?

C Is it ???

G What do you have to do with this one?

C You have to do like faces on your wand.

Q2 Oh so you decorate the wand.

C I have to make the ???

Goes into kitchen

G Come and show Julia this.

Q Oh wow, this looks amazing. Just a second, can I go and get my camera and just take some pictures of it.

A Yeah that's fine. We're going to show her this.

D What?

A Well it does make a noise, doesn't it?

Q John, so is this your fire engine?

D And this is my robot ???

Q Oh you've got a robot, oh can I see, may I take a photograph of him? I don't have any children who are boys you see so it's a new thing for me. Wow, this is incredible John. Show me how you do it.

A He showed me how to use it because I don't know.

D Come to me. I just press down, further down on one.

G Oh, so it's dancing. Right. I haven't seen that one before. That's a new one isn't it?

D There's a holder at the back. You don't hang it on the back pack and there's a hook on it.

A Ups.....

D It's OK, it doesn't matter. I'll show you how it works now. You have to just press it. There's a fire engine ???

A Can you just pick me this up John so we can....I can't bend down can I? Good boy.

D We had to press the light for the things. And you have to hop in the seat there ??? you can hear.

G Oh that's where you charge it up isn't it, that's where Grandad charges it up.

D Yes. And this how you ??? it's how you ??? And this holds your ??? I'll try it outside. Come on, can you just bring it outside.

A And that's Anna's quad isn't it? That makes a noise.

C Yeah. John ??? sit on it then.

Q Thank you Anna.

D Watch out, I'm going forward.

Q OK, there's something in the way here, should we pick that up?

D ???

A Are you picking them up? Pass them there. I can't bend down Anna, you do it.

Q Shall I get them? Oh you do it Anna, do you want to do it, that's it.

D ???

A Is it not working again, Grandad said he'd fixed it.

D The back is moving, but not the forward.

G Oh right. Don't know, we'll have to ask Grandad again then won't we?

A See if you can move this one forward and then you can go in that one.

Q Do you want to show me the fire engine again, that would be really good. Because we know that one works don't we?

A Because Anna broke this.

Q Shall I move this one out of the way then, is that alright?

A Yeah, because I don't want to pull anything.

John plays in fire engine

Q John, could you just tell me what it is that you like so much about that fire engine, what's it like to drive?

D And what's that?

Q This is the voice recorder, so it's picking up the things that we're saying. And I wondered if you could just tell me and the voice recorder what is it that you like so much about your fire engine there?

D ??? but this is ??? Because Anna just broke it ???

G What do you like about this fire engine?

Q Yeah, how do you like to play in it? Do you like going backwards and forwards, do you like the sounds?

D ??? forwards.

Q Oh my word you're doing it back to front now.

G So you like going backwards and forwards, is that what you're trying to say?

D Yeah.

Q Do you pretend anything in your head when you're driving that? Do you imagine that you might be a fireman or a driver or something like that?

D I don't know how to get it up ???

Q That in?

D I know how to back it.

Q You know how to back it, you're really good at backing it. Which do you prefer, do you prefer going forwards or backwards – or both?

D Back and forward.

Q Back and forwards. Do you like driving it through the spaces that there are in the kitchen here?

D Yep.

Q And what do you think the cleverest thing is that it does, or the most fun thing?

D I don't know. And then I plug ??? to charge it up to.

Q Yeah, you're very good at knowing how it all works. Who taught you to drive it?

D Nobody told me how to.

G Grandad showed you, didn't he?

Q Did you need lots of help, or did you get it quite quickly?

D I did it really quickly.

A He knew straightaway.

Q Did he?

A This is their little playroom as well. That's mummy's.

Q Oh yes.

A That's my sister, and that's my dad.

Q Lovely. I can see you're a close family.

A Yeah. And this is like some of the toys.

Q Oh wow, oh amazing. So are these things that your mum and dad have bought them independently, or do you bring things from your own house, a sort of mixture?

A They bring some stuff from our house, but this is what my mum's mainly bought.

Q So what have we got here? Are you going to give me a guided tour to what you've got here?

C Mmm.

G We were looking for yellow elves weren't we and we can't find them.

Q Have you got a favourite thing here at all that you like to play with at the moment Anna?

C Er.....oh I've been looking for this.

Q Oh what's that?

C Mermaid.

Q Oh it says 'My Pretty Mermaid Colouring Book' do you like colouring?

C Yes.

Q Have you done any colourings in there, can I see any? Oooh, look at what you've got over there, is that a blackboard?

C Mmm.

Q Oh it's lovely.

G Blackboard and a whiteboard.

Q Oh that's lovely.

G And then that's a rocking horse since she were a baby.

Q And when did you sort of feel that her talents sort of for drawing and colouring really emerged, when did you notice those?

A In Reception really. Well she used to do it in Nursery but it were just like squiggles and things like that. But then in Reception she started to do pictures and things like that. And she loves her art, so....

G Don't fall over that.

Q So it sounds like you noticed it and you are keen for her to express it.

A Yeah, but she's not very good with her writing but she's really good with pictures. But she's just starting to get better now.

Q Yes. It sounds like you watch and keep a very careful eye on things like that.

A Yeah. It's school that noticed it first. I just thought 'oh it's because she's a girl' and things like that. But then there are some people in her class that are like more in advance. So yeah I just make sure she's enjoying it, and if she can't do it then I tell her not to get upset or owt, and we'll all do it together.

Q Do you feel technology has got anything to offer her in terms of....you mentioned earlier the school are quite keen on using technology.

A Spelling. Spelling yeah, and her phonics. The books are really good, but if you do it online you can put the words in and....oh I can't say what. There's like real words and not real words in phonics, and she learnt me how to do phonics.

Q Really? Oh gosh that's nice, so it's a bit of a shared experience. Do you sit together and do it?

A Yeah, and I've also had to sit down with the teacher as well and she's had to explain it to me as well. So even my mum didn't know, it were all different.

Q It's very different from when you were at school.

A Yeah. So we went one afternoon and sat down and she went through it all with us. Are you going to turn that down a bit John? John, will you turn it down a little bit.

Q And what about her drawing, do you feel that the technology has got stuff to offer her there, or would you prefer that she just used paper and some crayons or paints or something?

A I like it when she can draw though, because then it's something to save isn't it? But she likes to get things up on the computer and then copy it as well.

Q Yes. And what do you feel about that when she does that, how do you feel about what she's done?

A I'm proud, because she's copying and she does some amazing pictures – I couldn't do them. She goes through all the different steps.

Q What sort of things has she done?

A A unicorn. She's done lots of different things. She did like a pumpkin, Halloween she's done a witch, and she loves the flowers.

Q Does she?

A Yeah.

Q And does she just copy the outline in the drawing or will she then colour in?

A Oh she'll colour it in as well.

Q And is that something that the computer's leading her to do, or is she just then using her own....

A She's just using her own colours then, she's not using the same colours, she's doing her colours that she wants to do.

Q And what sort of crayons or pens does she use? Or is it paint, or sorry I don't know what.....

A She's got them all, she's got paint. Here she's got paint, she's got felt tips, she's got crayons, and she'll use all different colours. And also with the paint, she likes to mix. She's got like a tray and she'll mix two colours together and then she'll say 'oh that makes purple or....' yeah. And she likes that. She's got her own pencil cases – well they both have.

Q And would you say, again, that there's any link up between the technology and what she's doing – you know you've mentioned about the copying of the pictures, do you think one is impacting on the other in any way, or giving her ideas of colours to choose or anything like that?

A No she just does her own thing really.

Q She does her own thing, that's coming from her own...

A But she likes to do her own pictures as well, it's not.....with John it's all technology, he loves to be on his iPad. With Anna, she likes to sit down – like she's going to do that drawing now I think. But Anna, she likes to do stories, make up stories.

Q So what sort of stories does she make up, and is she like illustrating them, or just telling them?

A She just draws pictures and then she tells me what's going on.

C People drawing pictures.

Q ??? I can't remember where this app came from, was it one of you found it or did she find it?

A She found that one, but it's on the children's, I think it's on YouTube.

Q Yeah, mums feel proud. How about yourselves, are either of you or anybody else in the family got a talent for drawing?

A My niece has, she loves to draw, my niece.

Q Do they mix much together, have they shared anything in that way?

A Yeah, because my niece stops here a lot on a Friday, they will do things together. Our [niece's name] loves to draw so sometimes she'll.....my dad's here now I think. I think Grandad's here.

Q That's fine. Yeah so do you think....is it [niece's name], your niece?

A Yeah.

Q Do you think she's had any influence on Anna in terms of the drawing, or in terms of technology or interests in any other way?

A Er....yeah she sits down with my niece. Because my niece does a lot....she's done some stuff, she's done some drawing I think. Hiya Dad.

G So this is my husband.

Q So when my niece sits with her what sort of things do they....can you give an example of what they do?

A They do this, they draw things together. And they read together. My mum reads them a book every night don't you mum?

G Yeah. And I keep telling Anna she's got to get reading so she can read to me.

Q Has she got any particular favourites, Anna, at the moment?

G Oh she likes all the princess stories.

Q Right.

G But she knows them all off by heart anyway. She can't read the story but she reads the pictures and she knows what's happening.

C ???

G Fantastic.

Q Oh that's great, love it. And you've written 'water melon' beautifully there.

Q2 It is ???

Q So which princess stories? Are they like the books, is there like a series of them or....

G Yeah. So there's Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella....

Q OK, so ??? yeah that's fine. So like sort of fairy tales and things like that?

G Yeah. I bought some new books, I bought a set of 10 new books all random different stories, but I won't get them out yet until I know that she's OK for reading. But when they come on a Friday from school they bring a school book and read to me, so that's not so bad. And like today, went to the doctors and there was the Alphabet book there, and Anna sat and went through the alphabet and said what the picture were. And one of them you weren't sure about were you, that otter, she didn't know what it was.

C And I said, 'hmm, otter'.

G No we said 'what does it begin with'?

C O

G And then there were two 't's Ott, and then what was the last one? Ott-er.

C E

G And a R.

C Yeah.

G And then you sounded it and it said?

C Otter.

G Yeah, and you got it right didn't you?

C Yeah.

A It's usually Octopus isn't it on the big thing that they have at school, big poster.

Q Yeah. Do you ever sort of look for apps or anything that will help with reading or anything like that, or do you tend to leave that to the school to do that kind of thing?

G Yeah I haven't.

A It's that Spelling Shed isn't it what she brings home.

G Yeah, yeah. There is an app on here that Anna used to like, that was a spelling thing. Anna, can you remember where that spelling game is, you know like what you used to do when you were small and it says 'kiss my lips' and things like that? Can you remember?

Q Oh, that sounds funny.

A Was it on CBeebies?

G Were it on this one, on this Child's Play? Can you remember? No I don't think it's on that one. Is it CBeebies?

A I think it is CBeebies because there's all different ones.

G I'm just looking, because there's lots of CBeebies isn't there.

A They like CBeebies.

C I don't get to watch it any more.

A No because you like to watch big ones now, CITV don't you?

C Like ???

Listens to CBeebies app

G Oh this is it isn't it, when you have Alphablocks, do you remember?

C Yeah.

A That's what John plays.

Q Is it?

C I'm going to look for it. I remember it.

G Can you remember?

A I like CBeebies.

Q Do you, yes. Tell me a bit more. I mean would you recommend that to other parents?

A Oh definitely yeah, because there's lots of different games that you can play on there. And Mr Tumble's on there as well, but like he always says 'touch the square' or the circle, or touch the red or blue or....and that's really good. So yeah.

Q I mean it sounds like you really value them if they've got an educational angle.

A I think they need that bit of educational as well because it will help them.

Q Is it important to you as well the way they react to it?

A Yes.

Q Are you watching them, the way they interact with it as they do it?

A We're always sat down together as a family doing it as well. And they take it in turns. Because it comes up with a picture, so Anna will have a picture and John's got a picture.

Q Of the Avatar with their name underneath and everything?

A Yeah, and you can do different things. So yeah I like that because there's lots of different things that you can do.

Q Yes. What do you think you've learnt from them, watching them do that sort of thing?

A It's enjoyment, you know that they're learning. And when she gets it right she gets really giddy, she like does this with her hands.

Q Shaking her hands like this, yeah.

A Yeah. Don't you, whenever you enjoy something you get really giddy – and I love that, it makes me smile. And you just get giggly.

Q Does John do anything similar, or is it mainly Anna who expresses it?

A No it's just Anna.

C Sometimes when I tickle him he's just like 'he-he-he-he'.

A But John, he likes to go off and do his own thing really. But sometimes he does like to sit....it's mainly at night like that he likes to sit down doesn't he?

C And sometimes he kicks you and me out of bed.

A Yeah, sometimes when you've been in my bed, yeah.

Q And did you say you had certain times of the day where you sort of particularly allow them to use technology?

A Yeah. Usually, because it's holidays now they've been using it a lot more, but I let them use it....while I'm making tea I'll let them watch TV or play on their iPads. And they've

been watching Worst Witch and things like that, that's usually on. I used to watch that when I were little.

Q2 I used to watch that too.

A Yeah. So yeah they'll watch that after school. And then we'll have tea. And then we'll watch something together, like a film or something on Netflix. And then I usually let them have the TV or their iPad again. But they love their iPad, they love watching YouTube and doing dances. And we play with Alexa as well, we do dancing in us room and things.

Q Oh do you, yeah? So can you just describe how that happens, what you do and what you say?

A Well sometimes we'll ask Alexa for different music and then we'll do us little dances. Or we have GoNoodle on, and that's really good. Because they have that at school and they all do it in the school, every single class do GoNoodle. And it's like different songs and different moves and everything. Mum, can I just use your iPad a minute and I'll show them Go....

Q Oh thank you ever so much.

C Oh no, you can use mine.

A Oh OK thank you. So I'll just put.....GoNoodle. We love GoNoodle don't we? And this is all on YouTube.

C Oh I'm looking at ??? oh no!

A You've gone on something, wait a minute.

C I don't know. Oopsie.

A So these are all the different ones that you can do.

Q Can you read those Anna, or are you looking at the pictures?

C I'm looking at the pictures.

Q And what catches your eye when you look at those, which are the best ones?

C I know.

Q Do you? You look as though you're looking for one particular one.

C Yeah, that I already know.

A And they have like Macarena on it.

C I keep pressing things by accident. I don't even know it, I don't even know this. They're not dancing.

A So they have this in class and they'll all do it in the classroom. So they'll all stand up behind the little table and they'll all start doing all the actions – even the teachers.

Q Have you got any favourites yourself?

A Yeah, I like.....

child laughs

A So yeah these are all the different ones, and then these are for the younger ones.

Q Can I just take a photo of these that you....

A Yeah.

Q Or we could say the names, let's have a look. So let me just.....

A And then....

Q Oh, Banana, Banana, Meatball.

A Yeah. And sometimes they get adults, you know when you're going into school in a morning, they'll sometimes have this on and they get all the adults in, and we're all doing it in class. It's like the little exercise thing in the morning.

Q Yeah. So you can be taking your kid into a class, a ??? class, and then you are are doing this?

A Yeah, so we're all doing this, even all the adults and everything, and all the kids.

Q And they have it up on like a whiteboard or something like that?

A Yeah, it's up on.....

Q It sounds like the school in some way has introduced you to a lot of things would you say?

A Yeah definitely, yeah.

Q And is this true for John as well, or is this mainly more Anna?

A That's mainly for the older ones. But then for the younger ones, they do do.....it's like....

Q Popsico, Cuckoo Kangaroo.....

A Popsico, Pop Popsico, that's what they do.

Q Oh that's really ???

A Yeah, and this is another one. It gets you. And they're all like that.

Q That's really....you see I know that just with different words long before it was a ??? It's fascinating. Do they ever do that sort of thing like without the video, they just do it like a hand clap or something like that?

A ??? Go and get your towel. Alright I'll switch it off.

Q OK. No that's really.....thank you for introducing me to that, it's fascinating.

C I know. It's my iPad.

Q Do they ever do that like without the film, or they just sort of do that in the playground or while they're waiting in line, or I don't know.

A They do it in the playground as well. They do it in class without the music.

Q Is it always adult led, or do you think they would do it spontaneously themselves, you know will they just start it up?

A They just do it in the playground without the music as well. Because there's Banana Milkshake and they all sing that. And it's like....

C Wave your flag.

Q Is this a good one.

A This is another one, yeah.

C Wave your flag.

A When they were having celebrations all the school were singing this.

C I love this song.

Q What was the celebration?

A It was like world, it was to do with all the different worlds. So Anna was doing India, and then there was like Australia...we had some tasting.

Q That sounds great.

A So they tried all different foods didn't you.

Q You can't keep still, you're.....

Plays music and Anna sings

A And all the teachers, they'll have assembly, even the headteacher, and she's there dancing away and singing. If you're there when they've got assembly, they all sing it, it's absolutely amazing. From the little ones to the big ones.

Q Yeah, I can really imagine actually, it sounds great.

A It's right enjoyable.

Q Yes. Just tell me, I'm so interested in the playground as well, just tell me a bit. Have you actually seen them do it in the playground, do they like stand together in a group, or would they line up, or in a particular place?

A They're like in a group, and they do get a lot as well now.

Q Do they do hand claps?

A Yeah, yeah. And hide and seek and....yeah.

Q And when they're singing songs like this would they be like a mixed group of boys and girls?

A Boys and girls. She plays with a boy mainly. There's [names 5 other children] and Anna. But it's going to be really weird when she goes back because they're not all together, they've all been split up. But they will be together for.....

Q At break times and stuff.

A Yes. But because I'm at school I get to see a lot of it as well. Because I do the fruit and everything so...

Q Oh that's right, I forgot, that's how you know what's going on on the playground.

A Yeah. And they do have the parents to come in, they have a lot of days where they....like celebration days and family days and things like that. So it's really good. But the headteacher is absolutely brilliant. Well all the teachers are.

Q Do you think it makes a difference, I mean (a) do you think it makes a difference knowing.....

A I've never seen a school like it where they.....like everybody likes to get involved, all the teachers, especially when they're in assembly and stuff and they're all dancing about. You don't think you're going to see anything like that. But they all get on together, and I think it's a brilliant school. And they've picked up about Anna and John, and other children. Because they've also got The Hive there as well, and that's people with like disabilities. And that's really nice. And they don't separate them, they let them all play together, and I think that's brilliant. So yeah.

Q That's really interesting. And does it make it easier for you, because you've seen them use these songs and stuff at school does that help in terms of you doing it at home maybe and enjoying it together at home? Or is it more a school thing would you say?

A I've always liked music. And we've always.....because we're a close family we love games, and on Christmas Day all the family comes together – all of us – we all go to my auntie's, she has all of us, and at night we all play games and we're all on the Karaoke. And that's what we've always been like isn't it, because of my nannan, she used to have us all round for Sunday dinner. Used to take it in turns, the family, but we'd be all there. And we're quite a big family as well, so that's why I'm so close.

Q Yes. And you've kept up almost a family tradition there, your feel of keeping it for play when you all have big get-togethers and stuff.

A Yeah. I always stay in touch with my family like. You only really get to see them though when there's funerals and weddings and stuff like that but we always communicate through Facebook and through mobile phones just to see.... like all my family know that I've had this operation, they're on the phone every day 'are you alright, what have you been up to, do you need anything'. Yeah.

Q Do you like Facetime or Skype with them or anything like that?

A They do with their dad. And my sister's away at the moment, we've been FaceTiming her haven't we. So she's in America at the moment.

Q And do you think that's useful for the kids, do you keep in touch through...you know as the children have got....

A Yeah, especially when sometimes they couldn't see their dad because of what's happened. Even though he were in hospital he could still contact them, you know through FaceTime.

Q Yes, so that's another positive when it comes to technology.

A Yeah. And they know how to use FaceTime. They'll FaceTime everybody, or try and phone everybody.

Q Oh really?

A That's why we've had to put codes on us phones.

Q Yeah they sound quite savvy in lots of ways, yeah.

A Yeah. And the phone will ring and they'll just pick it up. And you could be upstairs doing summat, and like that day when I said when she told somebody I was at the toilet – but I weren't – and I still don't know who it were. So yeah.

Q It's a good way of dealing with a cold call isn't it! Oh that's absolutely brilliant, thank you so much. I'm going to pause that now.