

Q = Main interviewer (Cath)

Q2 = Second interviewer (Alex)

A = Mum (Denise)

B = Dad (Travis)

C = Child 1 (Jeremy, aged 11)

D = Child 2 (Cerys, aged 9)

Q There we go, so that's recording. So we're going to look at the films of...are they of Jeremy and Cerys or....

A I think yeah, they are all....yep. I've just got to find them.

Q That's fine.

A So the first one I took was on a day when I'd just....we discovered the drum stick that's been missing for some time, and then I gave it to them to play with and told them they couldn't be on screens, and then things got like a wee bit all tribal.

Q OK! So is this a drum stick from an actual kit that you have?

A It's like just a single, like a ??? drum or something that someone gave me.

Q So they were told not to go on tech that day, or that moment?

A They'd been booted off, yeah they'd been on screen 2 hours and I'd told them to get off.

*Plays film*

Q So is it like a painted drum?

B Yeah, it's like a Celtic, maybe....

Q So what are they sort of playing do you think?

A I think just enjoying making noise.

Q OK. Because Cerys looks like she's behind a fence or something like that. Jeremy has got the drum.

A Yeah she's on the steps, the back steps.

Q Oh OK, yeah.

A But for some reason she's got her foot up, it seemed to be important that the foot's up.

Q What do you think they were sort of doing?

A I think....she's got like the loudest scream, so she's proud of her very loud scream anyway.

Q Oh is she? This is something that she likes to do, is scream?

A She likes to scream a bit, yeah. And they were initially trying to take turns on the drum but I think this is a compromise they came to where Jeremy gets to keep the drum and she can enjoy making noise in a different way.

Q Does Jeremy like playing instruments?

A I think he's very musical, but we aren't so it's very hard to teach him it or give it to him. Like when he sat down with the piano even when he was a wee baby, he would make pretty noises come out even though he was just like making it up. It wasn't just like 'zanc, zanc, zanc'. But if you put him anywhere near like painting he will just throw paint at the paper, he has no artistic abilities in that sense. But with musical instruments, yeah he does seem to....

Q He's told us he's not going to use the play diary. So that's absolutely fine. But he's made it clear. It's really helpful actually that he's made it clear at the start because then we won't pester him about it. So that's that. Have you got any sort of videos of play related to him on technology or....

A Yeah, show me up next.

Q That's great. No that was really good actually, it was really nice. You have got a really nice garden out there.

A Thank you. OK, that one I think is.....

*Plays film*

Q So where is this in the house?

A Cerys's in her bedroom, this is Cerys at her computer. Jeremy is in his bedroom at his computer. And their friend [girl's name] is communicating with them both on the phone and playing together with them on Roblox. I think it's Roblox. Whatever they're playing.

Q Ah, right. Can you actually sort of ....so is [girl's name]'s voice on the phone or is it on the screen?

A She's telling us now.

B On the computer, yeah.

A And is [girl's name] talking to you through the computer or on your phone?

D Phone.

Q So is [girl's name], when she's on the phone is she communicating by text or is she speaking on the phone?

A It's a video group chat that they're on.

Q Ah, it's a video group chat, OK. So who is that that we can see on the phone there, is that....

A Jeremy, [girl's name] and her ???

Q Ah OK, right.

A [Girl's name] used to live around the corner and then her parents split up, so half the week she's here and half the week she's across town. So this is how they keep up their friendship on the half week she's across town.

Q Oh right. So when she's across town they do online and phone communication, and they're all playing the same game, is that right?

A Yeah. This is now in Jeremy's room.

Time 5:00

Q Oh wow. So they're sort of....they're playing the same game....

A Altogether.

Q Altogether, but in separate rooms, and in their friend's case in separate location.

A Yeah.

Q So this is a kind of social event for them.

A Yeah.

B And it's something they learned and picked up through themselves, do you know what I mean, we didn't give them instructions in this but their friends obviously have but....

Q Right, so this is something they've learned from their friends how to do.

A Yeah, I think [girl's name]'s probably taught them how to do it so that she could....

Q She could stay in touch with them.

A I'm not sure where it began, I wouldn't swear that's how they learned it. But yeah they've done it by themselves. We said 'oh' you just can't see us with echo-y conversations because you speak and then you hear it come like a lab? later through the computer on to the other person's computer.

Q So they're all talking to....almost like to themselves and each other at the same time.

A Yeah they're all playing the same game, they're all watching what's going on on screen and fighting together and communicating what's going on.

Q So when they talk to each other, when they chat while they're playing it, they're not talking about just sort of every day stuff, they're describing to each other what's....

A It seems to be all about game play, yeah.

Q OK.

A I mean like, yeah I'll check if there's anything else, I'll listen in, but mostly so far I only really hear game play.

Q So when they're doing that how long would they sort of play that for?

A Oh God, hours if we don't boot them off.

Q How long would you sort of let them play for?

A Maybe a couple of hours if [girl's name]'s not around and it's a very sunny day and that stuff. But I mean....pew.....

Q But they would happily just....

A Yeah, they'd do it all day if I didn't tell them they had to get off screen basically.

Q So it's like a social get-together and....

A Yeah.

Q So what do you think they sort of enjoy most about that kind of play?

A Erm....God, all of it. I mean they enjoy tech play anyway, Jeremy is a little addict, he doesn't have to add in [girl's name] for him to want to play it all day. But for Cerys, definitely the element where her friend is involved in an extra added thing, she's a very social person so the fact that she's playing with her friend I think is significant for her.

B The ??? because Jeremy will chat to other people in different games that he's playing, but it's sort of text like, it just comes up on the screen. And they're doing it just because they can because it's casual conversation. It's like 'oh I saw you do that' and 'yes', you know it's not necessary for the game, they're just making conversation.

Q It's just like a running commentary alongside the game.

A Yeah.

B But it's mostly about game related, about what the game is.

Q Yeah.

B But yeah I'm sure they have to arrange what they're going to play next and when they're going to see each other, they seem to know all this stuff so I think they do that.

A I think they do that a bit more through WhatsApp though, actually communicating when to arrange to get online.

Q Ah, because I was wondering how they make the sort of like appointment.

A Yeah, that's where the WhatsApp group comes in.

Q So they're in a WhatsApp group as well?

A Yeah. So I'm on the group as well, but I've muted it because it does get silly at times.

Q So lots of emoji and things like that?

A Oh God yeah, absolutely. And my phone fills up with stuff that they've sent me, because I hadn't realised this was a feature of WhatsApp wear. If someone decides to share something with you, like a little Gif or something, that actually becomes part of your album storage on your phone. So it's like 'ah'.

Q Yeah because it's stored local isn't it? This is what threw me with WhatsApp at first because I thought it was cloud storage, and then I suddenly realised it was, like 'oh no, well done'.

A Yeah, oh God all this stuff that Cerys sends me, these Gifs are filling up my phone. So let's see, is it the Shadow Wolves. Tap here for group info. Jeremy, Cerys, and that will be [girl's name]'s, the other number.

Q So the group's called the Shadow Wolves.

A Yeah.

Q Is that through Cerys's....

A Cerys set it up, yes. So she's....

Q Wolf appreciation!

A Yeah.

Q How did Cerys get so interested in Wolves?

A Don't know.

B It was...I mean it's been cats since she was born, she pretended to be a cat.

A But then she's gone through like a little phase where she got quite into dinosaurs, incredibly knowledgeable about insects, her sea life is blooming incredible, and then she's arrived at wolves and she seems to be a little bit happy and is fixating on wolves.

B 72 most dangerous animals ???

A Yeah basically, yeah. But when they were little we used to watch David Attenborough. One of the earlier shows that they used to love watching together was....it was called like the Meat Eaters episode or something and it was just like....

Time 10:00

B Animals fighting.

A Yeah, animals killing and fighting each other. Jeremy used to absolutely love it when he was little.

Q Oh. So this is the group, so they're quite sort of independent, but they are independent in setting up their play?

A Yeah, because I've been encouraging them to be.

Q Oh OK.

A Because it is pressure on parents isn't it if you've got to arrange play dates and escort them and stuff. They're old enough now that they can go like locally, to get on a bike and go to a local house wherever they are. They've both got phones now so I can communicate with them if I want them to come home. When I was a kid I had quite an independent childhood, so I don't want to be the mollycoddling parent who doesn't let them do stuff, it's not what I had, so yeah.

Q Yeah. So do you find that technology and sort of digital devices are part of that, are part of their independence, or....

A Erm....they are....I think they could still manage if they didn't exist, you know I think bikes are as critical a part of their independence as anything else, you know being able to transport yourself to a thing is probably more important. But yeah it's certainly that's the method that they're using to communicate, because it's the obvious choice these days isn't it, they'd be blooming stupid if they weren't.

Q One thing I wonder is that when they are together say in the same house, like Cerys and Jeremy and [girl's name] or any kind of friendship mix really, do they still use What's App when they're together?

A Erm.....no, like they'll still play 3-way games on tech which might involve a bit of sharing, but they don't like sit there texting each other one sat next to each on the sofa, they're not like that yet.

Q Yeah.

A But I'm sure it will come, as they want to have secret chats about the programmes and stuff.

Q Ah. But you are invited into their WhatsApp group, is that right?

A Yeah.

Q So thinking about then kind of technology as part of like social interaction, can you think of kind of any other sort of technology or devices they have that they interact socially with and through?

B I don't think they need....

A Yeah, what would they need now they've phones and computers, I don't know, yeah.

B Semaphore play!

A Oh walkie talkies when we go camping.

Q Ah, OK.

A Actually they do use walkie talkies when we go camping.

B They had a great time with that last month.

A Yeah.

Q Are these walkie talkies that are sort of like the full adult size, or are they....

B They're smaller but....

A Slightly smaller but they're pretty decent ones, yeah they've got quite a good range on them so they could be like quite far apart, different channels. I think they can text over the walkie talkies as well.

Q Oh can they? I've never heard of that. I'm quite impressed now! So what do they do when they're playing with the walkie talkies?

A Honestly, that's our excuse to ignore them and leave them to ??? They run around in a field entertaining themselves really happily, being able to communicate if they're not even quite together while they've got groups of friends that they're kind of running wild with, and we crack on with doing what we're doing.

Q OK. So are there any more video clips, or shall we move on to....

A No, that was it.

Q That was it. No, that was really interesting, thank you, I really enjoyed that. So would you say their play is sort of like a mix of indoor and outdoor?

A Well I throw them out!

Q Oh right.

A But my childhood was like waking up in the morning and being thrown out of the house. So you played outdoors all the time. And it's hard to do that now, a lot of it because the other kids aren't being thrown out as well. So if I see any hint of other kids being outside I'm like 'right, get off your screens, go and join the other children that are out' - boom. You know like yesterday it's just like, it's this time of year, so I've changed the rules now so that when they come in from school they're not allowed screen time, they've got to get whatever outdoor time and fresh air time or running around play they're doing before it's completely dark, and they can have a bit of tech after dinner.

Q OK, is that with the clocks going back and things like that?

Time 14:50

A Yeah. In the summer months they tend to come in from school really hot and for our children it's very hot and they don't want to play out yet, so it's the other way round, they tend to have their tech, then do that, and play out after. But I don't want them just sat on their bums all the time. And by default they're there. So they're off only if you remember to boot them off basically. So it is a constant battle of like trying to get them off and then....you know sometimes I try and find ways to entertain them, but other times I don't. I've taken on board this suggestion that you've got to get bored in order to get creative. And you know boredom was a feature of my childhood, and creativity is a feature of my adulthood. We're quite creative people me and my husband, you know he paints, I do photography, you know Cerys is obviously artistic, she's got it in here. I think with Jeremy it might be musical, but like his brain is definitely more mathematical and analytical, so his creativity is less obvious but I'm sure it's there, he's just less good at communicating it to me in a way I recognise.

Q Do you think there are kind of any games and technologies that encourage creativity that they use or have come into contact with, or something you might consider getting for the household?

A Yeah, I think Minecraft probably did because of its 3D building things. Cerys just went bonkers with 3D building when she got that, I was just like 'she's going to be a house architect or something'. If she can't use that kind of software that architects use when she's grown up I'd be surprised, do you know what I mean? Actually a pen and paper to be honest encourages creativity more than anything though, you know paint. And tactile stuff, like we would do things like pouring beans or lentils or whatever and just trying to get them involved in textures, which Jeremy used to absolutely love doing. Pouring, he'd do for hours on end. But yeah I don't know.

B During the summer the...like the trampolines, and there's like four of them right around this neighbourhood and they become like little meeting places, if you know what I mean.

A Really hub spots, yeah.

Q OK, so these are trampolines in people's gardens, is that right?



B Yeah. And they sort of will spend hours, they'll be on the trampoline, just sitting round.

A We used to have a slide while everyone else had trampolines, so they'd come to us to slide for a change. And then as they all got a bit bigger so they don't, and it's a bit knackered now, so we decided to get a trampoline. And I was like, partly for my sake as well because I'm like I don't want a trampoline that's big enough for them that's not actually that little bit bigger so I can use it too, because otherwise it would just annoy me that it's taking up the garden.

Q Yeah.

A So we got a really big one. And then you can get like up to sort of 7, 8 kids kind of boinging around on it, or just sitting having a conflag. And it's like their little tree house or something.

Q And this is something they would just sort of naturally go outside and take themselves off and do?

A Yeah.

B Yeah, it's probably first choice. And they go in the woods a lot more now.

A Yeah their range has got further this summer. So before now it would have been pretty much they'd go straight to the trampoline in the garden, but they're now more aware that they're able just without having to particularly ask, because obviously we're aware where they're going a bit, they're allowed to go out of the garden into this little stretch of woods and the field that's next to it. And as long as they ask us and we know that they're there they can go over the road into the little bit of woods, where somebody has apparently tied a car tyre swing on some sort of single rope – slightly dodgy swing!

B And that's kind of a hangout isn't it for....

A Yeah, which attracts like all the teenagers. They're not quite teenagers, they're the young tweens maybe sort of age, it's a local hangout for them. So they're, yeah, exploring a bit more over there. Cerys loves riding her bike, but Jeremy doesn't really do wheels these days I don't know why, he went off them.

Q No? So those are the kinds of sort of outdoor play that they do. Do they do any kind of imaginative play while they're outside?

A Oh yeah, I mean that's most of their play when they're out is imaginative play. The Minecraft game where they just....they play Minecraft. I'm going to try and catch a bit of film but I haven't seen them playing it lately.

Q Yeah. Could you tell me a bit more about the Minecraft game?

A I don't really get it myself. They're just characters from the game, and because I don't know the game itself I don't really know what they're doing. But they're just like wandering around pretending that they're in Minecraft land and trying to kill the baddies I think.

B It was Star Wars for a while, do you know what I mean, big characters.

Q OK, so they play Star Wars and....

Time 20:00

B Yeah, it's sort of like things they....??? things. I only had Germans and Indians when I was a kid, so you know now it's zombies, do you know what I mean, there's a lot of zombies and evil.

Q OK. So do they sort of play zombies and things like that?

A Zombies do crop up a lot. I think that's from [girl's name], her dad's really into zombie movies.

B Minecraft is full of zombies.

Q Ah, OK. So how do they sort of play zombies?

A I don't really know. You just hear 'zombies' mentioned.

Q OK.

A I think the zombies are coming for them or something, I'm not really sure.

Q So if they're playing games like that is there ever any kind of like chasing involved, or any kind of boundaries or...

A Yeah they're pretend fighting things all the time. So they'll have sword fights with invisible whatever, I don't know what it might be.

Q Do they use sort of....what kind of props would they use in that kind of play?

A Sometimes they'll use like, you know a sword or whatever, a lot of the time there is no props they'll just be making the sound effect of a whoosh, you know 'whoosh, whoosh, whoosh'.

B Or a stick, I mean if they have a stick anywhere they will....

A Yeah, so props are less likely to feature than sound effects I would say.

Q Yeah.

B But yeah, if we go for a walk and one of them picks up a stick, then the other one's got to have a stick as well.

A Yeah.

Q OK. So do sort of like media influences, like films, TV, games, impact on their play or their conversation or....

A Yeah. Yeah I would say they always have done, you know Cerys would have fantasized about being Frozen at a certain stage, you know.

Q OK, so she likes, or would like the Disney sort of things.

A Yeah. She likes Frozen, she went obsessed about that one. She hasn't really been for any other Disney stuff. She loves dragons, the How To Train Your Dragon series.

Q Oh yeah, yeah.

A I do too, so we watched that a lot when they were little. I've forgot what the question was.

B Yeah, just if there was any other kind of....

Q Kind of like media and....you mentioned Star Wars as well I think.

A Yeah, I mean like Jeremy is obviously massively into Star Wars.

B Jeremy, yeah. He ??? just tell you about it, and then play it. They do play it.

Q So he's kind of like he's got a lot of factual knowledge of it, is that right?

A Yeah he would play more and talk about it more, but Cerys is bored of it so she's shut it down I think is what's happened.

Q Do you have any kind of like...are you involved in any kind of the decision making about what kind of games they can play on the computer, or what kind of apps they can have on their phones, do you sort of help them decide?

A Some. Yeah I've told them that they're not allowed things that are like anything that would be marked as not PG basically, things that look like they're violent. I mean even Roblox is a little bit running around killing and I'm not too happy, but they ??? all are.

Q I've not really seen Roblox but I noticed it was like a....there was a first person shoot them up element.

A It is a shoot them up, yeah. But it's not bloody and gory and it doesn't look realistic. So I'm like 'you're never playing those', like 'you're never going to be old enough until you've left my house to play those', right, I don't care.

Q So no Call of Duty or anything!

A No, because it does genuinely affect people's....seemingly according to research it genuinely affects people's behaviour off screen and an attitude to violence. So no. And it is

bloody and gory. And it's also I can't stand the depiction of women in it as well frankly, it's a really masculine world in which even when women are fighting they're doing it in bra and pants for no apparent reason. Because if I was out fighting I'd actually be trying to protect my skin. It's bloody ridiculous. So yeah, you know I've got issues with that. And you know I've got issues with a lot of like NTV for a lot of the same reason, it's so sexualized. Yeah there is stuff that I won't let them near.

Q OK. So you're sort of aware of like gender representation and things like that in the games.

A Yeah. I mean there's not a lot you can do about it because gender representation is something it is everywhere and it is a very masculinised world. But you know you can try and limit it a little bit and at least make them make sure they're conscious of what's going on and they're ??? are being programmed a little bit, do you know what I mean?

Q Do you think that's because they get....do you think they get sort of messages from what they take in from the media, do you ever....

Time 24:50

A Well of course we do, we all get messages from everything, we're all learning all the time. And visual media is powerful. As a photographer I understand that you can slam someone a message in the back of their head without realising you've done it. So yeah. It's more worrying than if it was written and obvious, you know? Yeah I do have a lot....especially the way the use of technology morphs into children's access to porn at far too young an age, that's one thing that massively concerns me. And that sexualisation stuff, the way it crosses over into all aspects where, you know like a lot of what is not supposed to be porn, to me looks highly pornographic, that's part of our modern culture in terms of advertising what's going on in...yeah the entertainments industry especially. So yeah I don't know how to fight it, I just want to at least say to my daughter, 'look, look, look, look, look' and not try and find positive as well.

Q Ah right, I was going to ask, do you sort of consciously sort of try and seek out positive representations for media and games and things?

A I think positive representations are probably more likely to be found in our reality. So that's something that we find like in the festival circuit for example, one thing that we do and have done for a long time now, is help organise a festival called ??? Medieval Festival, and we're now involved with another one, the Northern Green Gathering. For me, that's partly to want to capture my childhood, because when I was a kid I used to go camping all the time, and the community that we had from there is something that I find most....I can find with the community of people who are involved in building festivals. Because it's a lot of people who like live on the road who will go from festival to festival. It's like the traveler lifestyle, it is a niche kind of clique world. And then there's others like us who aren't fully part of it but it's still like a mentality if you like, away from Babylon. So there, they will see women who are, you know driving tractors or doing men's jobs, they will see men who are cooking or looking after babies, that people just do whatever they do. And people are kind of rule breakers to be fair, so you know they're very creative people. But they see the changeover, they literally see the costume change. So you know I think to me that gives them not only the chance to have alternative role models but like a chance to have an understanding of entrepreneurialism that I

didn't have as a kid. So like when I was a kid it was always just 'what job are you going to have when you grow up'. Whereas I try and say to my kid 'what are you going to be, what are you going to create, what are you going to do' and don't narrow it down to thinking just of jobs. I know other people always say 'what job are you going to do', but it doesn't have to be a job, a job is one of the options.

Q Where do you think their interests are sort of leaning for them?

A Jeremy, still heavily science and anywhere he can make a million. Cerys, art or animals. Yeah.

Q So what we've just been talking about is kind of like, you've been talking about worries of sort of exposure to different sort of like perhaps negative portrayals or negative messages through sort of technology and things like that. Are you sort of worried in any way about your childrens' experiences with technology, is there anything that has made you concerned or...

B Yeah.

Q Yeah?

A I'm worried about bullying and how you can't get rid of it when it's on the phone and in the home, but I haven't yet had....they haven't had that experience. I think [girl's name] probably has because she's just again a little bit older, so she's part of that, you know, girl gangs being a little bit bitchy and bullying each other world now, so I think she's had a little bit of it turning back and coming at her on the phone, and they might have seen something of it. But that's where my concern is in short, in the immediate future.

Q OK. Do they interact on social media, other than sort of the little WhatsApp group that they've got, or...

A No, they're not allowed to be on Facebook or any of that yet. Like none of the things that you consider social media, but it's like as you say the games, where it kind of sneaks in, it's half social media anyway. Because I don't fully keep up with what they're playing, you know sometimes they will switch to something new and it takes me a while to 'what is this new thing that you're doing' to know that it's like....you know if it's one where they've got like the stranger danger starts coming in, where it could be like the pedophile pretending not to be the little kid who lives down the road kind of fear one.

Time 30:16

Q OK.

A But they are very clued up when I ask them about it, they always give the right answers. The school's definitely taken them through online safety, which is quite reassuring.

Q OK, so you get the sense they know about online safety from school and...

A Well they know the right answers to questions. I don't know how much they practice what they preach, if you know what I mean? But it's one of those things. You know like

when I was a kid the danger was the ice cream van, right, that was the story you were told, yeah, 'you don't go off with the ice cream van man' or whatever, and my auntie's ??? car, right. So we've always had a stranger danger story given us through our childhood. What I saw on the telly was that kids who had been taught and know the right answer nonetheless could do the wrong thing if it comes slightly differently. So these kids have been told not to go off with a man in his car. We're persuaded to get into an ice cream van in order to take the ice cream, and then we're persuaded to go down a dark alleyway in order to stroke a puppy, you know. So it's like if you give them the right temptation, or present it slightly differently, because it's not the question exactly and then the answer, it doesn't mean because they know the answer they necessarily do the right thing in the situation – if you know what I mean? So I know that in theory they won't because they've given me the right answers. But you know in reality if they....you know Jeremy has chatted with people over the internet who are not people he knows in person, which is something I've told him he's not allowed to do. But then he's telling me he's learning Finnish because he's got a friend in Finland who also... So I'm like 'OK'.

Q So these are people he's met through online gaming basically, is that right?

A Yeah. So like Travis said, where they've kind of chatted a bit about what they're doing on the game. And at the moment there isn't anything that's made me worry that it is anything other than just another kid because of what Jeremy says. But, it can change so quickly can't it? Like when it has happened for people it's literally been somebody's made contact, then they've bombarded your kid with messages for about 48 hours until your kid has been persuaded to go and meet them in the park – and then they're dead. So like it could happen because I don't pay close enough attention, do you know what I mean, if it only takes that long.

Q So what kind of things do you have in place in the home, do you have any strategies that you employ, or any sort of restrictions that you put on the actual devices or anything like that?

A Not really. They've got....yeah they've both got accounts set up on their computers which are child accounts, so there is some degree of restriction there about what they can access on the internet. And they have a timer thing so they can't access the internet at all after 9pm or something like that time. We used to have it on Jeremy's phone, but he hasn't complained for a while and maybe he's found a way to turn it off. I might check that's still on there!

B Exactly, yeah exactly, they go to bed quite early since he started school.

A School, yeah it could be that. I might want to check that one's still there. Apart from that, I suppose really my technique is just to discuss with them my fears. That's my...

B Yeah, I don't think you can hide them from it.

A Yeah you can't. And it's the same technique I decided was the right one when I worked in Women's Refuge basically.

Q OK.

A For kind of basically all dangers, like trying to protect your children by leaving them innocent just means that they're blindly walking over a cliff. I think it's better to sit them at the cliff edge and point out the danger and just go 'don't come back here again, alright, we've discussed that one now'.

Q So these are like conversations that you have and....

A Try to have, yeah.

B And taken them to the edge!

A I have taken them to there and sat ??? I probably have a photo of it somewhere!

B That was taken by me fifteen feet from the cliff.

A Scared me, going 'oh my God'.

Q So where do you get your sort of knowledge of online safety and things like that from? You mentioned like when you were working in a Women's Refuge, was that an issue during that period or was that before...?

Time 35:00

A It wasn't an issue at our Refuge because they basically refused to allow them to have internet in the Refuge. But that was a massive issue for me because it meant the kids were deprived, because literally schoolteachers say 'go home and Google' when they want you to do your homework. There was an assumption that you have access to the internet. It also meant the women couldn't do their own research as well as they should be able to. So it really frustrated me that they wouldn't let them have it. But you know they can't police what they then do with it, and there are damaged people in Refuge and they can perpetuate abuse on each other. So you know it isn't necessarily an environment in which you want a boundary- less kind of wild west thing being played with.

Q Do you get sort of from your own friendships, do you ever sort of inform one another, or learn about sort of safety and issues?

A Oh yeah.

Q Right.

A Yeah, because we've got friends who are like quite techy friends, so they're the ones who like got Travis into open source stuff and made me hear about it in the first place, as far as I'm aware. So not a lot but like occasionally as parents we will have that conversation with other parents, especially as the kids grow and get into a new and different technology. It's a bit like 'do you have any idea how to manage this one', and basically we'll go 'no', because it didn't exist in our childhood, do you know what I mean, there are no guidelines, we don't know.

Q That's a very interesting point, that it didn't exist, in the way that it didn't for me.

A Yeah. So most of my guidelines of parenting are like 'what did my mum and dad do'. And if that doesn't work for me I might go back further and go 'right, what worked for cavewoman', do you know what I mean? But they can't provide the answers to these modern tech questions.

Q So do you feel like you notice this gap between....do you think there is a big difference, or any kind of difference really between childhood now and the childhoods that you and I probably experienced, with the introduction of technology?

A God! I'd have to say probably yes, but I don't know if technology is to blame as much as other factors, like there being so many cars you can't play on the streets; or the fact that we have a 24 hour society, whereas in my childhood everyone was off work on Sundays at the very least, so clubs and communities and getting together physically stuff seemed to happen more. Whereas now we're all a little bit isolated in our little worlds, doing our own thing, it's very hard to get together with your friends. Because, you know, I work nights, they work nights, they work days, they work weekends, so technology and one at a time conversations or group chats over the technology is the only kind of way to do it.

Q Do you find that you sort of keep in touch with one another using technology at all, or any kind of digital devices? What kind of role do they play in your sort of family community life?

B If I'm going to be really late for dinner, you know if I'm out or something like that or, you know it's just when you need to.

Q So it's like a....

A Yeah, not a lot.

B I mean sometimes I've been in the cellar and you've posted something on Facebook and I....you know, respond.

A That's because I thought you were out though half the time, because you're so quiet when you're in the cellar!

B Yes, it's still four flights of stairs.

A Yeah, once in a while I've phoned you from bed to say could you bring me a cup of tea. But I don't know, very rare to be fair. At the moment it really is....at home it's paper communication, notes on paper to be honest, if you can pin it on the kettle then I know he'll find it. If I leave it on Facebook he might not check for ages!

B My Pay As You Go is like £10 twice a year.

Q Oh right OK. So just to sort of finish off I've just got one or two more questions. I just wondered about, when we were talking about sort of restrictions and safety, and also you mentioned that Jeremy doesn't....neither of them have access to the internet after 9. So are there any other kind of rules, or are there any rules that you have as a household about the use of digital devices or the internet and things like that?



A Just trying to limit the amount of time they spend on it I suppose is the only other rule. I mean in theory it's 3 hours a day and they blow that every single day so....

Q What kind of worries you about them being on it?

B The media.

A I don't honestly....I don't find it all bad. They're hugely engaged, they learn stuff, they educate themselves all the time. The things my kids have learned off YouTube is incredible.

Time 40:00

Q Really? Like what?

A Oh the entire animal kingdom. You know my daughter's knowledge of animals and...oh and my son's insane knowledge of everything to do with insects or the universe or....you know his knowledge of science is incredible and a lot of that has come from just sitting there and watching videos on YouTube. So it engages their brains, it entertains them greatly. The only thing I don't like about it is it doesn't move their bodies, so that's my issue with it, they need to get exercise and fresh air as well.

B 3D goggles.

A Yeah. No it really might be better when the world goes more virtual and they're off their bums playing games, do you know what I mean, because that's my main concern with it is it's just physically static.

B As soon as you're 18 they pretty much expect you to be on screen 10 hours a day, that's the way society is.

Q In the workplace?

B Well yeah, and then come and watch TV until you're exhausted. I mean that's what they promote, screens all day and....it's kind of like hard to expect children not to do that and then all of a sudden do that. That's kind of the way society is now. It's ??? on screen. It's nice that it's not radiating in the same way that it used to.

Q But that's quite interesting, the idea that we as a society are quite keen to keep our kids from doing what a lot of us do all the time out of necessity, or work or whatever.

B It's kind of ???

A Yeah, but equally I know I'm on my screen for work. When I come home I do play games on my phone now, I'm a bit obsessed with them, but equally I also like to read a book or a 'not screen' thing to rest my eyes. Sometimes you can kind of really be aware that you've had too much screen.

Q Do you ever sort of notice if you feel like Cerys or Jeremy have had....are there any sort of times when you think 'I feel like they need to come off screens because....' or anything like that?

A Just because they've been on too long, yeah.

Q So kind of what's their mood like when they're playing?

A Oh gosh yeah, no yeah sometimes yeah they can get really scratchy with each other, at which point I'm just like 'if you're shouting at each other does that mean I have to turn it off?' And then '???' But yeah, no sometimes they do get scratchy and jumpy with each other, or just be a bit more inclined to be fighting or something. But you know equally you can see that when they're not playing on screens as well, sometimes they'll get scratchy and crappy with each other, and the answer is that someone needs to eat or go to sleep generally. So you know.

Q So the rules that you have are sort of like a certain limit to screen time, which doesn't always get observed, and no internet after sort of 9 o'clock. Do you ever notice ways in which they try and get round those....

A Oh yeah. Jeremy will like sneak his phone into his bed and play it at night if he can do it. We've got wise to that now, but for a while he was like falling asleep at school and we weren't quite sure what was going on.

Q Oh really?

A Yeah. Mostly though they're fairly...I think they understand my reasons why is partly. So they're a bit more willing to obey because I do explain why as opposed to it just being arbitrary, 'do it because you've been told', so that helps. And also sometimes Cerys, never Jeremy but Cerys, will come downstairs and say 'have we had enough screen time now' because she's bored of it and she wants me to kick Jeremy off so that they can go and play.

Q Oh right OK. So it works both ways, you've got Jeremy sort of....

A Yeah, she'll ask for it sometimes. But Jeremy never does.

Q Ah right, so she will ask for you to come in and say 'that's enough'.

A Yeah.

Q When you say you sort of got wise to Jeremy using his phone at midnight, how have you sort of counteracted that? Have you just sort of explained it or....

A I took his phone off him and made him leave it downstairs when he went to bed for a while, and then I don't always remember to do that and I'm not always here at bedtime because I'm working evenings so then that falls down again. Travis doesn't always pick up so then he gets away with it for a little while. Cerys will squeal and tell us if he's getting up to naughty stuff.

Q Oh does she?

A And also, you know if I just start noticing he's sleeping later in the morning I get suspicious quicker, it might be stuff like that.

Q OK, yeah.

Time 45:00

A But I mean he still gets away with it a little bit, but he's also aware that I've also explicitly told him that if he starts falling asleep at school and I get complaints on that, then the punishment will be that he gets all tech moved from his bedroom.

Q Right OK.

A And the punishment of losing it for ever is greater than the temptation of using it for an hour.

Q Ah. So have you ever done like a tech ban or anything like that?

A Oh yeah.

B You removed his PC from his bedroom.

A I removed the PC out of his bedroom for a while because he was not tidying his room too much. So like because they're on the screens, if they get permission to have a packet of crisps or whatever, even if they want to go to the toilet or whatever, nothing is as important as being at the game. So it just became very messy, a sea of stuff everywhere. And also Jeremy, partly to do with his autism, but he did have a habit of pooing himself whilst sat at the computer. So there did come a point at which I just went 'right, that's it, I've tried every other method, the answer is now you are just not having it'.

Q So was it a case that he was putting off sort of going to the toilet, putting off doing things.

A Yeah, so engaged in it, yeah.

Q Yeah, it's because he was engrossed in the game. Can you remember what games they were that were sort of so engrossing or....

A Oh anything, yeah he could just be watching videos too.

Q Right, but it was just didn't want to leave the screen for a minute.

A Yeah.

Q And so you took the computer away.

A Took the computer away and their behaviour transformed immediately overnight. Rubbish stopped being left around the house. They worked really hard ???

Q OK, so it was a good incentive for....

A Definitely it works, yeah. And you know in terms of like what can you use as punishment in a world in which it becomes increasingly difficult to use actually any kind of corporal punishment, yeah banning tech is the biggest fear as I can tell in my children's world.

Q OK thank you. So that's there. I wondered if you could tell me a little bit about the picture in your play diary where it says it's the Minecraft picture?

D I drew it because I like Minecraft, and I've got it on my computer and I've got it on two Xboxes, one of which is that one there.

Q Aha.

D And then I've got one downstairs that I've also got it on. I learnt how to play Minecraft from possibly my friend called [girl's name] who lives just around the corner.

Q So was it something that your friend had and then you played it? Did you play it at her house or...?

D Yes. And then eventually my cousin came round, and then my mum bought the Xbox off her so then we could get Minecraft. And was really lucky because my mum bought the disc, but the disc is in there because it wasn't working on the downstairs Xbox because it was scratched so I had to put it in there. And then we downloaded it on the Xbox downstairs. But I made it ??? drew this as how I would want my avatar to be if I did have Minecraft. And if I had Mods I'd have the ears, the devil horns and the wolf tail.

Q Aha. So that would be sort of like your skin or whatever if you were... So if there's something that you would like to create on Minecraft is it something that you can create – or you say you don't have the Mod for it, or....?

D The Mod is for the ears and the tails and the devil horns, but I don't know how to do it on the Xbox. And I can't do it on any sort of Minecraft because I don't know how.

Q Right OK. Would your avatar have a name or anything like that, what would you call it?

D I don't know.

Q You don't know. And could you tell me a little bit about what you've written sort of around it, because it's got....sort of how it describes it?

D These are the wolf's ears, they're blue, and those light blue are the hair. The shoulders are the bits that are sticking out there. I've got the gene? horns that are right here by the ears. There's the stripes on the top I have. I've got a cardigan on my waist. Ripped black jet jeggings. I've got red trainers, a wolf tail and then I've got my hands there, just got ??? here.

Q So what do you like about this picture?

D It just represents what I would wear for my everyday clothing.

Time 50:00

Q So what do you like about things like the devil horns and stuff like that?

D It represents me, because I play fight with my brother and I love wolves and animals.

Q That's really cool. It's a fantastic drawing, it's really lovely. And there is another picture. So if you're playing Minecraft do you sort of like, if you're playing it in real life would you imagine yourself as this character?

D Yes.

Q Yes, is that something that you would do? And that picture I think is just absolutely stunning, if you could tell me a little bit about that as well?

D I was re-creating my Minecraft character but as a real life model instead of having it as a Minecraft one. But I didn't have much to do, because I find my real life characters a little bit easier and a little bit quicker to make, so I add a bit more details by adding the ears, clicking up the tail and adding more furry spikes to it. And then I also just coloured in the wings with my friend [girl's name].

Q The wings are amazing, it's almost like they've got devil horns on top of them as well. Is this something like....because it's a really cool interesting style of drawing and I wondered like what kind of influences you to draw in that sort of style, is it something that you've seen, or like comic books or....

D It's just how I've grown up to draw.

Q Oh wow, it's really, really individual. It's so good. And I love the colour scheme as well, it's really nice. So that's how your Minecraft...so the first picture is how your Minecraft avatar would look in blocks, and the second is if those blocks were a real person this is what your character would look like?

D Yeah.

Q That's fantastic. And is there anything else that you can show us in the book at all?

D I've done this one but it was my first try but I didn't really like it because I've done the wolf a little bit too thick, so I didn't want to do it and I was just doodling at the time.

Q Yeah. Can you remember what got you interested in wolves?

D I went from liking cats. And my friend had a lot of dogs, so I got into dogs and wolves. But I just prefer wolves because they're more wild style and they have lots of variants, like black, silver, white, grey, and I think there was also....I don't know, but I think those are all the colours.

Q Oh you know such a lot about them. Where do you find out what you know about wolves?

D I find out from the internet because I watch a lot of survival skills.

Q Oh do you? What got you interested in that? Is that just something that you...

D The outdoors. Because I like the outdoors and I like running around forests and climbing trees.

Q So have you learnt anything on watching survival skills that you've actually tried, because you've got some woods at the back of your house haven't you?

D I haven't tried them but I know them, so if I do get stranded I might know which snakes are dangerous and which snakes are friendly and aren't dangerous. And on the Xbox downstairs we have Netflix and I watch 72 Dangerous Animals Latin America, and 72 Dangerous Animals Asia.

Q Oh right. And what's the most dangerous animal?

D I can't remember, but one of them was mosquitos.

Q Oh right. So you watch documentaries about wildlife on Netflix and also on YouTube as well, is that right?

D Yeah.

Q OK. Is there any sort of favourite YouTube channel that you've got that you learn about animals on, or survival?

D No because I don't really look at the names of the people, I just watched the survival skills.

Q OK so that would be like a search term and you would look for survival skills. Can you tell me anything that you've kind of learnt?

D Venomous snakes like to swim on top of the water, and non-venomous snakes swim with their body under the water with their heads out.

Q Oh. So what other things do you sort of like to watch on YouTube?

D Things to do with animals. Minecraft. And sort of Roblox videos.

Time 55:00

Q Roblox videos. And I think you've written Roblox in your play diary as well haven't you? What is Roblox about, because I don't think I know much about Roblox.

D Well I've got it on here. ??? you can go on many different things on it, one of which is Wild Savannah where you get to meet? different animals from the plains from the

Savannahs. Some of them are locked and I don't know how to unlock them because it's kind of a new version and it's not been updated for a while so we can't get the different animals besides the animals that are in orangy yellow colour.

Q OK, so Wild Savannah, are there lots of different settings for Roblox then, can you sort of choose your background or...

D No, because you get to create games and then people get to play those games. And it's just one in general for me because you've got zombies, zombie games where you can do killing, you can do survival games, you can do things with exploring, you've got simulators, you've got tycoons where you get to build things like tree houses. You can go on tree house tycoon and you can build a tree house. And I'm mostly into the zombie ones where you get to survive and the tycoons.

Q I'm seeing a bit of a pattern here, you like survival stuff. So how do you survive in the zombie games?

D You kill zombies, find guns, and it just helps me a lot in general to understand how games work.

Q Oh right. So is creating games something you are interested in?

D I don't know how to create them, but I don't think I want to create them, I just want to play them.

Q Is there any games you play – I think you mentioned that your friends play as well, do any of your friends play Roblox at all?

D Yeah. I've got 3 [girl's names, all the same] that play Roblox, and then [girl's name] who also plays Roblox. I think [girl's name] does, [girl's name] does, and these are all people that I know from my classroom that play Roblox.

Q Yeah. So do you talk about it at school?

D Sometimes.

Q Are there any sort of games that you play at school that you might get ideas from from your play with tech or games or anything like that?

D Minecraft Walking Dead, I like that.

Q And how do you play that?

D You can imagine zombies, guns in chests, and you run around your world looking for food, chests, tents, places to set up your camp, and don't make your base too bright or too noisy because that will attract walkers, which are the zombies.

Q OK, and is this online or is this in real life?

D We play it in the yard.

Q You do, OK. Can you describe sort of how you do it? Does anybody play the zombies or are you all just trying to survive the zombies?

D We're all trying to survive the zombies, but if one of us gets scratched or bit we turn into zombies and we have to try and find a golden apple and shove it down your friend's throat to turn them back into a human being.

Q And is this something you play at school, or outside of school?

D It's normally just me and my brother.

Q So it's you and your brother that play that, OK.

D We run around in the field and in the forest outside and we play it, and just imagine the zombies and things. And occasionally our friend [girl's name] from around the corner will come and play it with us. And she's kind of into magic type things, like witches, where you can do magic. So we also occasionally in the game imagine that we have magic to defeat the zombies with. And if my brother's not home and like it's just me, normally I'll just run around in the field, knock for my friends see if they're playing out, or just climb trees in the forest.

Time 1:00:13

Q Yeah OK, thank you. OK so you're going to show me now how you draw using the computer. So I'm just going to put that there and see if I can...am I alright to make a recording?

D Yeah.

Q OK. So I'll turn it on to video.

D This is one of the best horses I did that I found that I liked.

Q So where did you find it?

D That one I drew in my head but I normally get videos up and copy them down from the videos. And some of them I did are up here on these shoots, these wolf ones. And I've also done a jaguar, that's in my school ??? on the wall in my classroom so everyone can see it.

Q So these are drawings that you found images online and sort of copied.

D Copied down.

Q OK. Can you show me what kind of site you would find the drawings on?

D I'd use YouTube and follow down the instructions and lines that they do.

Q Oh, could you show me that. That would be really good, thank you.



D I try to find the sort of easy ones but these are up to my level. There's one that I've done. That's one that I did, pictures...

Q So that's how to draw a tribal wolf head tattoo.

D Yeah.

Q How to draw a realistic wolf. So which ones are sort of your favourites?

D The ones that are up to my level but are kind of simple and most look like wolves.

Q Would you give me a little demonstration, or would that make you...do you prefer to draw when you're not being watched?

D I just try and find the ones that I like a lot, and this at the moment is catching my eye but I don't have any things to draw it with.

Q Could you open that video so we could have a look at it, that would be really good, thank you.

*Plays video*

Q So it tells you which tools you need and things like that, is that right? Is this something that you're planning to have a go at drawing at some point? How long will it take you do you think to make one of your drawings?

D If it's detailed, quite a bit. If it's not like detailed probably about 20 minutes.

Q And is this video something that...do you sort of like, when you watch it do you watch it through and then try and do it, or do you sort of stop/start it or....

D I pause it when his hand's away from the drawing to copy it down.

Q Oh right OK, so you do it in stages. That's brilliant, thank you.