

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

Q Yes. So we were just wondering if you did use any, take any tech outside, of any type, that would be like technological toys, or would you play with any apps or use phones or cameras or anything like that outside really, on the trampoline or in the shed, or playing music even outside. You know there's probably things that, I don't know perhaps you hadn't thought about.

A They do come in and ask for our phones if they find something interesting and take photos. Yeah. The cat was doing something funny outside and Alison in the summer came in and said 'can I borrow your phone, I've got to take a picture of this' and she took my phone outside and took a picture of the cat rolling in the mud.

Q Was it just a photo, not a film that she took?

A Yes it was a photograph yeah.

Q Can she film on your camera?

A Yes, she knows which one's which. Chloe, you've got your own camera haven't you?

D Yeah, I don't know where it is though.

A No neither do I.

Q Oh we mentioned that last visit, I remember. Because you're good at taking photographs I think, you enjoy it?

A Yeah I'm just trying to think where I haven't looked for it.

Q Is it a digital camera?

A Yeah, is it Kidizoom? Is it called Kidizoom? Yeah. I'll show you actually. Well I say that and then I'm like 'where's my phone?'

Q Oh OK, that's really interesting to see. So it's like a sort of VTech camera.

A Oh do you know what, I know where I haven't looked, I've not looked in your house.

Q In your house? Have you got like a Wendy house or something?

A They've got a play house at the bottom of the garden.

Q Ah, so the camera might be in the play house.

A Yes, there's a very good chance of it.

Q Oh that's great.

D I haven't used it for a long time ???

Q2 You've not used it for a long time.

Q So what would it be doing in the house, what would the camera be doing there, how do you play with it? Do you take photographs in the house, or in the garden at all, have you done that

D Garden, everywhere.

A Is this classed as tech?

Q What is it? Do you want to show us it?

A Has it got any batteries in it?

D Don't think so.

A Have you not, because obviously mummy ??? where the battery is.

Chloe plays with toy

A It's official, I'm getting Santa not to bring anything this year, there's way too much stuff in this house.

Q Is there any chance we could go into the garden just....

A Yeah, yeah I can show you.

Q We'll do it after when we've finished talking to you if that's alright.

A Does this count as tech too? It's a projector. So it projects an image for her to draw on the paper. And learn how to draw.

Q ??? And is that for Alison maybe that she....

A That's Chloe's actually, yeah. She got that for her birthday. Because anything arts and crafts is ??? for Chloe and Alison, they're crazy for it. And that was bought for Alison and it really helped them learn how to write ??? I've always felt that they were always on target, or above target for their writing formations and things like that and I think it's that sort of thing. Because there's two levels, there's one where you just learn, and there's a second level which is what Chloe's doing and you've got to start on the dot and follow it round slowly to get the right action. Chloe you've got it on the bigger level. [Discussing the LeapFrog Scribble and Write – see F2r_20190930_v001]

D I can do it on the bigger level.

A Right, so you've got to start there and follow the dots round remember, like that.

Q So did you help her at all with it, like you've just done now, is that how you usually do it?

A Yeah. I have to remind her if it's on level 1 or 2. Because level 1 is just easy, they can just follow the lines, whereas level 2 you've got to follow it through precisely and not go off the dots, otherwise it starts getting frustrating for them.

Q So does she play with it, I mean would she.....or would she get frustrated with it? Is she kind of ??? the use of it even or....you know sort of using it in....

A That's one of the toys that we've grown to hate because we're sick of hearing it. But it's so good for them though so you can't argue with it. But it would be something that, that's something we take with us travelling in the car if we're going on long journeys because it keeps them going, and they'd like swap between the Kindle being on and those. Because we've done like a couple of trips to London and we've been on holiday down south so it's quite a long car journey for them. So to not have to listen to 'are we there yet', we've got things like that to keep them going.

Chloe plays with toy

Q Do you like that Chloe?

D Yeah.

Q2 What do you like about it?

D Doing this bit.

Q2 Have you been drawing it? Do you like it when it makes that noise?

D Our kitchen.

Q2 Is that 'our kitchen'.

D ???

Q2 Turn it off?

A [Talking about the Kiddizoom camera] ??? first. I don't think they're on there still actually because I tried taking them off and I couldn't find the right wire so I just used one that I thought was fine and it corrupted it. So I daren't take those pictures off because I'll lose them.

Q Oh right. So you had pictures of the visit to The Deep?

A Yeah, the ones that Chloe took herself. Yeah all those pictures on there are ones that she's taken. And actually there's a trip to...where did we go....Canon Hall Farm last Christmas with school, and she wanted to take her camera so she documented it herself as well and took selfies with her friends. I think I've got pictures of that, there are some here, is it that one?

Q So does she use the camera quite frequently or does it go through phases?

A Well apart from it's been lost this summer, we've not been able to find it, we do try and take it out because she does enjoy taking photos. She actually grabs my phone and takes photos, so that's why she got it, just to make it a bit more....because it's scary when they grab our phones, so yeah. And I like the idea of her documenting things for herself.

Q Yeah absolutely. When did she get the camera?

A For her third birthday.

Q Did she ask for it or was it just your own observation of the fact that she had a bit of an interest in....

A I asked her if it was something she'd want. Why don't you try and take a selfie?

D No I don't want to.

A And it does video-ing and it does....what else does it do? Records your voice as well doesn't it?

Q And can Chloe do all the different modes on it, is she adept at...

A Yeah, yeah they're really easy to do. You press the Home button and they're all there in front. And then there's like another cursor on that side to move. But she really enjoys the games.

D 1, 2, 3, 4, the letters ???

Q [Looking at photo on Susan's phone] Oh that's lovely. So is this....

A I'll send you that one too.

Q Oh thank you, what was it again just tell me this.

A So this is at Canon Hall Farm at Christmas. Yeah they set up a new park for seeing Santa and making your own animal. I'll save those and I can send them to you.
[F2p_20190930_p014 and F2p_20190930_p015]

Q Thank you. Was that an outing for the year group?

A Yes, for the nursery yeah. It was part of their Christmas treat, and she took it so then she could take her own pictures. So you know she got those two.

Q So would you say she tends to take the camera, or you encourage her to take the camera, when it's a special outing or trip or something like that?

A She would like to take it out all the time but I try and say like 'oh we might be a bit distracted, I don't want you to put it down and then it goes missing' because it's very easily done. Like when we've taken toys out before, they've put them down and then forgotten because they've got distracted by something else, and we're watching them, so yeah. If it's a place where I think we'll be able to keep hold of it and watch what we're doing, then that's OK. But she does like to take it out a lot.

Q Does it have quite a good memory to keep all the pictures on, or do you have to keep deleting them? Has it got a memory card in it?

A It hasn't got a memory card but it has got quite a big memory. I think it takes low resolution photographs, so they're probably not the best, but it's for them anyway so....

Q2 So what do the points mean?

D Oh I need to make one of them to meet....

Q And does she go back to photos at all do you notice, or is it only because we've asked her about them that she's gone?

A No, no, no. Yeah she likes to look through. And there's been ones that I didn't know she'd taken of me, I'm like 'delete, delete, that's not a good angle for me Chloe, please don't do that'. And then there's like....is there some ones of her great-grandma on there, that's why I'm really hesitant to take them off because it's ones that she's taken and I wouldn't want to lose those ones because they're quite special. I have taken pictures of her pictures with my phone so I do have some sort of record myself.

Q So when Chloe's on it will she sort of switch lots between games, or between games and taking photographs, or taking films would you say? Or is she kind of ??? for one thing at a time?

A Until she learnt about the games it was always about the photographs. But when they found out there were games that's kind of taken over. But when we're out and about and she's got it I do say to her 'please don't play on the games, we're here to see around us and if you want to take a picture that's fine'.

D Yay! I've done it mummy. I've got all of them on this time. [*Burger game on camera*]

A Do you get to eat it then?

D I need to have ice cream, ice cream, that, that and that.

A It's funny, the games that she plays on that are like the games that I could only handle, because I'm not very good at gaming.

Q Do she ever teach you the games, or do you ever have a go on it, or have you had to show her how to do them?

A No I've not shown her, they've self-taught themselves. Because I didn't even know there was games on there until they found them. I only ever used it for the camera. So it was all their self-discovery.

Q And when you say 'their', I mean do you think Alison had a hand in as well?

A Yeah Alison. I think it was Chloe that found them and then like showed Alison, because it was while Alison was at school and Chloe's at home with me.

Q Does Chloe have a favourite game on there would you say? Or has she had a phase of a particular one?

A I think she finds the driving game a bit more difficult than this one, like that's why she wanted to get off it pretty quick.

D Are you ready? Ooh, Tigger, Tigger.

Q And have you ever seen anything that she might have done on here does it transfer on to play with anything else, like tablet, or just non-tech play or anything like that. Or would you say it's more or less enclosed into that device, the kinds of play and things. Or does she say things or imitate some of the music or noise?

A I've not really noticed there, no. I think it's just all in that.

Q She seems very absorbed by it which sets up to ???

A I think that's typical of how they are when they've got tech things, they do get 100% absorbed into it. And our constant battle with them is like having tech-free time. When they've been playing on the Kindle and it comes to take it off, they usually have an argument about it, because they think they've only been on it 5 minutes when it's been 30 minutes.

Q So they don't notice the passing of the time.

A No they don't.

Q Does it worry you, that absorption in the....

A Yeah. That's why if they kick off about putting tech down, tech stays away for longer and you have to wait for it again.

Chloe plays with toy

Q We're interested in the well-being and the emotional side of play. Because I mean looking at Chloe now, she's completely engaged.

A Yeah, 100%

Q No expression. But there's not too much expressions of emotion here, it's just a real concentration and an intensity I would say there.

A Yeah.

Q Does she ever sort of shout out or say stuff like 'oh I've got this' or you know is there any sense of pride or....

A Yeah. When she achieves something you'll hear her whoop and yay about it and try and explain it to me and show me what she's done.

Q How do you find that? I'm interested to know your reaction to it you know in terms of understanding what's happened and getting inside that emotion that they're experiencing.

A Well I guess it is a sense of achievement. So just like any other work that they do we always say 'well done, that's brilliant'. But it is always a bit of concern when they're so engrossed into it. I always find that....I don't know how to parent it because I don't know what I did. Because I was too old, I was older when I had tech. So it's like a learning curve parenting because I don't know how to parent these tech savvy little ones. And it's like I said the last time I saw you, the Times Tables Rockstars and the other one, we see going on tech as a treat and we don't want them to do it too much because we want to encourage them going outside to play, but then when we saw the competition at the school and stuff we felt bad for not allowing them on tech all the time to compete in those competitions. So it's a real juggling act at the minute because I'm still really unsure about it. Because we're just getting through a couple of weeks of difficult behaviour. I remember it from last year, it was the adjustment of school and the impact of the new school year, because they've got new responsibilities and things like that. And last year Alison really struggled and we didn't understand it at all because we're new to this. So this year, for these past couple of weeks, we've been noticing that the behaviour is coming back, and trying to tackle it. That's why there's house rules around.

Q We've been shown those, yeah.

A There's morning routine rules because that's just a nightmare at the minute, just to try and... Because we noticed the other week when they got given a list to tidy up their bedroom they responded really well to it, and that made us re-thing everything, like 'oh OK, let's write things down, let's give them a list' to see if that helps them with morning responsibilities and things like that, just to help them get up and get ready. So it's been OK this morning. So yeah, see I've gone off on one again.

Q No, no, no it's really interesting. We were talking about....how you feel about when they come with their achievement on....I wondered if you felt the same about that as you do if they bring you a picture. Or I detect maybe there's slightly more of a reservation about how encouraging and....

A Yeah. I'm not sure how to. Because I'm not a gamer, I don't like games, I don't like people spending time on things like that when there's no real achievement at the end of it.

D Say 'cheese' mummy. Thank you.

Chloe takes photos

A Have you zoomed in? Is that what you've done?

D Yeah.

A Well do you want to zoom out because we don't want to zoom in on mummy. Let's have a look then.

D We go even more backwards. And let's see you.

A Not that far forward, come on, where's that zoom button? That's it. Remember. So go that way to zoom in, and that way to zoom back out. So if you go all the way back down and then hold it up, you can see mummy's further away, which is what we like. Don't go that far forwards.

A Are you pressing that button? Oh yeah. That's to take a picture and put stickers on it I think. That's the floor. Oh a selfie – nice.

Q Ah I see, you can do a selfie mode on the phone [i.e. Kiddizoom camera]?

A Yeah it's just here, it's just there. Turns your camera around. So if you press it it goes forward, press it it goes back.

Q So it's a lot of the similar things really to a mobile phone.

A Very close to it yes. And then the fact that you can change this to make it rainbow and stuff like that, you can do on your phone too.

Q Just like filters, yes.

A And there's probably a lot more on there that we've not found yet. What are you doing there? Kaleidoscope. Do you want to show the lady?

Q Show Beth because she's got the film on there.

D Your turn. So say 'cheese'.

Q2 Cheese. Oh wow it's changing to the colours.

Q So you think when they're playing like this and using technology, do you feel a similar kind of sense about it as when they're playing with....you know like saying they can use tech as a reward or something like that, you know and saving it for best almost?

[Dad and Alison arrive back]

A Yeah.

Q Would you do that with play that's non-technological would you say, or is it on a different level than....

A Well.... because I do have certain things that we do play with for best.

So like there's a box of things in there that's not been touched, and if we've had a good time or we've had good behaviour and we want to spend some time doing something different, I have a box of fresh stuff that they've not had for us to have a treat together and do play. It's usually something crafty. So there's a whole box of stuff that I just buy, and I think 'oh I'll buy that for a rainy day' or when they've been good, or if they've achieved something and they want to have something special. So I do do that with non-technical toys too. That's just my way of parenting. I always like....

B Evening all.

[All participate in game on camera which supposedly guesses age of person in viewer]

Q That's lovely. Well maybe would you like to take that around with us, if you're not too tired, to do this play tour. Might you want to take photos and talk to us as we do this?

C Yes.

Q Well we have instructions to look at different parts of the house and see how play with technology or creativity you think is influenced by technical stuff, the apps or whatever, takes place. That's how we got on to the camera because we were talking about the fact that Chloe sometimes takes the camera out to the play house you have outside. Because Susan was asking if you take technology into the garden or anything like that, you know your phones, or play music or stuff like that.

D I want to watch Snaptune for a bit.

A YouTube.

Q Well we can start the tech tour in here if you'd like to. Is this the typical family scene where you might sit down together and look at tablets and things like that?

A Yes.

Q It's the Kindle isn't it?

A Yes.

B ??? in Portuguese.

Q Does that bother her in any way, Chloe, or is she....

A It's all about the pictures I think, I don't think they notice the languages.

Q Yeah.

B But they do try to mimic it sometimes. They obviously don't know what it means but the noise ???

Q Yeah, sort of like the up and down intonation patterns and stuff like that, yeah.

B Yeah. They often like to go upstairs and they'll do it ???

Q OK, in their own room.

B Yeah.

Q When you're here in the living room though, just thinking about this particular space, would you say it's more of a communal area that you would play together?

B I think so yeah.

Q Do you watch telly together and things?

B Yeah, yeah we do.

Q Is that at a particular time, do you have like a ritual, or is it just when you've got a spare moment?

B The Chase on an evening, we all watch The Chase together. Yeah. I've entered for it, so you never know.

A Yeah, they made him.

B Yeah they made me. Because I'm very good with general knowledge, that's it so....

Q Wow. So do you think that's rubbing off on the girls just in terms of both the format of the programme and the actual knowledge?

B Yeah, yeah absolutely yeah.

A They like to answer the questions.

B And they understand the format as well, that they're answering ???

Q Right, that's interesting. How long have they been watching it for would you say?

B A year.

A I don't think it's that long.

B It can't be far off.

A Because we started like saying 'you've been watching your programmes for 2 hours, now let's choose something for somebody else, it's not fair'. Just to have fairness. And yeah probably about.....yeah just....

B They like the quiz shows that are on in the early evening, like Pointless and Tipping Point.

A Yeah we've tried them now, they like Catchphrase as well, that's another one. They like that genre.

B Yeah, and they kind of half get that as well, say what you see, you know.

A But then they like Ninja Warrior, Britain's Got Talent, they love watching things like that. In the winter the Dancing on Ice is back so they'll be looking forward to that. I'm liking this, I'm liking that they're now getting into programmes that we enjoy so we can watch things together. Like last night we were watching Mrs Doubtfire, and that was nice to watch that together too.

Q Oh yes, was that on Netflix or....

A No it was just on terrestrial wasn't it, yeah, just came across it and I thought 'oh let's try them'. It's nice to sit down and have something in common and watch it.

B We try it on a Sunday, if we're not out we do try and have a family film day don't we?

A Mainly for the popcorn! Popcorn is a treat.

D Daddy, can I have that one.

B Have whatever you want Chloe, just don't have it on too loud.

Q Is that a particular time of day, will you sort of....is that for the end of the day or....

A It's like mid afternoon on a Sunday, yeah. And if we've gone out we've usually done it first thing in the morning sort of thing, so you need to recover. And last weekend we watched Aladdin. We got it on the Sky Store, the brand new one. Because we went to the cinema to see it so with it coming out then I was like 'oh let's have a family treat' and went to the shops and got popcorn and treats, and then we all sat down together and watched Aladdin, which was really nice.

B Like a good duvet day don't you ???

Q So you're all together on here all snuggled up, or....

A Well Craig was on there and I was here, and Alison was sat on my shoulder here and Chloe was sat on my bum here, because that is how they sit.

B ??? that's the thing.

A He's too warm, he's too warm.

B I'm like a radiator.

Q Right. Will they sit still and watch the whole thing with you, or do they tend to kind of wander off or play?

A No.

B A percent of the time, yeah. Sometimes, depending on...I suppose on the genre, they'll get up and they'll start playing with their dolls or something, or you know....

A They do watch a good fair bit of it.

B Yeah, 90% of the time.

A That's why we do a lot of cinema trips because they are good at watching films and sitting still, they're not one of those kids that's always wanting to do....apart from Alison, you have to feed her quickly, get all the sweets out of the way so there's nothing else for her to ask for, and then she'll sit and watch the film. But while-ever she knows there's something else in the bag 'can I have that, can I have that'. So I'm just like, in the trailers I'm like feed her quick, get it all down her, and then she can just watch.

B Sugar burn off through the film.

A Yes.

Q So looking round the room, let's see what other technology we have in here. So tell me a bit about the TV. Do you ever sit and watch....just finishing that off, do you sit and watch children's programmes with them or is that something you're more....

A Too many times.

B Yeah, Disney Junior on these days, that's all they'll have on, this Disney Junior.

A Yeah Disney Junior they've moved on to. It used to be CBeebies.

B They've outgrown CBeebies now haven't they?

A Yeah they have outgrown CBeebies a little bit, they've gone on to Disney Junior. They used to love Horrid Henry but that got banned, he was too naughty.

B Yeah, and same goes for Peppa Pig, for behaviour, yeah it rubbed off on them.

Q Can you tell me more, or do you want to wait til later?

A Well Chloe when she was little picked up on George's whining. If he doesn't get his own way he does this blood curdling like 'argh...' and she picked up on that and started doing that. And also like....

Q And you mean actually in context when she didn't have her own way?

A Yeah. And Peppa was quite bossy, and that's what Alison picked up on, bossy to the sibling. And we saw it in Alison being with Chloe. So we could tell where it was coming from so we cut out Peppa Pig very early on. Which is a shame because they did really love it. But it just rubbed off in the wrong way, yeah.

Q So what was that coming from, was it coming from TV programmes or were they seeing it on the iPad?

A Yeah. You see what they're doing on here, it isn't Peppa Pig itself, it's Peppa Pig toys and re-enactments, which is different to the actual TV show. Because as an adult, if you sit down and watch it, she is actually quite naughty. So yeah. And Horrid Henry, yeah he's quite rude.

B The clue's in the title.

A Yeah he's just horrid.

B Horrid child. We're not old fashioned by any means are we, but....

A And they know that we've banned them for that reason, and they take great pleasure in coming home from school and telling us that they've watched Horrid Henry. Because they do watch it at school, you know when they have an afternoon watching something that is usually one that they pick, and they'll come home and say 'we got to watch Horrid Henry today', as if to say 'your rules mean nothing at school'. Which is super annoying. It's just the gloatiness that they come home with.

D Look!

A What? Oh excuse me. They enjoy Britain's Got Talent as well, they really enjoy that actually.

B You've Been Framed.

A You've Been Framed, but for the wrong reasons, they're quite evil.

B Yeah, both take joy at other people's misfortunes.

Q Yes, that's interesting isn't it? Because that also makes me think about those pranks, those sort of prank things as well that you see ??? on different programmes on there and also I think on videos and things. Do they....

B They've not really taken to that so much no, I don't think, because that's I think based on....I'm not sure if it's on CITV rather than CBeebies so they've not really grown.....they've not really been bothered by it. Watched a bit of CITV before whatever it's called now. But they've just taken a liking to Disney.

Q I see. When it's the more performative programmes would you say they are tempted to sort of get up and actually perform in some way, like Britain's Got Talent obviously it's very performative.

A Yeah they like doing their own shows.

B Yeah.

Q Do they do it while they're watching or is this more afterwards?

A Afterwards, yeah.

Q And in what space would that take place?

A And it's usually Alison that initiates it, not Chloe. It's Alison that gets Chloe involved, Alison will take the lead and dictate what's to be done to put on a show.

Q Yes. Do they use tech in that in any way, would they use phones or music or....

A Sometimes they'll pretend to be on the Kindle through the show, so they're doing a show for the Kindle.

Q Yes, oh gosh.

B Also ??? as well on the microphone, they used to imitate being ???

A ??? They're just so big and chunky, they take up the house. I'm just like I've got to hide some of these toys. Alison's used the hub a lot this week doing research for her projects for school and things like that, so she's gone to the hub and asked it questions.

B ??? round the back as well ???

A Yeah. She's been using my phone to get pictures of the Titanic so she could do a drawing and things like that.

Q OK. So she's used the hub via your phone, is that what you're saying?

A No she's gone into the kitchen and used the hub and then she's sat here with me and she asked if she could use my phone to look at pictures of the Titanic so she could draw one, and I just showed her Google, like that.

B I mean she's asked Google on the phone before as well hasn't she?

A Yes, ask Google and typed it in, pictures of Titanic.

Q Oh so she's typed it to do the searching, yeah, that's really interesting. I just wonder if we're going to get their attention to do a tour now, I wondered if we could go and see the hub, or upstairs or anything?

A Girls, do you want to show the ladies the Google Home Hub and what we like to do on it?

D You show them Alison.

B You can both do it.

Q Alison, we wondered if you'd like to take some pictures and help us do the research together, or whether you'd like to wear the Go Pro or anything like that?

B Put that on the side for now, Chloe.

A Do you want to wear the camera, you like wearing the camera don't you?

Q Do you like wearing the Go Pro?

A It freaks Chloe out a little bit.

Q Yes she wasn't too....

A She's not quite sure at all.

Q Alison you don't have to wear it, but if you want to wear it with us. Would you like to? Thank you.

A Chloe thinks that you're there, inside the camera.

C Can I take pictures with this one?

Q You can take pictures with that, yeah. Do you want to wear the Go Pro as well or are you going to take the pictures?

B How about Chloe, you can do it that way.

C You need to go in the kitchen because that's where it is. This way. Here ??? for Maisie. I just want to take a picture of ??? And I just press that button behind it. Come on then, move out the way.

A ??? get anything out ??? for tomorrow.

B ???

A I'm just waking back up. It's a bit of a mess in here.

Q So we're supposed to also record what play things are in each room that are non-technical as well.

A Oh. They know how to use my other camera as well.

Q Oh, perhaps we could get you to take a film of each room.

C Climb here and ???

Q Oh look at this.

A OK.

C It was a ??? do you remember?

Listen to Paw Patrol

- A What song do you like to play when you put that on?
- D Can I go and watch the tingle? again, and I could wear this.
- B Walk around, see what happens in each room.
- Q Show us what else. What else have you got in here, what toys are on the table here?
Can you film the toys on the table?
- C This is mine, I brung it from Rainbows. I have to bring it back tomorrow.
- Q Take a photo of ??? that's a good idea.
- B Is she doing a selfie?
- Q Oh and I can see lots of signs of creativity going on here as well. We're interested in all these pictures and things. What's up here?
- A Yes.
- Q And do you do like any creative baking or anything like that out here, do you make things?
- A Made that apple crumble yesterday.
- C And made some bread.
- A We made some bread last week didn't we?
- Q How do you find your recipes then, do you get those from....
- A What did we do? How did we find out about bread?
- C I used Google.
- A We did, we asked Google.
- Q Did you? What did you say, how did you do that?
- D Hey Google.
- C I asked how we made it.
- B Do you want to try it, see if it tells us now.
- C Hey Google....
- B Say it loud so it can hear you Alison.

C Hey Google.....

Hub Google Assistant. Occupation: helping you. Age: old enough to use the internet but young enough to find an emoji funny.

B (*Laughs*) I haven't heard that before !

C Hey Google, how do we make bread cakes?

Hub Sorry, I can't help with that yet.

B Br....bread.

A It does pose problems when you mispronounce things. We were trying to find out what this song was that she has to sing for choir, and it's called Hoochi Mama, and she Googled Juicy Mama.

Q So are there kind of settings you can put in? That's a bit difficult to legislate for isn't it?

A I've not found....you can't because....I mean luckily nothing too bad came up, but it did make me think like how can I....

B How do we make the bread ???

A Just say 'make bread'.

B How do we make bread. Say it again.

C Hey Google, how do we make bread?

Hub Sure, here are some recipes.

B There you go.

A There's a ??? one, and there's also a video ???

B Yeah it's showing me how to make bread as well.

Q How are you finding it talking to Google there? How do you find talking to her, girls?

D Because we say 'Hey Google'.

Q Can she understand you OK?

D Yes.

Q Do you like talking to the hub?

D Yeah.

Q What's the funniest thing you've ever asked her to do, or the best thing? What was the most interesting or best thing that she ever did, can you remember some of the things you've asked her?

C Some music.

Q Some music, OK, is that the best? And do you remember what you asked her now, what was the music? Was it Disney or ???

C ???

Q Oh fantastic. So do you ask her that lots of times?

C Yeah.

Q That's a thing you do lots of times. Great. How about you, Chloe?

D Film you.

Q Yes you are filming me.

D ???

Q Thank you ever so much. Did you take a picture of your bread when you'd made it?

A Yes. And we've eaten half of it. What do you say to Google all the time?

D Hey Google, what do we have to ???

Hub I'm on it. We can play some games, I can try to make you laugh. Or I can surprise you with some random fun.

A Chloe tells Google that she loves it a lot.

Q Do you? What does she say?

A And what does Google say back?

D I can say it and see. Hey Google, I love you.

Hub Whoever 'you' is they're very lucky. Wiggy. Hey, who said that?

A It misheard that one. Usually she says 'here's a virtual hug'. But she understood that as 'I will someone called you'. Hey Google, what games do you have?

Hub Alright, I have a few options for that. Some quiz aconator, dustin from stranger, alright let's get Mickey's game show.

A There's this one they play quite a bit. I never knew this....no, I never knew....until she mentioned the games, that's ??? (*laughter*) ??? As long as it's all ??? ones because I don't know any songs. There might be one though. But they always find a way back from the videos, just these silly videos, it's all that they love.

Q The unboxing type ones and things like that? Do you mean the unboxing?

A Yeah. Alison, what are you playing on? Oh the car one.

Q And again we're interested in sort of like teaching, you sort of teaching them how to say things so that Google will understand and that sort of thing.

A Yes, using the right words, not getting too pitchy. Because sometimes Chloe will start screaming at it, like ??? and it doesn't detect the voice then. But they understand to like say 'Hey Google can you turn it down', 'can you turn it up' – which I don't like.

Q Right. So where did this 'I love you' come from?

A I don't know, that was completely random and just on her own bat, said it. Yeah, and then when she responded it just made them both laugh. So it's become a thing now.

Q So it's repetition then, it becomes a bit of a ritual that they....

D Mummy, I want to sit down in the room.

A A bit lazy.

D Let's have a ???

Q We can go to another room now. Have we done everything here in the kitchen? Is there anywhere else we should go to see where you play?

D Hey Google. Stop please.

A They use their manners ???

Q That's sweet, yes.

A Yeah it is sweet yeah, that's quite ??? we don't get manners.

Q Is there any other room we should go to round here? Or do you want to go outside, we were asked to go outside.

C Outside.

C I'm going to turn this off because I don't need it.

A Well shall we show the ladies outside first?

Q Right, I shall nip out ahead of you. So where are we going?

D That way.

Q This way.

D Into our playground.

C ??? that's what happens.

Q Oh it's looking a bit wet, yeah. So just tell us a bit about it, because also remember we're thinking about do you bring cameras out here, do you bring the Google Hub out here?when you're outside do you think about using things like cameras and phones and computer games, or would you rather just think about playing with what's in the garden naturally?

C I like playing in the garden.

Q Do you? What's the best thing you do here?

C Swinging.

B Why don't you ask Chloe to hold the camera so that you're not going to send it flying.

A They've done most of these plants and everything.

C There's a big nettle ??? on the side.

Q What's that? What are you looking at, the flies?

C Yeah.

Q Oh there are some midge's, yeah because we're underneath a tree here aren't we?

C I thought they was ???

Q So what have we got here?

C That's our ??? the tree ??? because....

Q So tell us a bit more about what you do here.

D Play everywhere in the garden.

Q Do you? Do you like to play mums and dads or anything like that in the tree house, or do you pretend anything?

C We play mums and dads in there. I want to go up. Can you hold this please?

Q So what's the normal game that you play in there, what do you like to play?

C Everything.

D And we've got a doggy.

C It's called Brownie.

Q Lovely. Looks like Brownie's going to get on the slide. So do you ever pretend to be watching TV in your play house or anything like that, or are you more....

C Yeah we do.

Q You do that.

Q2 What sort of things do you pretend to watch?

C Lots of different.

Q Is it? Is it programmes like you watch with mum and dad inside?

C ??? ITV

Q Pardon?

C Netflix.

Q Netflix. So have you got Netflix in there?

C Yeah. No not a real TV, we just pretend.

Q Do you pretend? So which at the moment, what was the most recent thing you played on Netflix do you think, what did you pretend to watch?

C Dora.

D Follow me.

Q OK we're following. We're coming in because it's starting to rain. Are they allowed to bring any sort of, you know things like the Kindle, would you have any rules about that being in the garden?

A They have had the Kindle out there, yeah in the ??? Back in the summer holidays we let them have movie nights.

B Sometimes on a Friday night as well don't we when you're at work.

A Yeah on a Friday night when I'm at work and he's coming back from after working all week, it's like an easy way to put the TV on, let them choose a film and watch it in bed, and then they go to sleep. So yeah they've got our TV because....

Q2 But that mainly is in the holidays then?

A Yes, or weekends. Or if it's particularly a busy weekend or a busy week of us working, then we'll ask them if....they love doing it but we feel like it's our easy way out.

Q2 How do they choose the sort of films they watch, do they have a choice, or like....

A If I see something.... ??? we'll do it together. Or if I come across like a film on my selection and I think 'oh we might enjoy that', I'll get it out and say 'what do you think to this one?'

C Mummy, ??? the pattern ??? We have to have a ??? and it's something what happens on the ???, other people do it and they walk around and do all like a ???

Q Spinning and twirling like you were just doing there?

C Yeah.

Q I'd love to see that if you could get it up for us, please.

B Any specific ones ???

A No just the big tub, I think any felt tips work I think. But I think they're in there anyway.

C ???

A Yeah I'm doing it darling.

C Where is it, where is the box?

A ??? and then I teach her. You might want to come and study this. I'm teaching a 70 year old woman how to use WhatsApp. She doesn't have any way to see photos and things like that. You ??? but I didn't clean it last night, I'll get a wipe. So it's got this device that you just put on over the front camera. So you can choose in here the doll, the lady I guess, and colour in.

Q2 Is that just with any felt tips?

A I do believe so, yeah. And then choose dresses and hair, and you add them to like a directory. I don't think this is going to work, it's taking a while. Oh that's probably why.

Q2 Does it require internet access?

A Yeah. I don't know, it's gone again. There it is, that's what I was looking for. It's called Holodraw Fashion....have to wait for it to load up. So this is the app that I registered when they got this. And these are all competitions that you can enter and follow the instructions to create, people get to vote online.

Q2 Oh OK. Oh and so it's like they've got an event to go to or something that you want to dress them for?

A Yeah. And you can print out extra versions of those to add to what you've got. Because you create like a wardrobe.

Q2 Oh, so if the booklet itself is full....

A Yes. This is what Alison created. And then you go to your outfits, and these are the ones that she's coloured in. And you can keep printing them. I'm just trying to remember how to do it. I'm thinking....will we see some points. And then these are the contests that are running at the minute. So between the 28th September to the 6th October you've got to create a vet ??? and you can win a stethoscope? ???

Q2 So if you win a stethoscope does that mean you can then put it on one of your pictures in it?

A Yes.

Q2 I see, OK. So it's like an in-game ??? that you get?

A Yes.

Q2 OK.

A ??? Hang on, can you colour in ??? so you've got to find that drawing.

Q2 So do you search for it on the app first and then find it....

A Yeah. So this is what you need to colour in to create these new dresses for your....I think it's like a ??? isn't it? Pop that there. Ignore the....these are what you need to colour in to add to your wardrobe. So if you was in front of it – have we got this right – you colour in darling, see if it finds it. There we go. You've got to get it at the right angle. Let's have a look. You'll find it in a minute. I'm trying to find it. There we go, can you see it, it's found it now.

A So colour it in and it will find it. And then when you've finished you press 'Save Drawing' and then that goes into your wardrobe.

Q2 Right OK. So is this kind of like a scanner kind of thing?

A Yeah.

B It's augmented reality isn't it.

A It's OK, don't you worry about that, you just keep doing your drawing. And then when you've finished it we can press 'Save Drawing'.

C Yeah.

A There we go, right. ??? and it will go on there, look, seeing the colour.

C Looks red when it should be pink.

A It could be the way that....maybe the colours that you got with it is what the colours are meant to use, it's matching it to the closest colour that you are to use. It will find it. Colour them light blue for the ??? there, there we are, and every time you keep changing it it's got to update it. Got to keep your eyes on the paper not on the screen, otherwise you might go over the line and things.

Q2 Is it something that you would normally set up for Alison to use?

A Yeah, at the minute while she's still learning. I didn't buy this for Alison, this was my mum that bought it for her. And she bought it for my niece as well because they like colouring in and things like that. It's something that I'd not even heard of before. It reminds me of using it....??? you needed to use my phone because we couldn't put it on the Kindle because it's not compatible with the Kindle. Because we've only got a Kindle, not just a general....

C Tablet.

A Tablet. She's answering for me. But it's definitely on the list to get just because they've got access to more things on the tablet, you know like a normal Google tablet. It's alright, once you've finished we can get it to find it and then save it to the wardrobe. Sometimes it's just the ???

Q2 What do you think about it Alison? Do you like it? What's your favourite thing about it?

C That it ??? and you can go on it.

A It's alright to look at other people don't you Alison. You can do belts on, which one, this one or that one, and you can choose your favourites, and then that sends points to that player.

Q2 Right, oh OK, and was that something you would do together, like go through it.

A At the moment, I mean if she played with it enough she'd soon ??? it all, it's just that because she had to use my phone we had to be a bit more restrictive about it.

Q Do people fit? on Alison's dolls as well?

A Yeah, it all goes to my email, I get 500.

Q Oh those are the emails you showed me the other time when I was here, OK.

A Yeah. Every time I get loads of email notifications.

Q And is it meant to be that it goes through the parent, or is it meant to be that it's somehow emailing the child directly?

A I do wonder if this was actually meant for an older child. Because my niece who got it from my mum too is a lot older, she's 10/11. But because Alison enjoys this side of things so much that's why my mum thought of it. And I would rather have it be parental supervision.

Have you finished it? Are you doing the other ones? I don't know if you can....do you want to press Save Drawing?

C Why?

A So then you can save that dress, because you've finished that dress haven't you?

B I think you've just lost it, you shouldn't put your hand in front of the screen. Oh it's still got it, it's still there.

A Have to be careful not to go in front of the camera though ??? There we go. She's wearing it. Got it on. And then I think these are like in-app purchases to buy other outfits to add on to it as well. But luckily we've got a nice fat book first.

Q How many times has Alison had a go on this? I mean is this just quite early days with it?

B She's not been on it that recently has she?

A No.

B She went on it a lot at the beginning.

Q And will she sort of stick with the whole process, the colouring in?

A Yeah.

B Yeah, yeah, she's proud of the designs and how they've ???

A Alison, do you want to go on to your outfits, do you want to choose one of those? You can't do the dark ones because they're extra ones that you have to buy, but the white ones are ones that are in your book. And then you can do designs from them. So let me have a look at these felt tips so I can find you the right ones.

C They're not in there, they're in daddy's box.

A Are they?

B In my box?

A Let's have a quick look first. We have too many felt tips to just put in ???

C Yeah I've found it mummy.

Q What's that Alison?

A Yeah that's the right one.

Q Oh you're matching it to the one on the screen. OK. So are you going to do another one?

A You don't have to colour it in one colour, you can make a design. So make it spotty, make it stripy, do a flowery one. It might be best using like the Crayola ones, they might be better.

C Yeah, just put all the crayons....

B What are you looking for? She's got a full tub of felt tips down there.

A Yeah they're different ones. It's the white ones, they're like.....they were in your box actually.

B You sorted it out the other day didn't you?

A Yeah ???

B The other tub's somewhere.

D ???

C But I'm not allowed to use it.

Q So do you think it would be better if it just took any kind of felt tip, or any of her crayons and stuff?

A I think they're working fine. Do you want to put other clothes on ??? there's a grey one.

C I've only had a grey one.

A Some green ones. Why don't you choose what colours you want for your skirt and then you can do them then, ???

Q Do you ever sort of get involved in this Craig or is it mainly these two?

B Mainly Alison to be honest yeah, we'll let her express herself with it really, not try and influence. And to be fair I could probably enjoy doing something like that as well to be fair.

Q Yeah absolutely. Have you ever dabbled with augmented reality type apps of any type?

B Not really, no, not so much. The only ones that I'm aware of is Pokemon Go, that's an augmented reality game. But I quickly tired of that.

Q But you say you could get more interested in it because it's more around your interests?

B Well you make something, you know what will appeal to the wider audience, and you know to other people as well with something like that. I'm sure there's a decent market for it.

Q She seems very comfortable with it actually.

B She's a pro!

Q We were talking earlier a little bit about how you feel when they produce things that are more....they're proud of but they're kind of on an app, you know they reach a level or something like that, compared to if they were to bring you a drawing or....

B Times Tables Rockstar, she gets very proud of herself what she achieves on that doesn't she?

A Yeah she does like that one.

Q Whether you sort of feel the same way about, you know sort of those achievements as well?

B Oh yeah, absolutely yeah. It's the target they set themselves, you know that they....it's always something to be proud of whatever achievement they have really. If it's something that they're proud of you've got to share in their pride of it as well, absolutely. It encourages them to be proud of whatever they do then as well. That's what I've always been about.

Q That's your sort of approach to it all, yeah, yeah.

B Oh absolutely, yeah.

Q I mean when you look at something like this, which obviously it's quite complex but it's working well, I mean do you feel that some apps or some devices are better at giving opportunities for creativity than others would you say?

A I love this for the creativities that you get. Because it's mixing tech and doing it yourself.

B Yeah, the physical creativity.

A Like last time when I told you that Alison does prefer to do it on a piece of paper and a pen in her hand, not on an app or anything, it has to be the raw materials. And this is a nice mix for her because she's making something, and then it's joining the tech world and then communicating with other people. And then getting achievements by people voting for your outfits, it's really nice.

Q Yeah. So it sounds like there's something around balance there between online and offline aspects to this. How do you feel about this sort of communicating with other people as part of this, does it worry you in any way, or do you feel fairly confident in the app and it's....

A Well I've not found anything where you have to write anything to people.

B Yeah it's not physical communication.

A But it's just the voting. So when we first got this I really thought 'oh no, can there be any online bullying or anything on there', because it can be quite evil in that way.

C Did I get it for my birthday?

A No you got it for Christmas darling.

B Couple of years ago now.

A This Christmas it was. But as far as I've seen up to now there's no writing as such on there, which I'm fine about. If there had been something like that then it would have me a bit worried to be honest, because some people can be so mean online.

C Mummy.

A Yeah. You have to press Save Drawing at the top.

B Over the top of it.

A Use this hand instead. So press OK, let it find it, and then use your other hand. That's it. And then press Yes. Isn't it.....no it's fine, because you want it white don't you, it was just checking. Oh that's quite green that.

C Can I have a look at it?

A Just press the screen.

C There?

A Yeah I think so. There you are.

Q Oh yes.

C What does that do?

A I don't know. It could be because we're not using the proper colours, or it could be the light causing it to not balance properly. But we'll double check it again. If you wanted to do another one have another.....there's some more tops, so there's another dress. There's another face isn't there that you can do?

C I'll do another face.

A The bottom one, underneath it. That's your dress that you've done.

C Do I have to press the ??? to do them?

A Yes. Is that the right one?

C This one?

A There we are. Yeah we've a bit of light coming through and that's causing the slight ???

C I don't know what to draw.

A Well have a little think, don't rush. What sort of dress would you like? It might not see it, don't do gel pens because they might not see it because it's meant to be felt tip.

B But I'm ???

C This one. This pink doesn't work.

A Well try a new one.

C Just ???

A Try the Crayola ones, they're usually a bit better. It's funny, when we do upgrade our TV, I told you we're going to get a Smart TV, I'm hoping they'll pick it up so they can be independent and put the TV on themselves. Because they can't do it with this one because you have to plead to it to work! But when we get a Smart TV....

B Some small sacrifice to....

A ...yeah, I'm hoping that they'll be able to be independent and come down in a morning and put the TV on themselves, like ??? or something for them to watch.

It's funny, in Year 2 they are asking them to use more tech as well. On her home learning exercises it does say on a couple of them to get them to use a computer to research one of the topics. So they are....

B So my mum just does not get that. She doesn't get it. She's far too old-school as it were.

Q She feels that it's not a good thing to be doing.

B Oh yeah absolutely. Something not long ago, I don't know, she's very old fashioned in that sense though, I think she's always thought about looking things up in a book. That's how it's always....

Q So do either of the girls play on, well not play but use the laptop, because you said that was on an actual computer not on a....

A Yeah they've only done it with strict supervision, because Craig....like I've got my business stuff on there, and we've got Craig's patterns on there that he's created.

B Designs.

A So it's usually we put Google up and we watch them type in it.

A It's not something for them just to go and pick up and do themselves.

Q Right, so you reserve other sorts of devices for them to do that, yeah.

A So we're not even ???

B Won't be able to say they go to ???

Q And do they mainly use the computer for sort of research and things like that, or have they played and done creative things on there?

A It's just research for school, when it's asked. We did the parrot didn't we last year? It was ??? an endangered animal or something like that and she did a little project on that, and she worked really hard on it, it was lovely.

B Yeah, little fact sheet wasn't it about that.

Q I was going to say how did you use it in a bit more detail really.

A We showed her Google and to write in sentences. Like to say....what was the sort of search things now?

B It was something about interesting things about parrots, so searching for....

A What was that parrot?

B Ruby.

A Ruby parrot, yes.

B Ruby. You know Ruby the Scarlet Macaw, that was the type of parrot, and she was aware of that and how we were talking about that. They had to find five facts or something wasn't it about them. And I assisted her to a degree, but I asked her what she wanted to add you know, and certain spelling and that kind of thing but....

A That was her first encounter with Google herself.

Q Ah yes. And then did the facts get typed up on the computer, or does she....

B She wrote down.

A No, she did her own little fact sheet with a picture of the parrot in the middle and then her facts and ??? writing.

B And she did all the images as well, she copied the image of the parrot to draw an illustration on there as well. I remember that actually, yeah.

Q So was that Alison sort of copying it in freehand as it were, or did she cut and paste the image into her....

B No, no, she did a freehand drawing of....

C Daddy drewed it and I copied it.

B Is that what it was?

A Yeah, she couldn't get the picture of the parrot right so she asked daddy to draw his version, and then she copied it from his version then.

B It was all about the proportions as well wasn't it, yeah.

Q Yeah. Did you look for a particular image on the machine, you know that's more kind of....or was it one Alison had....

B No just virtually....yeah one that she'd, from her searches I literally just went on to the images on the option of Google and that, just chose one from that.

Q And so the thing that you typed, did Alison type it? Have I understood that correctly?

B Yeah, yeah.

Q And was that in Word or on a Google doc or....

B On Google search....oh no sorry.

Q No actually then the facts when she got them, sorry.

B Yeah the fact sheet, she physically wrote those freehand, yeah, by hand yeah.

Q Yeah OK, that's interesting. That's lovely.

Q2 And when she copied the image, that was on screen?

B Yeah.

Q And then did she have to kind of put the facts into her own words as well to put on to the sheet?

B Yeah, yeah. Because we were reading the things that it said, and then asked her to pick up other things that she'd found interesting about it.

C Look at that.

Q Oh let's see.

B Oh that's an interesting dress isn't it? Stripy number.