

- Q Julia Bishop (researcher)  
Q2 Beth Nutbrown (researcher)  
A Lindsay (mum)  
C Noah (9)  
D Jacqueline (5)

Q There's just these last questions and then we're done. So these are the questions in the category about parents' roles in technology mediated play. Now I know that you don't do a lot of that so it's fine but I do feel I need to ask you them and then you can, where it is relevant tell me, where it isn't we'll just move on, if that's alright.

A Okey dokey.

Q These are questions about technology, I beg your pardon. So do you think....so are there certain types of tech play, tech-mediated play either with devices or stuff that they're drawing from technology and using in other ways, that are more likely to lead to expressions of enjoyment and fun from your children than other types? Different types of technology mediated play, do you think some are more joyful and fun for them?

A Well Noah's loving his Nintendo Switch.

Q Yeah I was interested in that, because I was thinking when I've seen him on it the expressions are more quite serious, he's very engrossed in what he's doing I would say.

A Yeah.

Q But I mean does he kind of exclaim and stuff like that?

A Yeah, he does get excited, he's like 'mum, mum, look at this'. He's done it earlier. Straightaway Beth come in ??? sat down, he comes straight up and he were like 'hey look, look at this' and started going on about the armour, do you know what I mean? And she's like 'oh' and then she started talking about – because she obviously knows that game – talking about 'oh', because he's just come across another castle or something and she was like 'oh does it belong to....' blah, blah, blah, and I'm like 'how do you know all that'. She knows some of the characters.

Q Yeah. I mean would you like to know actually, would it help you to be informed a bit about that?

A I mean he's told me....

C Mum, can you put the plug in the dock in my Switch? I'm not too sure.

Q I was just thinking about the way that he'll sort of, you know be quite animated with it and things like that.

A Yeah.

Q And you were sort of saying about Beth. It's almost like you sound a little bit envious, that perhaps you'd like to be able to...

A No, it's like....I think he was just excited that 'oh there's another person to tell' do you know what I mean?

Q To tell, yeah.

A But no he does it to me, but I feel a bit guilty – I've said this to you before, haven't I, I'm like cooking tea and I'm like 'oh yeah that's really good' but I'm like I haven't got the heart in me, do you know what I mean? I said to him the other day, he made a pyramid the other day and I was just telling him, he made a pyramid and it's really good, I was like 'have you just made that?' and he was like 'yeah'. And he showed me how to do it and he was like 'This is what I do'. So I sat there for about 10 minutes of him showing me how he did this pyramid and it was really clever. I was like 'it's really....' the actual game I think is really good in terms of the imagination and what you can do with the bricks. But yeah I don't want to do it myself.

Q No that's fine but you're starting to....

A I find it....yeah.

Q I mean my impression – but shoot me down if I've got this wrong – is that you're getting into it a little bit more, you are starting to see the skill that he's....and then how he's getting excited with it.

A Yeah. But Jacqueline's really good at it as well.

Q Can I ask about her too, yeah?

A And she went on it the other day and I was sat next to her watching what she was doing, and she was designing a whole room. And then you go on like a menu, and because....I mean you know if it says 'menu' then I would know it says 'menu' but it doesn't say that, it's just like these like, I don't know images of buttons, and then she's just there like 'press that, press that'. I'm like I'm wondering how she worked her way round that knowing the screen sort of thing, like if you press that that's Settings, if you press that it's Object. Do you know what I mean, I was just like....because it doesn't say. I was like 'how have you done that', I went 'you don't know all that', she went 'yeah', and she's just going like that, adding a kitchen, adding a bed, a lamp. She went 'oh my room....' and she hid herself in a cupboard, she said 'I've made a cupboard' and there's hangers in the cupboard. I was all like....that's really good.

Q Yeah, that's fascinating. It's so lovely. So both of them you are seeing quite a...learning curve?

A Yeah. And like the layout, they're quite good at... Yeah, doing that layout for rooms, how they would probably have their houses if they had lots of money and a big house. Fish tanks with fish in it. I was like 'really?' Their imagination just goes on and on.

Q Yeah. So you're secretly maybe a bit impressed with what they can do with it?

A I am impressed. But I just don't want to play it. Because it's like, Noah's like 'Do you want a go mum', and I'm like 'No, no, no'.

Q And do you ever initiate them playing on that, or do they tend to ask you about it?

A No. Noah's not really been asking me lately to play it, he just sort of grabs it.

Q He does it. But you wouldn't suggest it to him, he will perhaps ??? How about with Jacqueline?

A No I've not suggested it. I have suggested putting it on the telly. Because one, she can watch it better. Two, they can do two-player games so putting it on the telly. But obviously most of the time Noah has it there, in front of him, and he's like....because I think it's there because he feels like he's in the world better because it's so close to his face.

Q That's interesting, because it's only about 6 inches the way you're holding it – for the benefit of the recording. Just holding it right up close to his face.

A I know, up there. But yeah I have said that a few times, 'Put it on the telly'. But I've not said 'Oh why don't you play on that'. But he normally grabs it, he goes on it every day now before school. Gets fully dressed and then goes on that.

Q So do you feel it's a bit more sociable somehow if it's on the TV?

A Yeah. And I think Jacqueline likes watching it, and also she just likes....they argue a bit, they were doing it earlier, because he wants to be absorbed in it there, and she's trying to look over his shoulder and irritating him because she wants to have a good view.

Q Yeah, so she's kind of invading....

A His space.

Q Yeah, but when it's on the big screen she can watch.

A Yeah. And they've enjoyed that playing together on it because obviously it's a bigger screen.

Q So do you feel it's a slightly more sociable thing for the two of them if they're on telly?

A Yeah, and I don't mind that because obviously I'm doing whatever, so they're....because I don't really watch telly anyway, I watch it at night when they're sort of in bed.

Q Yeah sorry, I meant when it's on the TV screen ??? isn't it, yeah.

A Yeah so it's....but they don't really...but obviously they play up here if they're playing on their beds but Noah's actually not played with them for quite a while now. So we might have to sell some. But yeah they.... downstairs.

Q And what about Jacqueline in terms of, yeah being sort of more sociable on it, or you know does she tend to share it more?

A She asks questions, but she's like a little sponge, she absorbed a lot of the....

Q Off Noah?

A Off Noah, yeah. So she sometimes....

Q So is she coming to you for any help or does it tend to be from....

A Not on the computer. She asks obviously in general life about, you know questions and I tell her.

Q How about the tablet?

A The tablet, no, she gets on with it. So I'm like....and she just says to me 'Mum, can you put your internet on', I'm like 'alright' and then she's like....you know then I put the wifi on so it's using my internet. And then she's just doo-doo-doo...just finds her way round it. In fact even the tablet, I've gone on it and I'm like 'where are the games then' and she's just like 'oh they're on here' and I'm like 'oh OK, you do it then'. So I think sometimes I think 'oh she wouldn't know that, she's 5' and then I'm like 'where are they', she's like 'they're here', or 'oh OK', or 'here', she's like 'I'll do it', I'm like 'oh you can do it then'. I think she knows more than what I know.

Q How do you feel about that?

A Oh I'm fine with that. But sometimes I'm like 'oh I didn't think you'd know that'. 'I'm fine'.

Q So sort of surprised you, yeah.

A Yeah. But I think this day and age, I think the more you have technology around the house anyway they do, they are, they are so like....when we were younger, do you know what I mean? Kids of this age are just like get on with it don't they? I think Noah was about 2 when he knew how to use the DVD player, do you know what I mean?

Q Mmm, and the remote controls that sort of thing.

A Yeah, and TV remote, do you know what I mean? I'm like...2. Like 'look at ???' I'm just like 'oh OK'. Jacqueline was about 3. Jacqueline was about 3 on the phone.

Q Was she swiping and....yeah.

A Yeah. I just think it's quite clever how they sort of pick up. Obviously they watch what you do and I think it's quite good how they just sort of absorb that information and then just.... But yeah Jacqueline watches Noah a lot on that. But she asks questions but I think most of it is either her opinion or her just like furious going round. But she watches and she's

just....I think she just takes it in and knows what buttons to sort of press and then finds her own world and makes her own little planet on it.

Q Yeah. Do you think they're getting satisfaction from the fact that they are competent like that and they can even show you? Do you sense in them a pride and achievement?

A Oh yeah definitely, oh yeah definitely that they feel empowered so to speak. Like they've discovered whatever they've discovered, or they've worked out whatever you know, whatever they're playing or looking at.

Q And is it a pattern sometimes that they might discover something that they've been trying to get to for a while and they might rush and come and share that with you?

A Yeah, yeah. Well Noah did it the other day and found a map. He was like 'Mum, I've found this' and then showed me about the treasure. He'd found a map down in the water and then he built a house on the water, then there was another map, then there was treasure. And he was just like 'Mum, look at this, you open this and....another map'.

Q So he was really excited and to the extent that he wanted to come and share it with you.

A Oh, looking for gems and money, yeah.

Q Oh that's great. Lovely. I mean is that different? First of all is that any different from other types of play would you say, or other types of creative activity that they do?

A Well like the toys they have, obviously it's more it's your own imagination in the sense of how....so I think....and obviously it's more physical isn't it, you know it's more....but I think on a computer there's the imagination already put in there because of the graphics and how they've laid out games. Obviously each player plays different but I think the platform is already based there. Like a toy in a bedroom, an actual like plastic toy, you've literally got to do everything. You've got to build it, you've got to move it, you've got to do the talking, you've got to do the motions or the actions and the storyline. In a computer it's already there for you to sort of... play it your own way but sort of it helps with the imagination because it's sort of imprinted in the computer for you to sort of then discover, there's a world already made isn't there so to speak I think.

Q So the emphasis there seems to be about discovery and then the sense of achievement that they found something out without...

A Yeah. Obviously each child plays differently still and they might not go necessarily with the rules or the way the game is supposed to be sort of thing, like free play or whatever. But yeah I think that helps because it helps with your imagination that you don't have to start from scratch.

Q Yeah, so it's like a leg up to, you know catapult them off into something else.

A Yeah, a world which is already made and then you just make it better, or your way, and add to it.

Q Would you say they ever, you know when they do things, making and creating non-digitally, would you say that also leads to similar things where they come and show you what they've achieved, there's a sense of achievement and pride.

A Oh they love doing that. Noah loves doing that.

Q Seemed to be, like Jacqueline was, just before we switched on the recorder there, Jacqueline was showing you a....explaining a picture to you and stuff. Would you say that that's ???

A I didn't see that. She must have done that today because she was drawing in here earlier.

Q Oh really, yeah?

A She's done that in here. But yeah they do that. And Noah likes getting all his...he hasn't done it for a while actually, but he likes getting all his building stuff out and he makes big themes here of, you know like labourers. He's like 'oh mum, look'. And then 'look and they're digging and then they're that...' do you know what I mean, and then there's like a story going on. I think obviously at computers, it's already there isn't it?

Q Do they ever combine....like would he do something like that, setting stuff out on the carpet here, and use technology in some way?

A No, no.

Q Does he combine in the same sitting as it were?

A No. I think the only time it has combined is when he's looked at sort of stuff on YouTube at Monster Trucks or vehicles, or labourers or what, do you know what I mean, so that sort of....he's obviously interested in workers, you know construction, buildings and vehicles. But other than that he wouldn't do it at the same time.

Q No, he doesn't use one to amplify the other or ???

A No. But I think maybe it might help with his imagination like 'oh that bulldozer can knock that over' and whatever do you know what I mean, and then he just....

Q Yes, so it's putting ideas in his mind somewhere that he's drawing on.

A Yeah. So I think it's sort of back and forth.

Q Yeah. And then do you think he might go back, it would inspire him to go back and see more on YouTube, does he like that?

A Yeah he likes watching stuff like that.

Q Do you find any apps or....so like YouTube or any websites or any devices that they've got are particularly creative. It sounds like you think that's quite creative in its way, providing ???

A Yeah he doesn't go on it a lot though. Obviously this Nintendo he's gone on it. They don't go on the tablet a lot.

Q No, but when they have do you see some creative things coming from that?

A Yeah, oh yeah, and they do like YouTube. But I don't know, they just don't.....that might change, I mean this might change as well now he's got his computer in his face.

Q You mean the Switch when you say 'the computer', yeah.

A The Switch, yeah. But I don't know, I think maybe that might help, or want him to go on the tablet more maybe to get ideas for that specific computer as well. Because I was looking at Amazon the other day for presents and it's got Minecraft maps on it. So I think I'll probably buy that for him.

Q What is that?

A It's a book of Minecraft, and it's like hacks as well for the game. So Minecraft, and then in there it's like maps, and so then you look for maps – or it helps you look for maps, I'm not really sure because it was on Amazon so you can't see....

Q You can't look inside!

A No, can't look inside the book. But when I was reading it, and there was a few of them where it helps you explore more into that Minecraft world sort of thing. So I think I'm going to get him that as one of his presents.

Q Yes, so you see that as a way of supporting his play on Minecraft?

A Yeah I think it will open up....because obviously we don't know, and I don't know, how big this world goes. So I thought it could be quite fun for him to sort of investigate and hunt these maps out.

Q Great. Oh that's great, that's very interesting.

A But yeah when I saw it I was like 'that sounds good'.

Q And would you say that Jacqueline goes on to YouTube more for the things that she likes?

A She hasn't been on it for a while actually. But she just likes....Jacqueline's very simple, she likes pretty things, dolly stuff, pink stuff. Sometimes she likes pink stuff because it's pink and I'm like 'it's not really a toy', she's like 'I want it'.

Q Could you give an example?

A Just the colour.

Q Just she likes the colour.

A I don't know. I don't know.

Q Just anything coloured pink she might be drawn to really even if it's like a penknife or something, I don't know.

A Yeah, and I'm like 'it's a scarf, it's an adult top', it's just random stuff and she's like 'mum I love it, can I have it', and I'm like 'it's a boy's t-shirt' it just has, I don't know a bit of glitter on it or something like that. I'm like 'really?' It's just random stuff like that. She's very easy to buy for I'll tell you that, very easy to buy for.

Q Oh bless her. What sort of stuff does she like to look at on YouTube then in this ???

A She likes LOLs. She hasn't got any LOLs but she likes LOLs, I think she's got a fascination now.

Q Is that a recent thing that's developed? Because we spoke about it at the very first visit.

A That is....yeah. The last couple of months she is, I think because of the adverts, and also when she goes and stays at her dad's, the youngest girl there who is 6 has LOL dolls. So they play together and she's....obviously there's this figure, or figures, what she hasn't got. So now she's got a fascination of LOL dolls.

Q Do you think she somehow, she hasn't got the dolls but she can sort of get them vicariously on YouTube, do you think that drives her to....

A She knows loads of names, she drew some the other day. In fact yesterday she drew some at school and she come out with these random weird names. I was like 'what's that' and she went 'oh this one' and like this one's got like her hair to the side, and she's going on about these characters. And I was like 'oh is that what they're called', I mean they're about this big. She drew them at school. And cut them out as well. She likes all of them.

Q Just a couple of inches, yeah.

A She knows quite a lot about them and I'm like 'hmm'.

Q That's very interesting, yeah. Did you show her how to search those sorts of things up on YouTube, or would Noah have shown her?

A No, she has....on YouTube – only I've got a safety thing on YouTube anyway – but Noah's done it for her and she said to me 'mum' and she'd be already on the search bar, she's like 'mum, how do you spell...' So I'm like I'll sound it out to her and then she's like 'uh-uh-uh' presses it and then does it herself.

Q So she's typing it in herself, yes.

A Yeah does it herself.

Q Did she know how to phrase that search, you know sort of....



A Yeah she knows how to sort of...

Q Do you remember what she asked for?

A No, she's done it a few times, certain things. Or the Playmobil, like 'um, how do you spell Playmobil', 'P....' she's done it a few things. And then she will do it. Or if I say 'oh no, no, no that's wrong' and she's done a wrong letter, and then I'll do it to her, or get me to do it or whatever. But yeah she's quite like independent, sort of will ask but want to do it herself.

Q And then have you observed her using sort of the suggestions on the right hand side of the screen? Once she's got one film that she likes does she....then is she off away on her own independently?

A Yeah, oh yeah she does that. She'll stop that and she'll just carry on. She'll carry on going, like 'oh, press that'.

Q And so she's looking at the images ??? not reading anything here?

A Yeah she looks at the images, no she's not reading, it's just pictures. And she'll click on it and then go 'no I don't like that' because obviously sometimes the pictures look better than the actual video.

Q I was going to say, are you aware of any kind of evaluation going on of what....why does she go to some and not others do you think?

A I think it's the image. I think if it looks pretty and girly she will click on it.

Q Have you noticed a pattern in any of the films, have you looked over her shoulder to see those films and have you noticed any pattern in the ones she's drawn to?

A LOLs I think, LOL and Playmobil. She's quite girly, she loves Barbie. She likes Barbie as well and she wants Barbie for Christmas, which she's got.

Q Oh super. What did she want...is there a particular...

A A few Barbies. She's got a Barbie, and my dad's got her some Barbies as well, because she doesn't own any Barbies. So I've said to her 'I've already got your presents, I'm so sorry you can't have Barbies'. So she's having Barbies anyway. She's like 'alright'.

Q Oh bless her. So you say she searches up Barbie films?

A She searches, yeah.

Q And is this....

A Today she watched....

Q What sort of films are they? Oh sorry?

A Today she watched three Playmobil movies as well. Because with Playmobil website, I don't know if you know, when you order over I think it's £40 they send a free DVD.

Q Oh no I didn't know that.

A Yeah. So we've got quite a few of them.

Q Oh so you've actually got DVDs from Playmobil?

A So we've got DVDs and there's...

Q And you put them in your DVD player?

A Well a lot are here. I think two of them are downstairs. Jacqueline watched three today, she watched them downstairs.

Q Is it like an animated thing with the figures in?

A They're animated, so they are the figures, and it might be like a knight one. There's a princess one what she watched today. What else did she watch? I think she watched a ship one today as well. She was like 'mum, I like this one'. All like the figures, animated, talking.

Q And does that relate to the ones that you've bought, or are they just general ones that they....

A Oh yeah no, we have....because....it doesn't look like it but we have I would say over 400 characters now. So....and what else is good with the Playmobil movies is, every item in the Playmobil world on the DVD is a real toy. So it's animated, so it's not like this film is real toys, it's all animated but it's all to the scale and to the design of the real buildings. So that will be in a movie with knights and...

Q That castle that is under the table there, yeah.

A Yeah. So it will be...obviously Jacqueline's castle, I built that, but the original....

Q So they recognise...

A Yes. So it helps with....because it's their world, it's their table, it's the plant pot they've got.

Q So you're seeing....are they reacting to that when you watch it?

A Oh they love it.

Q Are they sort of saying 'oh I've got that', are they kind of pointing out things and 'oh look mum, it's the same'.

A Oh they do that all the time. 'I've got that vehicle, I've got that vehicle, I've got that person'. Oh they do that all the time.

Q Yes, so they're really ??? and engaging in it.

A And I'm like 'you've got loads of it'.

Q Yeah. Does it ever make them want things that they haven't got as well?

A Yes! And I'm like 'really, really?' It's like Noah wants a new police set, I'm like 'babe you have a police set, and you have a police building, you have police helicopters, police vehicles, police....' he's got three riot vans, he's got that black one.

Q The big ones there.

A He's got two grey ones. I'm like 'really?' He's like 'yeah but they're new ones', I'm like 'they do the same job'. ???

Q Yeah.

A 'I want a new prison', I'm like....

Q Yes, if money was no object.

A I know. I'm like 'really?' This prison, I think it's £79 or something like that, 'you already have a prison, in fact you have two because I made one as well', he has two.

Q So the ones that they've seen on YouTube, will they be similar to those LEGO ones, will they be kind of animated with the doll characters?

A Playmobil?

Q Not just the Playmobil but the Barbie ones and the LOL doll ones?

A Oh right yeah. The LOLs are like real characters as well. Sometimes they're made up. And because I think people make them anyway, because on YouTube....

Q It's not just the manufacturers is it?

A ....some companies make them but it's people at home.

Q So she will look at people at home who will set up and produce that.

A Oh she will, yeah. And she loves watching people unwrap presents for example. Like Kinder Eggs. Yes. I don't know why children like that, Kinder Eggs and LOL balls, surprise balls, and they open them to see what they've got in them. Oh she loves all that, yeah, and she's like 'oh mum, that's Sparkle Diva' and I'm like 'OK'.

Q Yes. So how do you feel about her watching those sorts of....

A Oh I'm fine but I don't really want to buy them because like...

Q You're looking sort of bemused and puzzled and....

A Yeah, I'm like 'oh that's really good' but then I'm thinking, behind her back I'm thinking 'I'm not buying LOLs', it is not good plastic, they do not look good. So I said to her dad 'she wants LOLs', and he went 'what?'. So I went 'yeah, yeah, yeah she really wants them', I said 'you can get them then for Christmas'. I said 'I've not got anything else'. And he went 'what?'

Q That sort of reminds me, if this is OK to talk about and tell me if it isn't, but we're interested in the way that individual parents, you know the different genders, might – obviously in a heterosexual partnership, and obviously they do see their dad – so I just wondered if you think that it's more likely he would play with certain type of technologies with them and you might play with others? Is there a different ??? there?

A I am more....yeah well I am more obviously physical, plastic toys, so it's just hands-on sort of thing. And their dad doesn't really play with them. He never did. So that's why I'm, one I'm happy that Noah has now got his little Nintendo because that's what he takes to his dad's, because his dad bought him that.

So he does take that, so he is on that. Jacqueline luckily has got the girl who is 6, she's 6, so they play dolls and LOLs and dress-up, so she is happy playing with that. Noah is on his Nintendo so that keeps him busy.

But yeah. But at home we love crafts, we love crafts.

Q So I think we've sort of covered that. We've talked about creativity. And yeah, we spoke about, you know where you sometimes...moving on to rules around technologies and things like that and I think we've spoken a bit about that before but I'm not sure if I asked you who makes the rules, is it always yourself or do the children get a say in rules? Is there any negotiation that you can do?

A In rules with play?

Q Playing with technology particularly, or the using technology.

A What rules? I think I would do the rules, but I don't think there's a lot. I don't really... Because there's not a lot of play on them. So I think if, if, I found it being...like obviously earlier when he was literally there and I was like 'don't have it that close, it's not good for your eyes, move it', and he was just like that. I was just like 'no', ??? just before you come. I was like 'move it away from your face'. But other than that, no. Because he's not....I mean it might change, I mean he might...you know the more games he gets, come Christmas as well, he might end up being a proper little couch potato, being on it more and I might have to put my foot down.

Q I remember you saying that at the moment you feel they're pretty balanced in terms of....

A Yeah, and in terms of sort of taking himself off it anyway, so sort of like next minute he'll be like proper like right into it, and then next minute it's on charge – and not because it's dead, he just puts it on and then just goes and plays.

Q Do you think he gets bored with it? What do you think precipitates the change of.....

A He might get bored of it. I've not asked him because I don't want it to like be a....I don't want to put that thought in his head. And also it's just a mix of, I don't know, probably play, because he's had a long time as well playing with physical toys I suppose.

Q Yeah, non-digital, yeah.

A I think it's....and because he's still very much into Playmobil.

Q Yes.

A We did it the other day, we set it up again the other day. And yeah he loves it. And he loves his little pet area over there. We bought them a couple of weeks ago, the little pet area.

Q Oh yes I can see it, yes.

A But yeah he loves it.

Q Yeah, so he's pretty self-regulating in terms of...

A But, well I've said to you before about...because I'm aware of his age, but then he's still got these requests about Playmobil, but I was going to limit less toys this year, this type of toy anyway. But he's like 'mummy I want that one, that one there', do you know what I mean, I'm like 'well yeah'. He's like 'mummy please, still need them' I'm like 'really?' But I think best things, I think he's still into it so why not.

Q Yes it's interesting. So you're the one who makes sort of the decisions on what Playmobil and stuff obviously gets bought, but what about the apps and things like that?

A Well I make the....yeah I make them all, I make them because obviously I say no, do you know what I mean, they come as a surprise as well, but he will pick what type of toy. I mean I don't go 'you're having that' or whatever. I mean with his voucher he's already picked what he wants, and he wants a SWOT...did he show you, a SWOT police vehicle. It's really good actually, it's £40, and he's like 'mum, I've got £10 left'.

Oh yeah he's well excited. Jacqueline is...in fact I'll show you in a bit, Jacqueline wants a villa, it's a Playmobil villa, and she is so excited. Hers is £45 and she has picked that. She's wanted that for quite a while actually, so straightaway she knew about this she was like 'mum, I can buy that'. I was like 'let me have a look at the price', I was like 'oh yes you can'.

She was well excited about that.

Q Did you say you are getting some programmes or more games for the Switch for Christmas then?

A Yes. There's a game what Noah wants, it's called...Luigi....it's like a ghost one. Yeah, and it looks really good actually, I've seen the advert, I was like 'oh that looks really good'. It's about £48 but it actually looks really good and he like really wants that.

Q What kind of game is it?

A It's a bit like Mario but it's like ghosts as well. So it's like a kiddie, not like a violent thing, so it's like Mario but it's just like obviously haunted, probably different buildings and

that. But the advert to it looks really good. And when he showed me I like made out I'm not interested, do you know what I mean, I'm like looking at it and he's 'Mum, mum I really want this' and I'm like 'why do you want that', do you know what I mean, I'm looking and thinking 'oh that's actually quite good'.

Q So is that something....so what do you think?

A I think he'll be getting that.

Q That's lovely. So what do you think, what sort of....because you think it's good because it's fun, it catches your imagination or....?

A I think it's good because....he likes it and obviously...because I'm sure I've said this before, my family find it funny that they're like 'I'm sure when they move out you're still going to have Playmobil' because they make a joke of it, because the sheer amount I've got – or they've got – but it's because of me. And I'm like 'no, we like it'. If they turn round to me and said, like if Noah doesn't want them – I mean I'm going to ask him anyway after Christmas.

Q All the things in the cupboard there.

A If he doesn't want them we will get rid of them, sell them. I don't keep them because....I mean I've said to them, do you know what I mean, my dad laughs at me and he's like 'whatever'. My sister's like 'it's all for you', do you know what I mean, I'm like 'no it's not'. I love it. I love it, but, it's a toy, do you know what I mean. Like when a few people have said about the castle, like they've said that their children wouldn't be able to have that because they would smash it up and stuff. And I'm like 'but just teach them not to', I mean it's a toy – and a few people have said to me like 'bet they're not allowed to touch it are they', I'm like 'it's a toy, they can play with that, it's a toy'. I ain't got rules, the only rule is, which I don't have to repeat it, is just 'don't put the building down' and that's it. Play with the insides, do whatever you want, just don't dismantle the building. That's it.

Q Just coming back to Luigi, sorry to labour the point, but what sort of attracted you about that, can you put your finger on it, when you saw the advert?

A The graphics, I think it just looked fun.

Q Really, yeah.

A The little funny characters. And because of he likes it I'm like 'oh yeah that does look good'.

Q You could understand his attraction to it, that he could see it was fun.

A Yeah. And I thought he would like that.

Q Is it a person, is it just a one person game or could like two people....is it like Mario so two player?

A Yeah I think, yeah.

Q So had you thought about that side of it as well, that it could include you ???

A Not really, that's a bit selfish isn't it?

Q No, no, no I'm just asking you know what's influencing your decision that's all.

A Not really. It is obviously, because obviously it's Noah's computer so it's part of that, it would be his present. But there's always obviously that opportunity that they can share, you know play two-player.

Q Yeah. And how about Jacqueline, would you buy....I mean it is his but would you buy her anything that she could play on it, or is that kind of pushing it because it's his device?

A No I mean I've not actually.....that's a really good idea, thank you very much for that.

Q Oh sorry!

A No, no.

Q More money!

A I know. Yeah but actually it's a really good idea, I might look in January.

Q Well you know I was thinking actually maybe that would be a bad thing because it's his isn't it, so maybe that would create a tension.

A But the thing is, it's an expensive console and...you've given me a really good idea actually. It's a really good idea because ??? I'd not actually thought about it. And also I've not seen any girl games for it. Not that I have looked, but when I've seen the adverts you know and advertising...

Q Do you think it's quite gendered then?

A I don't know. I will have to ask Noah. I think so with what I've viewed, but obviously he will have witnessed more and he's focused on the adverts or the catalogues.

Q Maybe that would be a thing to draw him into the conversation. If it means Jacqueline is going to have a go he may not want to because it's his. Sorry and I now feel a bit responsible for suggesting something that might not go well in your family, so....

A No because I have said to D\_\_\_\_, their dad, as well, because obviously this was expensive, and I said to him at the time 'well Jacqueline' do you know what I mean? And he's 'oh yeah I'll get her a tablet' and obviously I've got a tablet downstairs, but he said the other day as well, he might get her a tablet for Christmas. So I don't know if that's going to happen because that might not happen. But if that didn't happen, obviously I've got a tablet anyway so I wouldn't buy her another tablet, but you've actually just given me an idea – don't feel guilty – because I actually really like that idea. But the thing is it is an expensive console, so I'm going to say to Noah anyway – and I have said to him before anyway like

‘no, let her play as well, she wants to have a go’ and they have, do you know what I mean, or he lets her anyway, but sometimes he’s been a bit selfish.

I will blame me. I thought about buying.... No but actually I will look into that, because that’s fun, and obviously he’s not on it all the time so....

Q But you’ve said the idea that you think that there may not be so much that’s sort of suitable or aimed at her as a girl, although you know you may think that some of the stuff is neutral, not necessarily gendered if it doesn’t....

A I’m going to ask Noah. I’m going to ask Noah what he thinks.

Q OK, tell me about the result of that conversation, it’s fascinating.

A I’m going to Google it right now as well while we’re talking.

Q OK. So just really on the last lap here. So first of all you mentioned earlier about parental controls and I just wondered if you could just tell me what controls, you obviously do use them, on the devices that you’ve got. I just wondered what you had installed and what you used.

A Oh what, do you mean security?

Q Yeah, well just parental controls with the children.

A Well I’m aware of what they’re sort of looking at, not all the time I don’t mean, but there is like parental, certain things they cannot go on, like rude stuff, adult content, I’ve got that blocked on there anyway. But they sort of are free to sort of, you know scroll, but it’s always kiddie stuff.

Q Do they use the Kids YouTube or are they allowed on YouTube YouTube?

A On YouTube, yeah.

Q OK, yeah.

A But yeah it’s just kiddies.

Q And also are there any safety mode features that you’ve got on any of your devices that you use with them in mind, I don’t know are there any safety mode in the websites that you visit or anything like that, or are you fairly sort of open about it and fine?

A It’s only YouTube they go on. They don’t go on any....I mean like with homework and stuff, we do it so it’s....and I don’t really use the tablet so I don’t really know the layout of it really. Like I’ve said before, like ‘where are the games’, do you know what I mean. I know some stuff but, you know. But my phone, we will use my phone if we’re doing homework, Google, anything like that, so I’m the one who ends up doing that because I’m just....you know, like ‘what are we doing’.

Q So you are the parental control, the parent.



A I am the parental, I am that one. But yeah then we like read up, we'll read up stuff and look at the images on whatever, you know history or Roman whatever we're doing, do you know what I mean. But I'm the one who ends up doing my phone. I don't think they ever go on my phone. I've got no games on my phone either. So yeah they don't go on my phone.

Q So we're on the final questions which is about general perceptions of new technologies and how you feel about them in general terms. So do you think any technologies are particularly positive or particularly negative for your children?

A For my children? Well we haven't got a vast amount of technology have we?

Q Of the ones you have maybe, do you see any differentiation, or do you think actually....

A I think there's potential. I mean it's like anything. I mean that could be anything, not just....you know if they're a long time on anything it could, I don't know, get them withdrawn or withdraw from the family. I don't know. I mean I think you can get that in, not just in technology, you can get that in anything can't you if you just spent a majority of time away from certain family.... On one thing, or away from family members or distracting so you're not eating properly, or you're worried....I don't know, you want to get back to your game or you want to get back to your toy or, yeah forget to have a bath, get reminded.

Q But you're not seeing any kind of negative impacts like that from any...

A I'm not, no. I think one, it's too early. Two, I think they're quite good at just change of play, change of play like.

Q Do you see any benefits then, to go the other way, do you think they benefit from it in any way, does it have a positive impact on your family life?

A Yeah I think it benefits. One, because it's a different thing for them to do. Two, it puts a smile on their face – well that's the first thing actually, that's number one. And they like it because it's something else to talk about at school with their friends. I think it opens opportunities in conversation with kids who also are into that. So it's sort of like, not like a....well a bit like a challenge like 'oh have you done that, have you done that level, are you on that game, oh what's that game like', and I think it opens that up as well in the sense of conversation, just interests, something in like hobbies, same interests in....

Q Yeah, shared with your friends.

A Yeah, or help or support or just ideas, do you know what I mean. 'Oh I made a big car so I made....' you know, I mean I was making that up, I'm just saying, I'm just trying to think what...

Q Yes I know, but you're giving me an example of the sort of thing you imagine they exchange and chat.

A Yeah, I'm trying to think of what they might talk about, because they do talk about it. He comes home and he does talk about his friends 'oh mum, he's got that game', 'oh mum he's got that and I want it' do you know what I mean? He'll say things like that, and I'm like

‘oh do you babe’, and he’s like ‘yeah and he said...’ and he just....so I think because they just like it, it just gives them enjoyment doesn’t it?

Q And do you know you mentioned earlier something about their learning curve, you know that you’d seen those skills, do you see that as a beneficial thing as well, is that a positive they’re getting from it?

A Oh yeah I think that’s a benefit. I think watching Jacqueline, I know obviously Noah as well but because Jacqueline’s younger I am more surprised at her, the way, the speed of her fingers sometimes on them games on the tablet and just the way she like moves around. Like she’s obviously just quite focused on what she’s doing.

Q And visually you’re sort of indicating there, yeah.

A But quite fast as well, which sometimes I think ‘that’s quite good’. Like she’ll look at it and she’ll be like ‘oh yeah, de-de...’ she sort of knows her way round it and I’m like ‘that’s really good’. Because I’m like, not on my phone but like if I was on something like that I’d be like ‘oh what do I have to do, oh I have to go over there’. I can imagine myself - not done it, so I am guilty of that – I can imagine myself being quite slow on them games. Because I’ve looked at them and think ‘I don’t think I’d be that good’. And I suppose it’s with anything isn’t it, when you’ve got experience in it you get better at it so I think....and obviously Jacqueline watching Noah, then she’s got her hands on it and it’s just....yeah I’m quite impressed with like the way she just like works round things. I’m like ‘well done’.

Q Yeah that’s good, that’s great, that’s a great answer. And have you got any concerns about data privacy in relationship to your child using online and digital things?

A Erm....yeah, but no I haven’t got like concerns. If I did they wouldn’t be on it anyway. Yeah, just....no. ???

Q Is that because it’s sort of never been an issue so it’s not cropping up for you at the moment?

A No. I mean I am aware what they sort of look at, not obviously everything do you know what I mean. But yeah I think....and they’re quite open kids as well anyway, like, I don’t know, not with just like internet stuff but like in general. If they’ve got questions of life....

Q Yeah, so it sounds like you’ve got trust there that....

A Oh yeah completely. And if they have conversations, I mean if they have questions about anything I will tell them. And like we’ve had conversations about birth and about weird stuff, not about sex yet, Jacqueline has had the questions about how does the baby come out of the body. But if they think of something they are like ‘oh mum how does this, what’s this’ or ‘how does that work’ or whatever, and then we like either look it up or I’ll explain or whatever. But I don’t think they’re afraid of any subjects, and because they know...I’ve never like....another thing with them, changing the subject a bit, I’ve never done baby talk with them. Like a lot of parents when they’re babies do baby talk. I’ve never done baby talk, I’ve always spoken to them properly, I’ve never gone ‘bot-bot’ or ‘horsey’ and things like that, I’m like ‘that is a horse’, ‘do you want a bottle’. Do you know what I mean, I just think, I

don't know, I think they just....and they are quite open, if they think of something they're just sort of like 'mum, can I do this', or 'mum, can I watch this'.

Q Does that ever happen with YouTube, have they ever come to you and said 'oh mum what's this', have they ever found anything that they didn't understand?

A No.

Q Or nothing's come up that's been bad or dodgy?

A No.

Q But you trust them that if it did, perhaps they would come to you with it?

A Yeah, because we've had conversations, not about the internet but we've had conversations about like at school and subjects that other children might talk about, or swear words, or behaviour. And with Jacqueline as well we've had these conversations with....and we've talked about like disability and people with deformities and that, we talk about just any subjects because they are curious kids. So if we watch like a programme sometimes, I mean I don't know one person with one leg, and we will discuss it. And we will talk about operations, and we'll talk about...we've even had conversations about diseases. I don't know it's just we talk....I don't know we just.....

Q Do you think that your childrens' use of technologies interfere or enhance your family life in any way – interfere with on the one hand or enhance?

A I don't think it interferes, because normally when they're on it I'm cooking. It doesn't really....and even if I wasn't I'd sit there and they can do what they want, do you know what I mean, so it doesn't really impact. But positively, it makes them happy. But I don't think there's a negative, unless he becomes a couch potato and goes on it for 7 hours a day. He's not there yet! But no positively I think yeah, because it helps the imagination and his way round technology and computers and....yeah.

Q Yeah, so you think maybe there's something a bit future orientated about this as well?

A Yeah. Because I'm thinking as well next year getting a laptop, because I did have one but it broke and we've not had one for a few years. But I'm thinking, and he's in Year 5 now so I'm thinking that might be the best thing to look into next year. Because instead of doing homework on a phone, it's finding your way round – which he does use at school – but finding his way around a keyboard, I think that will probably be the next thing. And obviously Jacqueline as well. But I think at Noah's age more, do you know what I mean, like the settings or the programmes and you know writing and English and all that.

Q Yes, you see that as coming into its own with the way he's growing up.

A I think next year, beginning of next year, yeah I think that will be ??? that would be the next, that would be something what I would look into getting which is technology, is a laptop. And I don't think I would use it.

Q Is that more for work sort of than play do you think?

A I would say more work, because they've got that game thing haven't they. But they could put play on it as well. But I think making your way round a computer would be....because it's completely different with a screen, you know....

Q A keyboard.

A Yeah a keyboard. But I think that would be definitely something I'm going to add to this house. Because he's in Year 5 now as well and I think just.....you know

Q So would you like any advice, would you like there to be any advice or guidance on issues relating to data privacy and safety in relation to your child, or children indeed?

A Yeah, it's always helpful isn't it? And also sometimes you might be surprised as well, like you're doing stuff wrong or different.

Q Do you have any particular preference as to how that comes to you, is it something that you want to talk to somebody about, or is it something that is a leaflet, or do you use websites?

A Probably. Websites are best because they're more in-depth aren't they and then you just keep going back sort of thing. Yeah, I'd be open to that.

Q Brilliant. OK thank you so much Lindsay, that's it.