

Q = Main interviewer (Cath)

Q2 = Second interviewer (Beth)

A = Mum (Diane)

B = Dad (Julian)

C = Child 1 (Simon, boy, 8)

D = Child 2 (Harvey, boy, 6)

Q That should be recording. That's the microphone, so if I place it there. So if I just ask then a few questions about your family. So could I ask you and your partner's ages first of all please?

A We're 42. I'm 43 in September and he's 42 as well.

Q OK that's great. And can I ask you what kind of jobs you do?

A I'm a nurse and he's a barrister.

Q That's fine, cool. Sounds exciting. So, did you both sort of stay on at school to do A levels, that type of thing?

A Yeah, I failed mine. But then I didn't need A levels in those days to do nursing. But consequently I've gone on and got a degree, so.... And he did his, and he did Law at university and then he went to Law School, and then obviously he's done a lot of exams since.

Q Yeah.

A Because first he was a solicitor for many....and then while he was working as a solicitor he did some exams to change to become a barrister.

Q OK. What's his name by the way?

A Julian.

Q Julian, OK sorry, I realised I'd just not asked your husband's name. So it's Diane and Julian. OK that's great.

C And Harvey and Simon and [pet name].

Q And Harvey and Simon. and [pet name] the dog.

C Yeah.

Q So then you are both sort of educated to degree level.

A Yes.

Q That's great. This is just to sort of get an idea of the kind of backgrounds of the family and what have you. So what would you define your sort of ethnic status as? Would you say it's White British?

A Yeah, yeah both of us, yeah.

Q Both of you are White British, OK. Does anybody in your sort of family unit have a disability at all?

A No.

Q OK. And do you own a car, do you drive?

A Yeah we've got two cars.

Q Two cars, OK.

A It's awful isn't it?

Q No we've got two cars.

A We used to have one, and then for work we both need them. He travels all over and I work over on the Manor, so to drop the kids at two separate schools and get there, you can't do it on public transport.

Q No you can't. We have two cars as well, just because we set off in different directions in a morning.

A It's awful isn't it?

Q It's how it is. And so you have got Harvey who is going to be 7 very soon, and Simon who is going to be 9 in October did you say?

A Yes.

Q OK. And one of the initial questions we're asking is kind of like do the children play with Lego already, have you got any Lego type stuff?

A Yeah they do, there's loads of models in their bedrooms.

Q Ah right, so they're like the kits, the self-assembly kits? Or stuff they've created themselves out of....

A Yeah they do create stuff themselves but that gets broken up and then put back in those drawers and in that box. But the kits, they're in their bedrooms. They're big kits, you know like Star Wars and Harry Potter and...

Q Oh right.

A But Julian and I both like a bit of Lego if they get stuck.

Q Yeah. So do you help, sort of join in and play with the lego as well?

A Yeah we have....I mean because it's been nice, the weather's been nice, we haven't had the Lego out. I'd say more in the winter. We do play a lot of games together actually as a family. We play a lot of cards don't we boys?

Both Yes.

A Daddy's just taught them Poker.

Q Oh cool.

A But we play a lot of cards, like not Happy Families, you know proper cards.

Q Like '21' and stuff like that?

A Yeah.

Q Or Black Jack or....

A No, I can't say on there which is the game. But if you've been travelling it's a game you've probably played travelling (laughs) - but we've adapted it for the children.

Q Oh right. But you have sort of Lego and things in the house anyway.

A Yeah, yeah there's loads over there. And then yeah we play a lot of board games and things as well.

Q Is it all Lego you've bought yourself, or do you inherit bits?

A No it's all from....it was ours as kids and kits that my husband had. The instructions are still there and so he's like re-built a castle and things. So it is old Lego as well.

Q So you must have really treasured that to keep it all together and....

A Well his mum just kept it, and then we just cleaned it when the kids....

Q Yeah, got to Lego age.

A So yeah. But I do think it's something, particularly with Harvey, it's been in the last year that they've really got into it.

Q So when they were young did they have Duplo and Stickle Bricks and things like that?

A Yeah but not really, they weren't as bothered about that. I'd say Simon's much more. Harvey's really good at playing on his own, he's got different....he'll play with animals and his Octonauts, and he's very much still will line up animals and make up games. Simon will

join in with him but he won't initiate it, he'll pick up a book or listen to....they've both got little CD players in their bedrooms so they'll listen to a CD, a story or something.

Time 5:00

Q OK, so they've got different sort of play styles.

A Yeah, yeah definitely.

Q Do you think that's like age related, or do you think that's more personality?

A No I think it's personality, yeah. So sort of the imaginative, but also the....yeah, yeah. And if we let them they'd both be on their computers all the time.

Q Really?

A But we just don't, you know.

Q So you have quite sort of strict.....not strict but do you have like boundaries about like times?

A Yes. So in the week....

Q Do you have like screen time and things like that?

A Yeah but I have slackened off recently. So we were just talking about it. When they go back to school we need to get back into it. But quite often some days they don't have telly at all. But then some weekends if the weather's bad they watch like four films, you know. So it depends, I think it depends what we're doing and what they're like.

Q Yeah.

A You do use it a bit don't you as a ???

Q Definitely. Going back to Lego just briefly, there's lots of things around Lego these days aren't there like sort of Lego Movies.

A Oh yeah they like those, and we collected those Lego cards, was it from Sainsburys?

Q Yes, yes, I remember those.

A We filled the albums for those.

Q Did you fill the....that's quite an achievement.

A Yeah, but it's because we got so many free ones, because I think the people in Sainsburys got sick of giving them out, so we had boxes of them that we opened....didn't we? You took some in school didn't you?

C The blue ones were about that thick.

D Simon! Simon guess what, I'm a sports leader now, where I have the.....

Q So you have sort of the Lego films. Do they have any of the Lego computer games or anything like that?

A Have you got any Lego? They've got some little Nintendos that are about 10 years old. You can't get on the internet on those can you? So they've got Lego Star Wars and....is the Indiana Jones Lego?

C Yeah, I'll get it.

A Yeah, so they've got that, they like those, the Lego computer games.

B They are so good.

Q Is Harry Potter Lego as well?

C Yeah. There's one Harry Potter that's Lego.

Q So basically they've got these for their birthdays and they're second hand DS's.

C I got mine all from Father Christmas.

D My dad, I bought mine for my birthday.

C Lego Harry Potter, Lego Star Wars, Lego Indiana Jones.

Q Oh wow.

C And Mario Karting.

A They're not Lego though are they?

C No.

A But with this it's really good because they can't get on the internet on them. But they can text each other from the other one and they can play against each other on different games, but there's no internet so we are all for those.

Q So the DS's, they can chat to each other on the DS.

C On Pictochat?

Q Do you chat to each other when you're in the house together on the same....

C Yeah sometimes.

A We've got four. There's four aren't there? So actually me and daddy can play with them, but to be honest.....daddy plays with you sometimes, I'm....

C Yes, you don't normally play.

A I don't often play. So if they've both got a friend round they will have a little play on them. And I much prefer that to them putting.....

C DN 64.

A Yeah that's a really old computer isn't it that was daddy's brother's when he was younger, but they like the games on it. Or what's the other computer we've got that's also gone away?

C Play Station.

A A Play Station. So they've just been moved out of the way really.

C I know where they are.

A Yeah I know but they're a real treat aren't they if you've been good.

C Yeah.

D Anyway we haven't had them for 2 years now.

A Not 2 years but it's been quite a long time hasn't it?

C It's normally only if friends are around or if.....

A And they don't really get tablets. Occasionally I'll let Simon watch something on iPlayer, but we don't give them tablets to play with.

C I watch some things like....there's something called The Dumping Ground, I watch Horrible Histories.

Q Oh OK.

D The Dumping Ground.

Q2 Is The Dumping Ground Tracy Beaker, right?

C Yeah.

Q2 Yeah.

D It's quite rubbish though.

A Do you not like it Harvey? So yeah, so actually we are quite restrictive, they are quite restricted with their..... And Simon's got a little programme on....you've got your own profile haven't you on my computer, but you don't have it very often. And he's allowed to do some Times Table Rock Stars; he's allowed to read on it, look at Beano and things; or what else do

I let you....what's that other thing? Coding, he does a bit of coding. Where they scratch things.

Q Ah, coding with scratch, right yeah.

D Also I'm allowed MyMaths.

A Yeah you're allowed MyMaths, so I'm really mean.

Q I like that. So you're sort of aware of things around....

D But we never, never have the N64 or the Play Station, ever.

Q Don't you? Not never ever?

Time 10:00

D Well not never ever?

C But we haven't had it for one year.

A Come on, I think you're supposed to be doing pictures boys.

C We are. We like the N64 because it's got like James Bond on it.

Q It's got James Bond?

D Also it's got Perfect Dog, both of those are gun games.

A Yeah, which I don't like but.....

C But they're cartoony and they've got bad graphics so you can barely see anything there.

A Yeah you can't, because they're so old.

D They're not very old games.

C The graphics aren't that bad, you can see like people.

A Go on, do your pictures.

Q Have you ever been to Legoland or anything like that?

A Yeah we went to Legoland didn't we?

C Yeah we went to Legoland Windsor Resort.

Q Have you?

C I think it was when we were [unclear]

A Yeah just for the day we went.

D Oooh I know what to get!

A Oh that picture of me, yeah.

Q And just to sort of finish up with the initial sort of questions. I think they mentioned some out of school activities that Harvey and Simon.....

A Oh yes. So they both do After School Club on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

C My mum's in the middle.

Q Ooh....it's a fridge magnet.

C Look at my mum!

A Yeah exactly.

D I'm at the front there.

A I look like I've had my teeth whitened.

Q Which ride was that?

C This is me and my dad. I'm the one there.

D And my dad was doing this.

Q And this is Lego Pirate Falls Treasure.....my eyes are so bad...

C Treasure Quest.

Q Treasure Quest, OK. So they have After School Club.

A On a Tuesday and Wednesday. I think we're going to start some tennis lessons in September one night, they both want to learn about tennis. I'm just all for encouraging sport I think.

Q Yeah I was going to say are they quite sporty?

A Yes, they're average, but they like it so....

Q Yeah.

A So the next thing is cricket and....cricket and tennis.

Q And they currently do After School Club and....what else do they do at the moment?



A Oh swimming, and then Simon you do cross-country when it's on don't you?

C Yeah, cross-country.

A And then football.

C I've done orienteering once.

A Yeah. And Harvey does rugby and swimming.

C But I also like cycling.

A Yeah.

Q You're really healthy. I'm really impressed. I do none of these things. That's really good. OK so I think that's all the initial questions covered so I'm just going to.....