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Interviewee: Mother of 2 sons ages 8 and 6

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: I have three.

Interviewer: Three, and their ages?

Interviewee: Nine months, six, and eight.

Interviewer: You are a glutton for punishment. Are they all boys, girls?

Interviewee: Yes, all boys.

Interviewer: All boys? Our project is on children ages five to eleven. I am going to ask you questions related to your six and eight-year-olds primarily. Of course, you probably have ... Your nine-month-old is probably not using all these other devices yet.

Interviewee: No.``

Interviewer: We'd like to chat with you about the electronic devices such as: TV, smartphones, laptops, iPads, eReaders, desktop computers, and game consoles basically anything with a screen.

Tell me about the devices your family owns and how your family members use them?

Interviewee: I use my phone, I don't even know if this is a smart phone, but I use my phone strictly for phone. The kids don't play games on it, they don't even ask, they know better to ask me. My husband has one and he uses it for phone and for games. My oldest son uses his phone for games.

And then we have an iPad that belongs to my husband, but both the boys use it for movies and games. We have a TV and that's it. Oh, and PlayStation, does that count, video games?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Is that connected to the internet?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: Is your TV connected to the internet?

Interviewee: I guess so, yeah, it's a smart TV.

Interviewer: Okay, alright. How do you use your TV?

Interviewee: We just use it for TV. There are times when we look up stuff on YouTube and we use Netflix but that's it.

Interviewer: Netflix is becoming more and more prevalent. Do your children use devices anywhere else such as friends or relatives homes, daycare, or even here at the library?

Interviewee: They only go to friend's houses, I'm pretty strict with it. But then my six-year-olds been coming home telling me that they watched kids YouTube on their friend's iPad. I guess sometimes they do, and then [Aiden 00:02:34] does play video games with the neighbor next door.

Interviewer: Do you use the computer here in the library?

Interviewee: No, just the catalog.

Interviewer: And you don't have a computer at home?

Interviewee: We do.

Interviewer: Oh you do?

Interviewee: [inaudible 00:02:48] yeah, we have a laptop. We use don't use that as much anymore, when we can access everything on here.

Interviewer: That's so true, so true. I've written down this list of devices and we'll probably come back to them again. You've mentioned who uses them, the primary uses I think we've also discussed. Your phones are primarily for communication, you don't use them for games, so you've said?

Interviewee: I don't.

Interviewer: The iPad, how does your son use the iPad?

Interviewee: For games and the eight-year-old will use it for games, the six-year-old uses it to watch Netflix on occasion.

Interviewer: Let's see, we've talked about that. So, thinking about your child's day yesterday, walk me through the day from the time your child woke up until bedtime, paying particular attention to the devices they used yesterday?

Interviewee: I don't allow them to get on any devices until evening really, most of the time. There are times when if they get everything done, they can be on a little in the afternoon. Nothing until, let me think, my youngest was

grounded from TV, they went to a friends house from six to eight and they watched a movie there, so that for sure.

I'm forgetting that yesterday was Sunday. Through the week, Monday-Friday they don't watch anything until afternoons or evenings, because that's how I do things.

My husband is a little different and a little more lenient, and I don't argue with it. They do watch ... my oldest son plays games on his phone, when I woke up he was on the phone playing games before church, maybe 20 minutes before church.

My youngest son wasn't on it at all then and the only time was the two hours, for my youngest. Then when they came home from church he was on it, maybe an hour in the afternoon and then the two hours of movie time in the evening.

Interviewer: Let's look at this list again.

How do these devices fit into your family routines or maybe they don't?

Interviewee: I don't like to use them because my kids, I notice, I'm with them all time and I notice the attitudes. When they're on something they're completely, everything is in that. They don't hear my voice, they don't hear me telling them to do something. And I don't argue, so we just don't turn them on. And their attitudes are 100% better, when we don't even mess with it.

What did you ask me, what was your question?

Interviewer: How do these devices fit into your family routines?

Interviewee: It's all purely for pleasure, we don't use it for learning and we read books with paper. We don't use it for reading, they just squeeze it in when there's free time, really.

Interviewer: Do you think that this has changed since your children have grown older?

Interviewee: I'm a lot more strict now. I know they're still watching too much, but when they're younger it's just easy to turn the TV on and let them watch that, if I needed to do something around the house or stuff like that. Use it as a babysitter unfortunately I did that too many times.

Interviewer: Do you remember how routines were established when your children were very young?

Interviewee: Routines like what?

Interviewer: Of their media use?

Interviewee: Media use?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Interviewee: I don't know, what do mean? Like, how we just got into a groove of doing what we do?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee: They used to get up and watch TV every morning and then we'd turn it off, we homeschool too. We'd do our schoolwork, we'd eat lunch and watch a little TV, then turn it off and then watch again at night. I guess it just happened, it wasn't like, I don't know we didn't plan it. It just kind of fit, we just let it fit in more than we should have.

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:07:52] Do your children have friends or relatives who make suggestions or model things to do on the devices?

Interviewee: Their cousins live with us, they're two teenage boys and one teenager girl. The 17-year-old is on the game a lot of the time, they see that if that's what you mean?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Interviewee: The other two use it for emergencies really is all, maybe YouTube videos. That's probably about all they see, then my husband playing games.

Interviewer: You mentioned your son watches things over at his friends house?

Interviewee: He's told me that he does, kids YouTube. But now that I'm aware of it, we're not gonna be doing that.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: I just wasn't aware that, that's what they were doing.

Interviewer: Who primarily helps the children with the devices? For example, when they need to get started on something or when something needs fixing?

Interviewee: The eight-year-old doesn't need any help, he knows how to do it all. The six-year-old will go to the eight-year-old, for passwords. But other than passwords, he can do pretty much everything on his own.

Interviewer: Who makes decisions about purchases of the devices or software?

Interviewee: I guess my husband mostly. I mean, I have input but I don't really ... I would like to get away from having so many devices, so I don't usually make those choices.

Interviewer: Who makes decisions about what the children are doing on the devices?

Interviewee: My husband and I together. That's our joint decision, about what they do and don't do.

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:09:55] Which of these devices does your child or children use independently? So, they can use the television independently?

Interviewee: They can, it's all with supervision, if that's what you ... I don't know if that's what you mean, but they can work it by themselves but it's with supervision. They don't need help for it.

Interviewer: When do you feel a need to guide your child's use of these devices?

Interviewee: All the time. I feel like, if I didn't guide them, they'd be on it all day long.

Interviewer: In what ways have you provided guidance in how they use them?

Interviewee: Do you mean what they're looking at or ... I guide them-

Interviewer: Could be the content, could be time, could be-

Interviewee: They are not allowed on the internet without an adult, at all. I guide their time and ... I guess, am I answering it right?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)- sure

Interviewee: They're six and eight so I tell them if they can be on it or not.

Interviewer: Do you guide them to certain sites?

Interviewee: They don't look on the internet. I mean like [Aiden 00:11:27] will get games and he'll talk to his dad about downloading new games. That's their deal, 'cause I don't really get into games, and those are both my husbands devices. The TV as far as that goes we talk about what they're gonna watch before they watch it.

Interviewer: You watch it together?

Interviewee: I'm not great about that.

Interviewer: Sometimes?

Interviewee: Yeah. I've realized [inaudible 00:11:52] this summer, I have watched a couple of things and realized how much stricter I need to be, not realizing when you're thinking, it's kids I just don't trust. Yeah, we're gonna get more strict with watching things with them.

Interviewer: There's a lot of content available nowadays. How do you make decisions about guiding your child's use of electronic devices?

Interviewee: I make decisions?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-
How do you and your husband make decisions?

Interviewee: The bible is our standard and we just, I mean that's how we make decisions on what they should be watching and shouldn't be watching. That's the number one thing. Does that answer your questions?

Interviewer: Sure. Do you consider your own childhood experiences with media, when you're making decisions?

Interviewee: No, because I watched whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. Sometimes when I think that I am damaging them by letting them watch too much, I think back to, I would just sit there and watch TV all day, and my parents let me ...
No, at least she's smiling, she's okay.

Interviewer: When making decisions about guiding your child's use, do you think whether an activity is educational or not?

Interviewee: I don't let them watch more TV just because it's educational but yeah, I do try to guide them to things like that. My eight-year-old, he'll watch quite a few things that are educational.

Interviewer: How do you decide it's educational?

Interviewee: Well, if it's informational, like River Monsters, for an example, something that's telling about the fish and about the land they're in, their habitat, and things like that-

Interviewer: My son loves that show.

Interviewee: National Geographic Discovery, things like that, that's real time telling about the earth, or animals, or those sorts of things. [Manny 00:14:36] will watch sometimes words and letters based cartoons but not so much anymore. He's kind of got his letters down.

Interviewer: What other purposes do you see for your children's use of the electronic devices beyond educational?

Interviewee: Beyond educational? It's just for fun there's really not ... To me, I think it's just entertainment.

Interviewer: Okay. Are there uses you worry about?

Interviewee: I don't know that worry is the right word, but it bothers me when they're on it a lot. I read recently Read-Aloud Handbook. He was talking about, "It's not the time they're putting into it that's damaging, it's what they're missing out on." The use of imagination, the different opportunities that they are spending on those electronics, that they could be doing other things that are more developmental to their learning and growing.

It doesn't necessarily worry me because I know what they're using and watching, I know what they are using but that bothers me, just because I feel like their time would be better spent and it would be more beneficial for them to be doing something else.

Interviewer: Okay, alright. You just mentioned Read-Aloud Handbook, are there other kinds of resources you have used or you've seen that talk about helping parents guide the use of electronic devices?

Interviewee: That's the only one, I think that's the first one I've read, kind of opened my eyes.

Interviewer: So, no websites or magazines or TV shows?

Interviewee: No, I don't think so.

Interviewer: And you found that very useful?

Interviewee: I did.

Interviewer: Have you received advice from anyone about guiding your child's use of these kinds of devices?

Interviewee: Oh, just friends, we just talk with friends, other homeschool moms.

Interviewer: What do you talk about?

Interviewee: Well, just about that. This summer we've really kind of got it on lockdown a little more than it was. And just sharing that book and what other moms do and why they do it. Just basically what we were talking about, "What do you let your kids do?" It's just good to hear from other moms.

Interviewer: Have you been offered the opportunity to get advice from professionals in the community like, librarians, teachers, police, doctors?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: No? Not your pediatrician even?

Interviewee: Offered help you mean?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee: Have we been offered help? No. I think the pediatrician says, "two hours," but I mean that's all they've said.

Interviewer: Related to the advice we just mentioned, talking with your friends, other homeschool moms, do you find this advice useful to you?

Interviewee: I think so, it just encourages me to know when other moms have scaled back, how they handle it with their kids. Well okay, at church then too, I've talk to the pastor's wife she said during the summer they do minute for minute. If they read 30 minutes, then they can watch 30 minutes of TV.

That's useful for me 'cause then I know what's motivating for my kids, to get them to read books and do other things. And then maybe have that as a treat and not necessarily what we do all day.

Interviewer: What else would you have liked to have learned?

Interviewee: About electronics?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Screen media, practices, or guidance.

Interviewee: Maybe if I had more information of why the limit is two hours, it would help me to scale it back more than we already do. If my kids maybe had more of that information. You know when people tell you, "Besides just mom." And why that's important, I think that would be helpful.

Interviewer: How do you know whose advice to follow?

Interviewee: I'm a praying person, so when I'm uneasy about something like this, then I pray about it, and read books, and follow what gives me peace.

Interviewer: In what areas do you feel comfortable guiding your child?

Interviewee: What areas? Every area, I have to it's my job.

Interviewer: That's true, yep. Are there areas in which you have questions and would like further guidance about, for now or in the future?

Interviewee: As far as media goes?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Interviewee: I don't think so.

Interviewer: We talked a little bit about this already related to these different technologies.

What are the main things you do with technology?

Interviewee: Me personally or all of us?

Interviewer: All of you?

Interviewee: The main things, my family mainly plays games. I use the Bible app on here, I read my Bible on here sometimes. I use the internet sometimes, and my phone, texting, things like that.

Interviewer: Communication, entertainment, work related?

Interviewee: I don't, no I don't use it for work except for communication. My husband doesn't either except for communication.

Interviewer: In relation, the devices you've mentioned, would you describe yourself as an expert, beginner, or someone in between?

Interviewee: Oh gosh, beginner for sure. I'm not good at any of these devices, the kids know more than I do.

Interviewer: How about your husband? He's probably in somewhere in between.

Interviewee: What's his top use of technology?

Interviewer: Mostly entertainment, he uses the computer at work but at home probably mostly entertainment.

Interviewee: It would be helpful for me to have some basic information about you and your family. How would you describe your ethnic background?

Interviewer: What do you mean by that?

Interviewee: Caucasian, Asian, African American?

Interviewer: We are all Caucasian except for Manny. Manny is six, and he came from Haiti, he's our only non-Caucasian.

Interviewee: The same for your husband?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Yep.

Interviewee: Could you tell me the highest level of education you have completed?

Interviewer: My associates degree.

Interviewee: In what area?

Interviewer: Applied Science For Nursing.

Interviewee: How about your husband?

Interviewer: He's at his Bachelors in History Education.

Interviewee: What are your professions?

Interviewer: He is a part owner for [XX] here in [XX] and then I'm a nurse.

Interviewee: And you're a nurse?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Interviewee: Oh, okay and a stay-home mom.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about on this topic?

Interviewer: I don't think so.

Interviewee: Thank you for participating.

Interviewer: Sure.

Speaker 1: You asked what I would like training on. And how to ... I don't know what the word is, censor? What do you call that?

Speaker 2: Filter?

Speaker 1: Yeah, the kids use. Like how to set up stronger filters, yeah.

Speaker 2: On browsers? Is that what you mean?

Speaker 1: I guess so.

Speaker 2: Okay.

Speaker 1: Just so they can't accidentally land on something they shouldn't.

Speaker 2: Okay. So that's something you'd like to learn more about. Okay.