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**Interviewee:** Mother of 1 son age 8

**Interviewer:** Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview today. I'm going to ask you a serious of questions, and just feel free to answer as you like. For example, how many children do you have?

**Interviewee:** Two boys.

**Interviewer:** Two boys. And what are their ages?

**Interviewee:** Two and eight.

**Interviewer:** Two and eight, okay. Now, the study of course is about children ages five to 11, so your responses will primarily be about your child that falls into the age group, okay?

**Interviewee:** Okay.

**Interviewer:** So your eight year old. We'd like to chat with you about electronic devices such as TVs, smart phones, laptops, iPads, eReaders, desktop computers, game consoles, basically anything with a screen. So tell me about the devices your family owns and how your family members use them.

**Interviewee:** So my son has a little Nintendo 3DS that he loves, and we of course have TVs and a laptop. We have a kindle, but he doesn't necessarily have access to it. He had to lose his privileges to his kindle.

**Interviewer:** Okay, all right. And let's see, game consoles, TVs. And do you have cellphones?

**Interviewee:** Yeah. Yes, we do have cellphones.

**Interviewer:** Do you have two cellphones?

**Interviewee:** Yep, I have one and my husband had one.

**Interviewer:** Okay. All right. So your son pretty much uses the Nintendo 3DS and who uses the televisions?

**Interviewee:** He has one in his room as well as one in the living room, so we all do.

**Interviewer:** And what do you use those for?

**Interviewee:** To stream Netflix, or Hulu, or PBS. That's really it. We don't even have cable on them, so just stream those things.

Interviewer: Okay. More and more people are going that route nowadays.

Interviewee: They are, yep. Cable will not be around very long, probably.

Interviewer: How about laptops? Who uses the laptop?

Interviewee: He uses for school. When school's in session they have some websites that they use, but otherwise he doesn't just have open play on it. It's usually just websites that the school gave us to do.

Interviewer: Okay. And you use the laptop?

Interviewee: I do somewhat. When I was a student, I've been taking a semester off, I used it. It's primarily for my husband, who is in school now. So it's mainly just his.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. And you said there was a kindle, do you use the Kindle?

Interviewee: Yep. No, we really don't use it. We bought it for my son and he can't have time on it. When he uses his kindle he gets in a really bad mood and he's mad if we take it away. So I usually, before I took it, I'd make him read X amount of time, 20 minutes, to earn time on it. But then when he got time on it he'd be so mean and not nice about it, so we just cut it out. That was probably in May. He hasn't played it at all.

Interviewer: Okay. So your cellphone, too. You have two cellphones?

Interviewee: Yes. And we don't have games or anything, so they don't use those. I use mine and my husband uses his.

Interviewer: Mainly for communication, texting?

Interviewee: Yep.

Interviewer: Things like that, okay.

Interviewee: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: All right. Let's see, does your child use devices anywhere else such as a friend's or relative's homes, day care, or even here at the library?

Interviewee: If his friends will come over, like his cousins, they will bring their iPad and he will play it. At school they have the Windows Surface, but I don't think that starts until fourth grade, so I don't think he's played with those. But they do have computers at school, but they're mainly for testing purposes like Star testing and those websites I mentioned earlier that he has homework on. Sometimes he'll do it there too. So no open play.

Interviewer: Does he use libraries in the computer? Or in the library when he comes?

Interviewee: No, usually we don't use the computers here.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. So I've written down this list of electronic devices. We're going to refer back to them throughout the interview as well. So think about your child's day yesterday or a recent day you were together. Now, walk me through the day from the time your child woke up until bedtime, paying particular attention to the devices he used.

Interviewee: Okay. So we woke up ... We didn't go anywhere yesterday, so we had breakfast, and then after breakfast there might have been some TV time but we usually go straight outside after breakfast. So we went outside, and then we'll come in around lunchtime to have lunch. That's when my youngest takes a nap, and then my son and I will do workbook. We work on a workbook over the summer so we stay with all of our school stuff. And then after he does that he does a spelling, a reading, and a math, and then he can have screen time. So that's when he can go in his room and play his DS, or watch TV. So he did that for about an hour yesterday probably. I felt like he earned it. And then my youngest woke up from a nap, we had a snack, and then we went to a park for about an hour and a half. Then we came home, and I think they just played inside. He might have played his DS, but I know my youngest was playing with him too while I cooked dinner. Then we had dinner. Then we went back inside until bath time at about 8:30, and then bedtime.

Interviewer: Okay. What kind of games does he have on his DS?

Interviewee: A lot of Lego games. He really loves Legos, so like Lego City, which he can be a police officer going after bad guys. He also has a Jurassic World one where he can play with dinosaurs. They're in little cages, so he can look over the dinosaurs. He also has a Harry Potter one. These are all Lego, so Lego City, Lego Jurassic World, Lego Harry Potter, Lego Marvel, so he can be each of the characters. Those are really the only ones he lo- ... Oh, Pokemon, that's another one. Pokemon Y is one, and Pokemon Sun and Moon. I think you're just going around being Pokemon characters, I'm not really sure about that one. I don't understand Pokemon, but those are the ones that he really ... Lego City is usually the one he's playing though. He really likes that one, driving around. That's his favorite.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Let's see, so looking at our list again how do these devices fit into your family routines?

Interviewee: Mainly just whenever we have free time and I feel like he's done something to earn it, not just go play the game. Did you read a book, or did you do workbook? Now you can have time on it as a reward kind of thing. Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. How has this changed as your child has grown older, your routine or your use of devices?

Interviewee: Right. Yeah, definitely as he's gotten older he wants it more. Sometimes we'll be outside with my youngest and I'll have to come in the house and tell him, "Okay, it's time to get off that. We're going outside." So definitely the older he gets the more he wants to be on it, for sure.

Interviewer: Okay. And do you remember how routines were established when your child was pretty young?

Interviewee: Pretty much the same thing what we're doing now, we wake up and have breakfast. I guess it's just based around what they're interested in really. Like my youngest loves to be outside, so we are just outside all day. But I guess as my oldest has grown and gotten older he's realized other things that he likes to do, like the DS or play Legos, or whatever else he likes. So there's been some of that.

Interviewer: Okay. Does your son have friends or relatives, I think you mentioned, who makes suggestions or models things to do on the devices?

Interviewee: Oh yeah. Friends is a big one. That's a big reason why I just don't think it's a good idea to have them because I feel like a lot of the games that are on the Kindle and the iPad predominantly with this age range, they're not good games. One that he loved, which could be used from an educational standpoint, was Minecraft. It's okay, I just felt like it's also mindless and something to just sit there and do. Another one was called Roblox, R-O-B-L-O-X.

Interviewer: I heard of that yesterday.

Interviewee: Yeah, and it's a big game and then there's other games within that game. People comment and chat throughout, and I just feel like no matter what I did on those there was not enough parental controls. I never knew what he was doing, so that was why when he got in trouble and he lost his Kindle it was like, "This is a good thing. We needed to get rid of this a long time ago." But definitely friends. When his friends come over they're playing those games that I didn't like. And his cousins, when they come over they're playing those games that I didn't like. So I just didn't feel like there were enough parental controls on it to do the things that the friends wanted him to do.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. So in your household who primarily helps your son with the devices? For example, when they need help getting started or when something needs to be fixed?

Interviewee: To get started I can help him, but after that it's his dad that will help him. I try not ... I just don't know anything about it, so I just don't ... But his dad will help him, for sure.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. And who makes decisions about purchases of the media devices?

Interviewee: Me and his dad together, definitely. We ask, "Is he ready for this? Is he gonna take care of it?" That's another big thing. Is he old and mature enough for it. So me and his dad together.

Interviewer: Okay. And who makes decisions about what he does on the devices?

Interviewee: Probably us together, me and my husband, but he's gone at work all day so mainly when he's on the device I'm home, so usually me. I'm the one that decides that.

Interviewer: Okay. Which of these devices does your child use independently?

Interviewee: The DS is the only one that he uses. And the TV somewhat. He just doesn't watch TV a whole lot. So definitely the 3DS though, the Nintendo.

Interviewer: Okay, and the laptop would be something you'd have to start him on?

Interviewee: Right, yeah, it's password protected so he doesn't just get on that one.

Interviewer: Okay. And when he uses the laptop is it primarily just for his schoolwork as you mentioned, to go those websites?

Interviewee: Yep. Spellcity is a website, mobymacks is for math practice, and alexiareading. Those are really the only ones he ... Sometimes he'll ask to google a Pokemon to see what it looks like, or he wants to draw it, but I will do that for him.

Interviewer: Okay, let's see, when do you feel in need to guide your child's use of the devices?

Interviewee: Mainly, with the DS I feel the way I guide him is if you do this, then you get a reward with that. If you do your work, your little school work. But on the kindle when he would use that I would feel like he would need guidance the entire time because those games he was playing were so open, he could just do whatever he wanted. So I could be sitting beside him and still not really know what he was doing. So I felt like he definitely needed guidance on that device more so than ... His DS is just the game, this is all it is, so I feel like I can just let him play that however he wants to.

Interviewer: So his DS isn't connected to the internet?

Interviewee: No, no, it's not anything. Right.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: It's more secure.

Interviewer: Okay, let's see, you've answered that. Are there other ways you think you've provided guidance in how to use the devices?

Interviewee: No, I don't think so. He can't just play however he wants to and whenever he wants to. Structured even how he plays it, so I don't think so.

Interviewer: Okay. How do you make decisions about guiding your child's use of electronic devices?

Interviewee: Just what I've already said, just to make sure he does something beneficial then to earn it, because I don't feel like it's beneficial, the screen time, in any way really. So he has to earn it.

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

Interviewee: For sure. I didn't do any of the stuff that he ... I didn't have a computer, I don't think they even came out until I was in high school, and I didn't have a cellphone until I was in his high school. My brother had a game console, but I never played it. I just had no interest in that, so I feel like I just keep it like that. I just think it's more simple and better that way. Oh, I actually remember, my husband has a PlayStation two, but he doesn't play that at all. I just remembered that.

Interviewer: Okay. Your son doesn't play that?

Interviewee: No, he doesn't. Those games are way too adult for that.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. So did you have television in your home when you were growing up?

Interviewee: Yeah, we had TV, and I watched a lot of TV. But mainly I would go outside and play, so that's really what I do with my family, we just go outside. If it's nice, like today, we're outside all day long. As long as we're not eating lunch, and nap time, and that kind of deal, but yeah, we're outside all day.

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

Interviewee: With his DS not necessarily, but with his kindle I would, yes. I would try to do like there are flashcard games that I would do either for sight words

or phonic stuff, or math facts. You don't get any of that with DS, so I just let him play it. So yes, with the Kindle I would at least try for it to be educational, but with the DS I know it's not gonna be educational.

Interviewer: Okay. So how do you decide if something is educational or not?

Interviewee: If it's beneficial to him in some way. Does it help him read, does it help him learn something? Even about animals, or is it helpful with his math facts? That would be how I think it's educational. But his DS is not any of that.

Interviewer: Okay. So what other purposes do you see for your child's use of electronic devices?

Interviewee: I guess mainly as an outlet. He is the type to need to decompress. So if he's done a lot of stuff that I've asked him to do and he's done it well then he can have that to decompress and relax for a little while, 'cause he doesn't really watch TV a whole lot. So I guess I see it as a relaxing thing for him to do, and something he really likes to do and he has complete control of. So that's something that I let him have for himself.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Are there any uses you worry about?

Interviewee: Just how much he's on it. He will usually be on it probably an hour a day, which sounds like a lot now that I say it out loud. But I also feel like he's earned it, and this is during nap time so there's not a whole lot else we would do other than go back outside. But we've been outside, so I let ... I feel like just the amount of time he's on it would probably just be something I was worried about.

Interviewer: Are there websites, magazines, TV shows, or other resources you have either seen or heard about parenting choices or your child's use of electronic devices?

Interviewee: I don't really think of anything off the top of my head. Have I received advice ... Probably from a doctor, which is their checkups will make mention maybe. No, that's actually never happened. I was trying to think, has that happened? That hasn't happened really. I don't think so, no.

Interviewer: Okay. So that actually starts to answer my next question, have you been offered the chance to get advice from professionals in your community?

Interviewee: No, definitely not.

Interviewer: So not from teachers, or librarians, police officers?

Interviewee: Teachers and librarians would probably encourage it, but obviously for those websites that I mentioned. No, I've never, nope, I don't think so.

Interviewer: All right. I know some school districts have police officers come in and talk about internet safety and things like that.

Interviewee: Oh, yes. No, I don't think ours has ever had that.

Interviewer: He might be too young for that still too.

Interviewee: Yeah, as far as cyber bullying and stuff, yeah, yeah, probably. It could be to come.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. So you really can't answer this next one, was this advice useful to you. How do you know whose advice to follow?

Interviewee: Mainly if obviously a professional is someone I'd be more preempted to listen to versus a friend or saw something on the internet, 'cause I don't know where that source is coming from. What was it? How do you know ... Okay, I guess I would just follow a professional, someone that has background with it or someone that I could trust, trustworthy person.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. In what areas do you feel comfortable guiding your child?

Interviewee: Is this still pertaining to screen time?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: Okay. Really just how he uses it, how much he uses it, which games he chooses to play, which games we choose to buy him to let him play. Probably those areas.

Interviewer: Okay. Probably as he gets older you might have additional things that you worry about.

Interviewee: Oh yeah, for sure.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Let's see, are there areas in which you have questions and would like further guidance about for now or in the future?

Interviewee: I guess relating to the Kindle it would be like questions I would have would be like how do I set better parental controls so he can't just play these games that I don't want him playing? We have some controls on it that turned off the app store so he can't go buy a game without a special password, but I still feel like the games that he downloads are not safe games. I just don't like him playing them. So I guess it would be how do you have more security on it so you can use it so that it is beneficial, so that he can ... I know you can read books on it and do an audio book and that kind of, but we never did that because it seemed like every time he wanted it he wanted to play those specific games. So I would just look into more security pretty much.



Interviewer: Okay. I don't remember if Kindle has filters or not that you can actually turn off the device after so much time online.

Interviewee: They do. It's called a sleep ... Curfew. That's what it is, curfew. Yes, it does have a curfew. It does, yes. And we had that too, but he never really played it ... We'd give him X amount of time, but in that time he'd play those games that I just ... So I just didn't feel it was useful at all, so we just quit playing it all together. But if it was more secure and the things he played were beneficial then I'd probably revisit it.

Interviewer: Okay. So as he gets older are there things you want to know about regarding internet use?

Interviewee: Oh, well, who he's talking to and who can see the things he's doing, who he's interacting with. A lot of those games you do play online and there are other people playing at the same time, they're having the chat in the top corner. Just who are these people? And I don't want them to say something I don't want my son to see. Definitely that aspect, the interactions that he's having and who it's with. And what the content of the game is. It might not be a good content, so that kind of stuff.

Interviewer: There are some websites that I know my older son looks at that allow you to watch other people playing games. Is that something he's ever mentioned?

Interviewee: For that he will go to YouTube. Our TV has YouTube on it, and he will go to that. But that's a video, so he's not interacting, he's just watching that video. He loves to watch people build things in Minecraft, or open toys, or play with toys on YouTube, so yeah. But it's not like a live thing where you're watching this happen life, if that's what that website does.

Interviewer: Right, it's something they've recorded.

Interviewee: Yep, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Okay. And does he model off of some of the things he's learned on that?

Interviewee: Yes, he will, for sure. Especially in the Roblox one, he'll see someone walking around naked ... And it's cartoon characters, so you just see a flesh colored body head to toe and it's not graphic, it's just like Lego type body parts so then he'll go, "Look, I'm naked!" And I just didn't ... Or, "Look, I drove through a house!" Or, "Look, I built this in Minecraft because I watched it!" So yes, definitely very impressionable from those videos.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. I'm going to look that up. Let's see, where were we at? What are the main things you do with technologies, for example communication, entertainment, research, creative production?

Interviewee: Me personally-

Interviewer: Your family.

Interviewee: Okay. I know we use our phones for texting and calling, and Facebook and Instagram. All of our family is in another state, so that's how we keep in touch is through Facebook and Instagram. My husband has a game on his phone that he likes, it's billiards, just to play pool. He will play that sometimes, not a whole bunch. We all watch TV, and watch movies. I think that's pretty much it, really.

Interviewer: What about your laptop?

Interviewee: For the laptop that's for research purposes. I would do a lot of recipe looking up and look at Aldi weekly sales. That's pretty much the extent of my ... Or I'll pay bills on my laptop. I don't really use it for personal or entertainment or anything like that.

Interviewer: Does your husband use it for work or for school?

Interviewee: He's in school for computer science, so he will use it for school and also side jobs that he gets like to make a website for someone. But that's also fulfilling to him, so that would be like entertainment for him too. But yes, he uses it for work but not his day to day job, just other stuff that he gets to do.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. In relation to these devices you mentioned, would you describe yourself as an expert, beginner, or somewhere in between?

Interviewee: Probably somewhere in between. I think I kind of keep a distance from them because I don't like the direction were going in with them to our life is based around them, especially for kids that's pretty much all they do. So I think I'm just in the middle, because I know enough to do what I need to do but I also know that you can do a lot more and I'm just not interested. My husband, however, he would be an expert for sure. He can do anything on any of them, so if I break it he's here to the rescue for me. And my son, too, if he's stuck on the game or whatever he can help him out.

Interviewer: Okay, that was actually my next question. So your husband uses them primary for some work related but also creative production, maybe school.

Interviewee: Yep.

Interviewer: Okay, and entertainment and communication.

Interviewee: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Okay. All right. So it would be helpful for me to know some basic information about you and your family. How would you describe your ethnic background?

Interviewee: We are all white.

Interviewer: Okay, all right.

Interviewee: All of us, my husband is ... I'm sorry, he's white.

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

Interviewee: I have a few years of college, and it's been on pause for right now. He is about to be a junior in college I believe, so some college and continuing.

Interviewer: Okay. And what were you studying?

Interviewee: Well, it's kind of been a rollercoaster, but I think I'm going to go into food science. I was thinking of the dietetics program at OU, but I just don't think I want to do that. I think I want to do more on the science side, so I think when I go back ... 'Cause that's what I as initially going to study, and then I heard about the dietetics program, but I think I'm gonna go back with food science because I think that's what I'd be happiest with.

Interviewer: Very interesting. And your husband is going for computer science?

Interviewee: Yep.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. What are your professions?

Interviewee: I stay at home, and he right now is a welder. So he fabricates metal coffee tables, and restaurant pieces. Pretty much a whole slew of ... Whatever they get a work order for. It's a small family owned business in Oklahoma City, so he really likes that. It's a great place holder while he's in school to do what he really wants to do.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative), okay. All right, well, that is all my questions. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about this topic?

Interviewee: I think there's just no direction with this age group. I think it's mainly just, "Here, play this." And then you don't really know what they're doing, and then you see a blog post on this game could potentially have this in it, then you're like, "I don't want them to play that game." So that was just why I cut it out entirely. I just didn't feel like it was a good ... It wasn't beneficial in any way really.

Interviewer: So you've used blogs?

Interviewee: Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: What kind of blogs?

Interviewee: Mainly just whatever is on Facebook that someone posts. Just random articles about random things that people share and I just read.

Interviewer: Okay, so there's not like a parenting blog that you follow or anything like that?

Interviewee: No, none of those would be parenting, more just a person writing their opinion kind of deal.

Interviewer: All right, any other comments?

Interviewee: No, I don't think so.

Interviewer: Okay, thank you very much for participating.

Interviewee: Thank you.