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Interviewee: Mother of 2 daughters age 12 and 1 son age 9

Interviewer: So thank you for agreeing to participate in our study. We will be conducting semi structured interviews using this interview guide as I mentioned to you so to begin, how many children do you have?

Interviewee: I have five.

Interviewer: Okay, and what are their ages?

Interviewee: 16, 15, twins that just turned 12 last week, and nine.

Interviewer: Okay. And are they all girls, boys, a mix?

Interviewee: The first four are girls and I finally got my little boy, he's the last one.

Interviewer: Okay. Okay, so our project is of course dealing with children ages five to 11 so as you mentioned you have the nine year old boy and then your two twin girls, since they just turned 12, we'll go ahead and have you answer regarding them as well. We'd like to chat with you about electronic devices such as TVs, smart phones, laptops, iPads, ereaders, desktop computers, and game consoles. So basically anything that has a screen, so if I haven't mentioned something and you have something in your household that has a screen and kids use it for various purposes, you can include that as well. So tell me about the devices your family owns and how your family members use them.

Interviewee: Okay. My twins got a phone, Tyler doesn't have one. I don't let them get a phone until they go to middle school.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: But they all have tablets and then we have TVs and this might sound crazy, but we have a PlayStation 3, but I don't think we've ever played a game on it because they're not video game kids, but we use it for a DVD player mostly.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: And we have a computer, just a home computer that stays downstairs.

Interviewer: So a desktop?

Interviewee: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Okay. Okay, so you all have phones except for the nine year old?

Interviewee: Right.

Interviewer: So that would be four and then your husband and yourself as well?

Interviewee: Right.

Interviewer: So you have six phones, okay. And each of the children have tablets?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you have any tablets for yourself?

Interviewee: I do, and my husband has one too.

Interviewer: Okay, so you have seven tablets, okay.

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: And you said you have TVs, PlayStation 3, and a desktop. Okay, we'll be coming back to these eventually. All right. Do your children use devices anywhere else such as friends or relatives homes, daycare, or the library?

Interviewee: They have used the library computers.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Up here, and they use Grandma's computer sometimes.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative), okay. When they go to friend's homes, do they use computers or tablets or anything?

Interviewee: No, no, they just go to play.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. So I've written down this list of electronic devices. Could you talk through each one? Who's the primary user of the phones? So I guess everybody except the nine year old?

Interviewee: Right.

Interviewer: And what is the primary use, or what kind of activities do they use the phone for?

Interviewee: Well mostly I have them, my kids, they're in band and orchestra and then they run cross country and track and play tennis and on the swim team, they're very active. So that's always been my thing is I never let them have a phone until they were at a activity where practice might get out early and they need to call me, or so they mostly just have it for right after school if they're at a practice and they need to get ahold of me.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. And how about yourself?

Interviewee: Yeah, I have mine. I'm not on it a lot, but mostly to get ahold of my husband and the kids.

Interviewer: Okay, so communication.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: So the phone as well as texting possibly, things like that?

Interviewee: All right.

Interviewer: And your husband, how does he use his phone?

Interviewee: He owns a business, so he's on his phone all the time.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. How about the tablets?

Interviewee: We got those when we were going, we go on trips and we drive since we have so many of us a lot, and then we let them watch movies in the car so then they don't fight over everyone watching their own movies is mostly why we have the tablets, but they don't play on them a lot.

Interviewer: Okay. So if they do use them outside of-

Interviewer: Okay. We'll pause for a second there.

Interviewer: All right, so when you're not on a trip, do they use tablets for any other purpose?

Interviewee: Occasionally they'll get on there and look at a game or something but they'll go weeks without playing on them.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: But they'll play on them successionally.

Interviewer: How about your televisions? What purpose are they used and by whom?

Interviewee: Well, we got rid of cable probably two years ago, and so we have Netflix, so sometimes when we can get together we watch movies and of course, in bad weather if we have it on, but we don't just keep it on all the time. We don't have it on regularly.

Interviewer: Better than me. And you mentioned the PlayStation 3 that you really don't use it?

Interviewee: Right.

Interviewer: But you use it as a DVD player.

Interviewee: Right. I bought it a few years ago thinking oh the kids might like it. It was like Black Friday and a great sale or something, and we got a couple games, and they were just never interested so.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. And you also have a desktop.

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Who uses the desktop and how do they use it?

Interviewee: Mostly my husband. Now the kids will use it when they have a project or need to type up a paper or things like that, but mostly he uses it for work.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Think about your twins and your nine year olds day yesterday, or a recent day you were together. So maybe on Saturday or Sunday. Walk me through the day from the time your children woke up until bed time, paying particular attention to the devices they used.

Interviewee: Okay.

Interviewer: So we're trying to get a sense of the routine.

Interviewee: Yeah. They get up, I know the twins text their friends some, because they try to coordinate outfits with their friends, but Tyler didn't, I don't think he used anything on Saturday. We have a farm so we have a lot of animals and horses and dogs and so my kids are outside and they have a lot of chores I make them do so they don't have a lot of time to be on their phones. But in the afternoon I know Allison and Cassidy, my twins, they texted their friends for probably 20 minutes or so, and then yeah that was probably about it. I don't let them take their phones upstairs. All their bedrooms are upstairs so I keep the phones downstairs so I know exactly what they're doing.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. And do they use the tablets at all on the weekends?

Interviewee: No, they didn't. They do sometimes but not very often.

Interviewer: Okay. And if they would use the tablets for example, how would they use though?

Interviewee: They have some games on there. I know Tyler has one, I don't know what it's called, it has like honey bees and you gotta make the letters to make a word, or letters fall down and you make a word, or something. Now I don't mind when he's playing games like that, but, and he has a couple other games that he plays but that's about it.

Interviewer: Okay. Okay. So talking about this technology again, how do these devices fit into your family routines? Or they might not.

Interviewee: They do, like we have a good piece of land and then the horses run out in the back, and when my kids are out riding horses I always make sure they take their phone because I'm not always with them all the time, or if they're out feeding or watering, I always make sure they have a phone out there in case they need to get ahold of us.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: And then they also use it a lot of their teachers send out, it's called Remind, they send out these texts about homework or things like that, so I make sure the twins check their phones for those all the time because they're in middle school so their teachers will be like we're canceling the quiz or we're gonna have a quiz or things like that so we have to keep on top of that.

Interviewer: Okay. Any other ways they use the phone, how they fit into your family routines?

Interviewee: I let them text their grandma on their phone but I don't let them have social media. We don't do that, I don't want them to do that until their 16.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay. So how has this routine, or how have your routines changed as the children have grown older?

Interviewee: Well I noticed that I will find the twins, they'll sit on the couch and they'll be on their phone a lot more than maybe ... When I first got their phones, they weren't so interested in them because they'd not ever been used to them, but as time goes on, you know, their friends are on their phones more, and then their friends have all this social media, so then they're asking me for it a lot, but they know it doesn't happen, but they're friends have stuff, so then their friends will send them pictures of things. But I look at all their texts all the time to make sure that that's not happening, and that's why we definitely don't let phones go upstairs and watch what they're taking pictures of and things like that.

Interviewer: Okay. So since you have two older children as well, do you think that your routines or use of devices has changed a lot from the beginning, you know, when you first started giving them to your kids until this point?

Interviewee: Yes, yeah, definitely. Especially with my oldest ones because they're, my oldest one drives, and so she'll be out. She's in the youth orchestra, and so she'll be out late at night, so she'll have her phone a lot more than the other one's do because the other one's I'll take their phone and we keep them plugged in downstairs and so I know when they don't have them anymore, but Katie, my oldest, she's out late a lot with practices and things so she does have her phone a lot more and since she's 16 she now has social media, but my second one doesn't.

Interviewer: Okay. And how about the use of the TV? Do you think that has changed through the years as well?

Interviewee: I think we use it a lot less.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: The TV. Because we had cable and then I was thinking we don't ever watch it, we don't ever watch the TV because we're doing things and out messing with all the animals all the time, so we canceled it and never even missed it. So we have Netflix, but that's generally only when we're getting together to watch a movie, and that's once or twice a week.

Interviewer: All right. Do you remember how routines were established when the children were really young?

Interviewee: It was always crazy, that's what I remember. It's hard to get a routine with so many kids.

Interviewer: Sure.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Sounds like you're very busy, very busy.

Interviewee: Yes, and since I work nights and Glenn works days, it always, it's like going just back and forth between the two of us so we never put the kids in daycare but it's been crazy.

Interviewer: Okay, let's see. Do the children have friends or relatives who make suggestions or model things to do on the devices?

Interviewee: Yes, they have friends that try to get them, I guess there's some app that looks like a calculator on your phone but it's really, it hides some other app, or hides some social media, or something and their friends, since they know that I don't allow them to have that, they have this one friend that tried to get them to get that and they were like you can put this on there and your mom will think it's a calculator and then you can really do all this stuff but they know I'll see it, they know I'll find out, so they never did it.

Interviewer: Okay. You said they go to the grandparents, they might use their computer?

Interviewee: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Do you know if grandparents model anything or have programs specifically for them?

Interviewee: They have some games that they like to play over there.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: That they get for the kids, but yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Ah let's see. Who primarily helps your children with the devices? For example, when they need help getting started or when something needs to be fixed?

Interviewee: That's me.

Interviewer: That's you.

Interviewee: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Okay. And who makes decisions about purchases related to their technology?

Interviewee: That's me.

Interviewer: That's you, okay. And who makes decisions about what the children are doing on the devices?

Interviewee: Me.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Which of these devices does your child or children use independently?

Interviewee: Probably their phones mostly.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Could they use the Netflix on the TV if they wanted too?

Interviewee: Yeah, they sure can, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. How about the desktop?

Interviewee: Yeah, they get on there some, but it's in my room, and so they don't, they use it when they need too, but they don't ever get on there to really play games or anything.

Interviewer: Okay. All right, let's see. When do you feel a need to guide your child's use of these devices?

Interviewee: I feel like with the twins they have it the most because it seems like they're more influenced by their friends because so many of their friends are just given free reign with their phones. So we went through a time where they were like well Gracie gets to do whatever, and so that was a struggle but they've gotten comfortable with what I allow them to do now, and if they want to do something or if they wanted to get a game on their phone, they come to me and ask me before they download it because I have it set up where if any of the kids download an app it shows up on my phone and then I have it where it's not hooked to my

bank account so they can't make any purchases, we have to have a gift card, so if they want to buy music or anything we have to buy a gift card and then they can put it onto their phone so that they can't just get ahold of my bank account and go crazy.

Interviewer: Good idea. Okay. In what ways have you provided guidance in how to use these different devices?

Interviewee: I've tried to show them like when they want to look for a game, like my twins are horse crazy, so if they're gonna look for a game, they look for horse games, and then some of them aren't very good or I try to teach them how to look at like the previews of the games when you pull up the apps and try to figure out what's maybe a good game and what's not and then some of them have terrible ads that pop up so I try to fish through those, but it's difficult. But we try to guide them in the right way that way.

Interviewer: Do they use the internet a lot on their phones?

Interviewee: Some, but not a whole lot.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you guide them on, say, use of YouTube, for example?

Interviewee: Yes, I don't really let them get on YouTube unless we're looking at something together, and mostly they'll look at videos like how to make slime and things like that.

Interviewer: Okay. Sounds familiar. Okay, let's see, I keep losing my place. How do you make decisions about guiding your child's use of electronic devices?

Interviewee: That's been hard. Glenn, my husband, and I, before we ever started letting the kids have phones, we kind of sat down together and decided what the rules were gonna be and we had talked to some of our friends to see what they do, and our number one thing was we were not gonna let them have them in their bedrooms, especially at night, so we always kept them downstairs, and when the kids go to bed, you know, we make sure the phones are with us so they can't I'm gonna sneak my phone and text my friends all night or something like that.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: Then of course I hear all of these things about the other kids sending bad pictures and so that was one thing we always wanted to avoid, so before we decided we were gonna get anybody a phone, we decided that we would have these set rules that they couldn't have their phones in the bedrooms or at night.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative), okay. Did you consider your childhood experiences with media when you're making decisions?

Interviewee: When I was growing up like, we had a computer, but I didn't use it a lot so I feel like it's very different for my kids now than it was for me, sure, yeah.

Interviewer: So you didn't really consider your childhood experiences that much because it was very different.

Interviewee: It was very different, yeah. We had a computer growing up that I know my mom used it some and I could use it when I needed to do school work, but other than that it was like off limits so yeah.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: So I didn't really have to think about that too much.

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

Interviewee: Absolutely, yes.

Interviewer: Okay. And how do you decide if it is educational?

Interviewee: I look at it, and sometimes I'll play the game a little bit first, because if Tyler, Tyler, my youngest, he likes to play army men games on there, and I'll let him play for just a little while, but if he's doing like the one where you have the letters and you have to make words, I'll let him play on that a little bit more. And then there's something with math that he likes to do, and then I let him do that a little bit longer than I would the army man game because I feel like it's actually helping him. And he struggled with reading a little bit and when I got, I would find him games that he would have to read in order to go through, and that really helped him a lot. It was a lot better than us sitting with this book and struggling with the words.

Interviewer: Okay. So you mentioned educational, and I'm assuming the army game is recreational?

Interviewee: Definitely.

Interviewer: Okay, so that would be another purpose that you see for your child's use of the devices?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: How about your 11 year old, 12 year old twins?

Interviewee: They do both, they do both, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you see any creative uses of the technology you know, to learn about crafting or things along that line?

Interviewee: Yes, absolutely. More so with my twins than Tyler, because they'll look up how to make these bracelets and all this on their phone, or the slime, gallons of slime of course, and they also we have horses, so they look up how to braid their manes in all these different ways.

Interviewer: Oh nice.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Are there any uses of the different technology we talked about that you worry about?

Interviewee: Definitely. When they get on YouTube, YouTube worries me because I've been on YouTube and then the next thing shows up and you're like where did that video come from? So I don't like them to be on YouTube, I feel like that's a rabbit hole and you never know where you're gonna end up so I always make sure if they're wanting to look up something I'm like well let's come in here and we'll do it together, and then I help them try to find videos because YouTube, it's very helpful, but there's some awful things on there too and I try to steer them in the right way.

Interviewer: Do you put on the parental filters on YouTube?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Are there resources like websites, magazines, TV shows, or other kinds of sources you have seen or heard about parenting children's use of electronic devices or screen media?

Interviewee: I know I've read some studies when we were trying to figure out what we were gonna do with our kids, but I don't really know of any exact websites.

Interviewer: Okay. Are there things that you consult currently?

Interviewee: Not anything specifically.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Can you point to any that you found useful?

Interviewee: I would read a lot of articles when we were starting into this, and I don't know of any that I could name off the top of my head.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Are there some that you found weren't helpful to you?

Interviewee: Yes, yes, because some things you find and some people just give their kids free reign with electronics and then they'll say how that's useful and it teaches them responsibility and things like that and that was never gonna be an option for us so.

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

Interviewee: Absolutely, yes. We have some friends that we go to church with that their kids are a little bit older than ours, so we've talked to them a lot just to be like well what do you do? How do you keep things? And they tell us a lot. Like it was one of them that actually told me about that app that looks like a calculator but it's not a calculator and it was my friend that said that her strict rule was all the chargers stay downstairs, phones go to her bedroom, and I loved that, so of course we took that, so yeah, we ask our friends a lot.

Interviewer: Do you use any of the parental monitoring tools for cell phones?

Interviewee: Well, I actually have, it's one of those, it's a app I have on all the kids phones so I can see where they are and are they walking? Are they traveling? Or things like that, I have that on all of their phones.

Interviewer: Okay. But you're not monitoring their actual use of their phones in terms of who they're talking too or what sites they're visiting or anything like that?

Interviewee: I look at that.

Interviewer: There are some devices, okay.

Interviewee: Yeah, because it keeps track of their history, where they look, and they don't know how to clear that as far as I know, so they may, but I do look at that and I do read their texts so.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Let's see, have you been offered the chance to get advice from professionals in the community such as librarians, teachers, police, doctors, or others?

Interviewee: No, no, I don't think so.

Interviewer: Okay. So nobody at the school or anything like that, they don't have parent programs or anything?

Interviewee: Not that I've seen. I know that they like sent home a flyer once like in the beginning of the school year and then they make us sign like an internet safety thing for when they're using computers at school.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative), okay, yeah, the internet use policies.

Interviewee: Right.

Interviewer: Okay. Well, so you haven't had advice from professionals in the community, but you have had advice from friends and it sounds like the advice was useful to you.

Interviewee: Very useful yes.

Interviewer: Okay. And I think you've already answered why you thought it was useful. Is there anything else you would add?

Interviewee: No, it's very nice to, it was a girl at work actually that told me about that app she can watch her kids on because so many of that stuff, maybe it's just me, I'm not really technology kind of person, but she was the one that told me about that app where you can follow your kids and see what they're doing, so I just talk to other people all the time because I know they know a lot more about these apps and phones than I do.

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

Interviewee: I would like to learn where, I know there's probably ways to see if they are deleting stuff off their phone, that would be nice. But then someone at work showed me something on a, is it Instagram or Snapchat, it's one of those, I don't do either one, where the kids can hide things and they have to have a separate password to see it, it's like for your eyes only or something. I never would have known about any of that, like I feel like if they had like cell phone for teenage parent class, I would probably definitely go.

Interviewer: That's a great title.

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Because I know those kids are a lot sneakier than I am.

Interviewer: Well, I would agree or disagree with that, yeah. Okay, so is there anything else you would have liked to have learned?

Interviewee: Hm, maybe just more ways to control what they download onto their phone or because I feel like even with the filters on YouTube, there's things they can get too, and maybe I'm just super strict, but there's things they can get to that I really wouldn't them seeing. Like we don't watch all of the Kardashian stuff and all of, I just, I don't like all that. I don't like the message that it sends and you know, I wish there were more ways that I could filter out all of that stuff but.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. So how do you know whose advice to follow?

Interviewee: I ask a lot of people their opinions and then kind of go from there and usually it's people that I've known, or people that I know like have similar beliefs that we do, or kind of have the same rules for their kids as we do. Because we maybe are a

little more strict than some parents, so I try to find people that kind of think the same way we do.

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

Interviewee: Like on electronics?

Interviewer: On their electronics, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: I feel pretty good about it. I try to show them like when they're on YouTube stuff that is okay and I'm like oh that looks weird so we better not watch that one, things like that. I feel pretty good about it, about guiding them.

Interviewer: Okay, do you guide them about time spent on different things, on different devices?

Interviewee: Yeah, my kids aren't on their phones a lot. We always thought that it was gonna be an issue when we got them, but we have a farm, so we have tons of animals and so my kids are outside a lot and they have hover boards and scooter things and so they're outside a lot, and so it's never really been too much of an issue of telling them that they're on it too much.

Interviewer: All right. Let's see. Are there areas in which you have questions and would like further guidance for now or in the future?

Interviewee: Well, now that I have one old enough that I left them do social media, I don't know a lot about that. Like I do Facebook, and that's about it. So it was a girl at work actually that was showing me that extra thing that she found on her teenage daughters phone that was that for your eyes only and so like when you would go to their social media thing you wouldn't see that extra thing that they could hide, and I feel like there's probably a lot of that that I don't know about and that would really be nice to know.

Interviewer: Okay. Let's see. What are the main things you do with technology? We kind of talked about this earlier so for example communication, entertainment, work related tasks, research, creative production, or anything else?

Interviewee: I use it to organize a lot. I keep my calendar on my phone and like, I'm in charge of, my kids are in band, and so I got the wonderful job of being in charge of the concession stand for the football team, so I keep lists of that, everything on that on my phone. I coordinate all the volunteers on my phone, like everything is on there for that. It's very helpful. And keep track of the kids, I'm always on that app to be like where are they going, what are they doing.

Interviewer: Okay. And you use it for communication of course you said?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: All right. Let's see. In relation to each device you've mentioned, so the phones, the tablets, the TVs, etc. would you describe yourself as an expert, beginner, or somewhere in between?

Interviewee: In between.

Interviewer: In between?

Interviewee: For sure.

Interviewer: Could you tell us about your husband's experience with technology? So what are the main things he does?

Interviewee: He does everything. He like does advertising for his business on there, tries to, he uses it to hire people, he gets on there on all these Indeed and on all these other things. He puts up ads to hire new people. He does background checks online on his phone. He takes care of payroll on his phone. He does a lot on his phone.

Interviewer: He uses mainly his phone not your desktop or the tablets or anything?

Interviewee: Right, he has a laptop that he'll use, yeah.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: But he does a lot of it just on his phone because he can send stuff back and forth through everyone he talks to.

Interviewer: Okay. And would you consider him an expert, beginner, or somewhere in between?

Interviewee: Definitely in between.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: I have to show him things all the time and I am not the expert for sure.

Interviewer: Okay. So it would be helpful for us to have some basic information about you and your family, so basic demographics. How would you describe your ethnic background?

Interviewee: Just white.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. And your husband?

Interviewee: Same.

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

Interviewee: I have a bachelor's degree.

Interviewer: Okay, and your husband?

Interviewee: He went to some college but he never got a degree.

Interviewer: Okay. And what is your degree in?

Interviewee: Nursing.

Interviewer: Okay. And what are your professions?

Interviewee: Mine or mine and my husband?

Interviewer: Both.

Interviewee: Oh. I'm a nurse and he owns, it's a, we started out just flipping houses, we'd buy houses. He's so handy, he can do anything, it's crazy. We started out just flipping houses and now he's made it a remodeling and construction company.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. So is there anything else you'd like to tell us on this topic?

Interviewee: I don't think so.

Interviewer: Okay, well that concludes our interview today. Thank you again for participating.

Interviewee: All right, sure.