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**Interviewee:** mother of 3 children ages 2, 3, and 7

Sasha: 3 kids. Oldest is [Oli], he's 7, he's in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. And then there's [Will] he's 3, and [Maddy], she's 2.

Interviewer: Okay. Tell me about the devices your family owns.

Sasha: We have two laptops. We have a big screen TV. My husband and I each have smartphones. I had until recently when it got dropped for the millionth time E-reader Nook color one. Oli used that for a while until it died. And we also have an Alexa Show.

Interviewer: Oh, interesting.

Sasha: That's another ... Oli stands right in front of it always, and my husband is like, "Step back. That's not good for your eyes." We have three other Alexas that don't have screens, but we have one that has a screen.

Interviewer: Oh, I am so interested in that. Does he talk into it?

Sasha: Yes he does.

Interviewer: That's so interesting. What kinds of things does she ask?

Sasha: Tell me a knock-knock joke.

Interviewer: That's so funny. And then what comes up on the screen?

Sasha: I haven't looked at it when he hears a knock-knock joke, but there was a skill they're called. Instead of apps, they're called skills, and there was a skill like Alexa, what does a cat sound like or what sound does a cat make. And then when she says the answer there is a picture of a cat or a whale and that kind of thing. I don't know about the joke. Sometimes it's just the little light on the bottom showing up just saying that she was responding and it has the normal time of day and events.

Interviewer: Okay. Any gaming devices or does Oli play games on anything?

Sasha: He plays games. He used to play games a lot on the tablet, but he can't now.

Interviewer: Oh, the thing that you dropped.

Sasha: The thing that dropped, yes. But he tries to play them on my phone, but I don't have many on the phone. And he definitely plays things on the laptop.

Interviewer: Okay. Does he watch YouTube videos and things on the laptop?

Sasha: We actually usually watch YouTube videos on the big screen.

Interviewer: Oh, okay. So, it's the kind of family occasion.

Sasha: Yep. We don't watch as much TV shows as we watch fail videos and "How It's Made. The three year-old asks, "Show How It's Made."

Interviewer: Oh my gosh. That's so interesting. In relation to what? Give me an example.

Sasha: I think it's a Canadian produced show, but they do it in segments. I know it's a half hour show somewhere on the Science Channel or something. But it's how it's made bubble gum, how it's made bricks. We've watched them all.

Interviewer: I thought he was looking at a clock and saying "Show me how the clock is made", but it's a particular show.

Sasha: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Does Oli use devices anywhere else like friends or relatives?

Sasha: Definitely at friends. We have a family friend that also has a seven year-old and they play. It varies between the laptop, the desktop, and the tablet, but it's almost always Minecraft or Minecraft run play-throughs.

Interviewer: He's playing Minecraft mainly at friends' houses not at your house.

Sasha: No, we don't have it home. Sometimes in the past, but not like last Fall before I got my full-time job, sometimes he would play Minecraft at the library, but that just doesn't work out anymore because it's when I'm still working.

Interviewer: And at school?

Sasha: At school, I don't exactly know. I try to ask him every so often. Or he'll say something like "I saw this show", and I'm like "Where did you see this show?", and he says, "Oh, we had indoor recess, so we watched a show." I know last year they had a special movie that they got as a reward. I know at some point they do have computers. They have Chromebooks for their reading lessons, so they do Lexia, which is like a reading thing. I don't know what other, but they have a computer whatever it's called class.

Interviewer: Right. Did the school send anything home about the Chromebooks? Any advice about connected to screens when they implemented it?

Sasha: No. They did encourage us to have a screen free week a few weeks ago. My son was kicking and screaming the whole time at home about that. I just made him do it, and then afterwards I realized I should've gone back and found out what the reward was because there was supposed to be some reward, but I missed the window. But I felt like if I go on the screen to see what I'm supposed to do for screen free week that kind of defeats the purpose.

Interviewer: Okay. Looking at the devices and thinking about who is the primary user or if it's a joint family thing. The two laptops?

Sasha: My husband has one. I have one. Actually, take that back. We have three laptops. My husband has two of them, I have one.

Interviewer: I got it. When Oli asks permission to go on-

Sasha: He asks permission, yes.

Interviewer: And the TV, it sounds like it's a big screen in a kind of family room.

Sasha: Yeah, it's in the living room. He asks us most of the time. Sometimes he takes the remote control and turns it on anyways, but most of the time he does ask. And the smartphones, he has to ask for permission.

Interviewer: Okay. And the Alexa Show?

Sasha: You can't play games on it, but it still is a screen that he looks at.

Interviewer: Yeah. That's interesting. Okay. Thinking about Wednesday, yesterday, or a typical day connected with screens, tell me about from the minute he wakes up to the minute he goes to bed how screens fit into his daily routines.

Sasha: We have a very routine morning. Wake up time is 6:00, and there usually is no time to look at screens. Last year, again before I started working, we'd always have like five minutes that we would watch a YouTube Mario Kart or something, but that's gone away. Although they asked for it this morning. I was like, "There's no time. We gotta run out the door." So that's about an hour, hour and five minutes that just there's no time.

And then goes to school. I don't know what they do at school. We come home around 5:30, 6:00. The other day there was time. I was making dinner, so yes, absolutely you can go pick something on YouTube. And they usually choose. Oli generally lets the other kids chose at least one, but he gets to choose first, and then he encourages them to pick something that he might wanna watch. Sometimes it's an episode of "Ninja Go" or "Animal Mechanical". The two little ones, they'll say "I wanna watch a show" or "Elmo, I wanna see Elmo", so he picks something out

there. Or the three year-old does say "Failed videos", but Oli will go along and watch that whole thing.

Interviewer: So, that's on your big screen?

Sasha: That's on the big screen television. And then generally if we have dinner, sometimes if we're still at home, if my husband comes home, or we go get him and come back, after everybody's settled down, and it's just before bed, sometimes we'll watch, again, like a short couple of videos. Sometimes they all seem to love looking at the videos from when they were little. That's hilarious. Or they're like "Show us the dance". My husband reminded me that today is the one year anniversary of them creating the butt dance. When we were at the Madison night market last year, it was the cash back schemes, and they all decided ... Oli started it and they all followed. They put both hands on the ground, and their butts were in the air, and they wiggled their butts. Then yesterday it was butt dance 2.0 because it was the first night market this year. Those are YouTube videos that they like to watch and see.

That's the weeknight, and the one thing that we seem to do on Saturdays is Saturday afternoons or Sunday afternoons during baseball season, we'll watch a baseball game. Oli will say "I don't want to watch it". Then he'll be upstairs ... His room is like a loft, so you can see down. He'll be playing with Legos, and I'm coming over, "Oh, what's going on?" And he'll watch the screen. It's like every other week or every couple of weeks on Sundays or Wednesdays my husband watches wrestling. Sometimes Oli watches wrestling with him. Sometimes not.

Interviewer: Yeah. So, kind of family viewing around sports it sounds like. Yeah. You didn't mention football though. That's such an American [crosstalk 00:09:25]-

Sasha: So my husband loves Wrestling, but football is too dangerous, and he's frustrated with the way the NFL treats its players. Okay. So, that's his way of protesting.

Interviewer: Okay. The next question is how this fits into your family routines. Sounds like you have family time around the screen that's like okay, we're gonna do something together as a family. Is there any other way that screens fit into your routines?

Sasha: Not into the routines, no.

Interviewer: Okay. The Alexa Show, how does that get used in and around your routines?

Sasha: It's purely for fun. It's there. Turn on the lights, turn off the lights, what's the weather. The fact that it's a Show, sometimes my husband says "Show me pictures from today's date", and it'll show you every day on this last year, two years ago, three years ago. He'll look at those pictures. Sometimes that happens, but that's not an everyday thing.

Interviewer: Do you remember how the routines were established when Oli was very little? How things developed?

Sasha: There was really no routine until he started going to school. Before he went to school ... it was only him when he was little. We just watched whenever. Yes, we were both working, so there was still the morning, but it wasn't as much ... when he was little we didn't have it hooked up YouTube to TV and that kind of thing. He still wanted to watch shows, but for whatever reason we weren't-

Interviewer: So, what kind of shows did you watch before YouTube?

Sasha: We watched "Wild Kratts" or "Odd Squad". PBS shows. Yeah.

Interviewer: So kind of little segments, 20 to 30 minute segments.

Sasha: Yeah. I'm just to think because for a while we didn't have any kind of television access. We had a TV, but we would have to watch a DVD because we didn't have a Roku. We basically didn't watch the TV at all. But then when we got the Roku we could essentially get on websites that had TV shows, so that's when we started watching "Odd Squad" and "Wild Kratts", that kind of thing.

Now, it's kind of added in addition to the Hulu, we also have Netflix and we have Amazon Prime. We have a lot more choices, and the YouTube, which we didn't seem-

Interviewer: And that has whole episodes on.

Sasha: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, yeah. How does Oli decide what to watch? Is it friends or relatives that are making suggestions? With Minecraft he's picking that up from friends it sounds like, but at home he's doing more where the screen use is around the television screen. I know it sounds like a little bit of games on your phone. Do you know how he knows-

Sasha: Sometimes he plays PBS Kids and does that from the TV shows because the TV shows will say "Go to pbskidsgo.edu" or whatever it is, .org. He'll know it that way. When it comes to the sports, it's us saying let's watch baseball. He'll, "I like the Cardinals", because he likes the birds. "No, you're supposed to be a Cubs fan." "I hate the Cubs". "No, you can't possibly hate the Cubs."

Interviewer: Okay. The YouTube videos, the kind of-

Sasha: He scrolls through it. We have some subscriptions that we like to certain things like the Slow-Mo Guys or Nerdy Nummies or something like that or the fail videos. We'll watch those. Sometimes it comes up with suggestions, and he'll be

like "I wanna watch that", and I'm like, "No". I only wanna watch ones that I wanna watch because some of the fail videos, like really? It's not people dying, but ...

Interviewer: Yep. I guess that gets onto the next question is how you guide his ... it sounds like it's mainly television and YouTube connected. How do you guide that? You started with some, but then he'll ask for more and you have to say ... and how do you make those decisions?

Sasha: Generally I do try to keep an eye on what it is. If I have an idea that it's not ... I had a little trouble with Minecraft for a while. I was like, "I don't get this. There's zombies and they're blowing things up". But then it was available at the library. There was like actual Minecraft club at the library, and he was trying to tell me how it ... "No, it's just building stuff. I don't play the one where you're trying to survive with the zombies." I asked a friend whose kid is his age, and I was like, "What is Minecraft?" That was the one I didn't get, but everything else I kind of have an idea what those things are. I know what a fail video is. And a lot of the times we're watching it with him or at least if I'm making dinner at least I'm hearing what's going on and I can have an idea.

Interviewer: What sorts of decisions are you making? Are you thinking about whether it's educational or you said something about language? Did you say something about language? Whether you [crosstalk 00:15:38]-

Sasha: No. Pretty much, I guess, if it's super violent I don't want him watching it. If there's a lot of guns shooting up things I don't want him watching it. I'm pretty much like, okay, if it's on the PBS channel, fine. We know it's gonna be good. We know that they're not gonna be blowing each other up. Sometimes he'll try to do ... some of the ones that are not PBS shows, they annoy me. I'm like, "I don't wanna watch that." Because it's just ridiculous. It's so simple. But even he's sometimes not interested. He would never watch Barney.

Interviewer: But with the YouTube videos, it's way more complicated because you don't have that kind of brand. You do ... Just tell me about-

Sasha: We pretty much-

Interviewer: ... the difference between ... Yeah, go ahead.

Sasha: We stick with the different channels that we know. Different people have different ... I guess they're called channels, but there's like the How It's Made channel. So, we know that those are all like a Science Channel. Or the Nerd Nummies, we know that those are all geek themed sweet treats or something. Mini Gear is another one he watches where everything is made out of cardboard. It's just like music with instrumental music with making something out of cardboard. And he watches it. So I know whichever one we pick from there is

good. There is one we watch sometimes called The King of Random, which is never really bad, but sometimes they're super long, and then why is he melting salt again. Oh good, he's melting salt again. Oh good, he's melting salt again and putting eggs in it. He's melting salt and putting wood in it. Okay, great. You wanna watch that again? Fine.

Interviewer: So you're using the channels. You kind of scope out a channel and kind of like okay that's fine. Okay. Who in your household do all the kids, but particularly Oli, go to for help if he needs help getting started on something or needs some problem solving around the screens?

Sasha: It's me or Bill. It's whichever one is there. Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. And do you make joint decisions about screens?

Sasha: We never talk about them, and they end up being usually pretty much on the same page. If they're not, there's no way to tell if there's something that I'm letting Oli watch that Bill wouldn't want him to watch because he's not there.

Interviewer: And purchasing?

Sasha: We don't purchase hardly anything.

Interviewer: Yeah, you really don't have ... you haven't been to that zone yet.

Sasha: Check something out of the library, but that's about it.

Interviewer: Okay. Oli can use most of these things independently, but he needs permission it sounds like, right?

Sasha: Yeah.

Interviewer: And then you guide him pretty closely?

Sasha: I'm in the room. I'm almost always in the room. We have an open floor plan apartment so there's nowhere to be without being in the room. Unless it's something I wanna watch ... Before when the tablet was working, he would try to take that sometimes and I didn't even notice, so I actually put a password on it that he tried to figure out. He would do it by himself in the corner of his bedroom. I didn't know exactly what he was doing. I always had something like you had to put in a password to get a new app. He wasn't able to get a new app without me being right there. And it's hard sometimes to tell if the apps are just not good apps or if there's something violent. Usually it was like motocross something or other, but-

Interviewer: So, it was pretty obvious it's kind of-

Sasha: Yeah. There was no real way to make him only play it for an hour or so. In some regards, I'm kind of glad it broke. Where with the TV because everybody's in the room, something else happens or someone says something or someone starts talking, so we have to turn it off.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. Thinking about the decision made not to buy new technology or to limit his access to the technologies, can you think about how you came to those decisions? Was it reflecting on your experiences or was it something in the air that gave you ideas of how you wanted guide his use?

Sasha: Basically I just didn't want him to watch super violent stuff. And it's like he shouldn't be on it for hours and hours and hours. At some point I did try to have like okay, you get half an hour there, an hour, but it was just too complicated and intensive, so again I'm just like ... But now what seems to prevent him from playing it for hours on end is that we're just too busy. We gotta go to school. We gotta go pick somebody up. It's time for practice once a week. He has soccer games on Saturday most of the time. There's just not a lot of time.

Interviewer: Is he in after school care as well?

Sasha: And he is in the after school program.

Interviewer: Do they do any screen stuff there?

Sasha: It sounds like they do it for the kids through fifth grade but not the first and second. Or they don't do it as much. He's kind of complained. He was like, "I don't get to play it". I'm like, "Oh, well that's too bad. Darn."

Interviewer: Yeah. So, his time ... and then it's bedtime, really. Yeah, yeah. Okay. Are there any sources that you use for advice or guidance or even like ... you said you use Netflix and Hulu as well. Any resources-

Sasha: I look when I go on those I try to ... I'll put in PBS kids or PBS. I just go by what's available on Amazon Prime that's free. I look through and if it looks interesting to me, we can watch it. I did try back when I had the tablet and was working I did actually use the reviews that [Claire] did from Ashman Library, but most of those are for Apples and we had an Android. I would just use what I had done and then was there something else like it. I just used the Google Play search engine and word game or building game or something. Most of the time he would try them and after a day be like, "Ah, I don't like this one anymore." And I was kind of the same way, too. We would always get the free ones, so there was always some kind of ad in there or something, so I was like, "This is annoying". Or you couldn't get very far without paying more, and we're not gonna pay.

Interviewer: Do you have any friends who you ask, compare notes with or do you have Facebook feed that you might come across advice or anything?

Sasha: I don't intentionally look for those things. Sometime if I see something mentioned on Facebook or if we're talking about something and it comes up, but I don't really go out of my way to look for it because we just don't have enough time.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, you've used advice from the library, from [Claire]. Pediatricians, anyone else?

Sasha: The pediatrician has never-

Interviewer: Never even asked?

Sasha: Not for Oli. And maybe not even for Maddy and Will. They probably said "Do they play a lot on screens?" And I'm like "I don't know".

Interviewer: So, you're not getting the full like because that you're-

Sasha: There's always so many other questions going on. Oli has only gone like once a year to the pediatrician. I can't remember that ever being a topic. With the little kids, they always are focusing on giving us books to read. It may be one of those questions that they ask and I don't remember.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah. [Claire's] advice was not very useful because it was mainly Apple not Android. Okay. You're kind of navigating the territory yourself?

Sasha: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And you feel comfortable with that?

Sasha: Yeah. When we did have the tablet and played more games and even when it just the ... because I have a Chromebook, my laptop is a Chromebook now, some of the games that we play on there just like ... Alchemy, which is like you take this and this and put it together, and we finished it so we're done.

Another one was like some kind of a little robot that walks around. It was Mechorama, and it was like you would have to turn things in a certain way so that the robot could go from here to there and get to the top. It was kind of a puzzley sort of thing. What's the Ida? I know it's an Apple thing. Ida ... It was a big thing on the Apple and they ... Actually, that was a museum. This was a couple years back. This was at the Science Museum in New Hampshire where we lived. It's Ida and you have to ... It starts out pretty simple, but you move things, and it's a 3D sort of a ... when you look at it one way, things connect. I can't remember the guys name. You turn it this way and it looks ... Who was that? M. C. Escher. M. C. Escher inspired a game. She starts here and she has to get here, but if you tried to walk right where you were, you just had to go, but you turn the base of the building that she's on, and then the stairs go all the way up. So, we played that thing for a while.

Interviewer: Wow, that sounds complicated.

Sasha: And we did it.

Interviewer: Okay. Are there any areas that you feel like now or in the future you might need guidance or advice?

Sasha: Yeah, when he gets more capable of really using the computer and knowing what's what. I imagine at some point he's gonna try to get to some place that's gonna have news or information that's not true or not [copacetic?] or even just ... We don't get a regular newspaper, and one day we were in the property management office, and it had one of the headlines of 15, 14 kids killed, and he was asking about that. It's not like I'm trying to hide that from him, but I'd rather not discuss those questions if I don't have to. I know it was making me upset enough just hearing little bits about Parkland, and I'm like, "I don't want to talk about that with my first grader". Not that I'm trying to hide it from him, but I'd rather not discuss if I don't have to. Because he saw the headlines, he said, "What is that, mama?" And I'm like, "It's about a lot of people not doing well."

Interviewer: When he gets on to spending more time on the laptop, he might be coming across feeds like them. Yeah. So, knowing how to deal with emotionally but also like you said detecting, analyzing, evaluating. Yeah.

Sasha: He doesn't have one anymore. It seemed like when I had the tablet and was working he would get on it all the time. He treated it like his own. And now that we don't have it, he doesn't treat it like his own. He doesn't have a laptop. So, I can see that as being a problem. We haven't gotten to the point where it's like him asking for a phone, but when he starts asking for a phone there's gonna be a problem.

Interviewer: What problems do you-

Sasha: I think he's gonna be on it all the time. My husband's on it all the time. I'm on it all the time. Like I said, we have things going on, so we have to do things, but there's gonna be times where I'll just be like look at the phone, stop looking at the phone. I try to not do that myself, but I still catch myself doing that a lot.

Interviewer: Yeah. The last couple of questions are more demographics just trying to develop an understanding of different families and how things relate to the things we've been talking about. So, the first set of questions is about your use of technologies. What are the main things that you do, like communication, entertainment, work, research? We haven't talked about anything like media production, creative projects.

Sasha: I don't do media products. My husband does. He does a lot of ... he makes songs, and he'll record music. That's why he has two laptops because one is for recording

music. Actually Oli has helped him once or twice, been in the room when he's doing that. Like I said, I don't really do that much. I used to do photography, but since I've had three kids it's like there's no time. I do emails. I do work at work. I don't usually bring my work home.

Interviewer: So, you're totally comfortable with technologies at work.

Sasha: Oh, absolutely. I have like 5,000,000 different programs on every different computer under the sun it seems like.

Interviewer: Okay. And your husband, does he-

Sasha: Again, I had the tablet and I had a phone that was more of a smartphone than my not so smartphone now, so I would play more apps and games and things. My husband hardly has any apps. He just uses it more for the traditional sending an email, looking at Facebook, posting pics, whereas I would play games or do surveys to make money or something.

Interviewer: Right, right. And does he use technology at work?

Sasha: Yeah.

Interviewer: You are a researcher. What's his profession?

Sasha: He's the on-air radio host for Wisconsin Public Radio, [name omitted]. He's on the radio right now. You probably were listening to him when you drove over here.

Interviewer: This is pretty surreal. Okay, so yes, he does use technology at work.

Sasha: Yeah, he does use technology. It's funny because people will sometimes think that because he tweets things and stuff that he knows how to fix a computer, and it would be like, "No, that's Sasha. She knows how to actually fix the computer. I just know how to use the stuff."

Interviewer: Excellent. Okay. That's what I need to know. Yeah. You're the technology fixer and he's the more like production, doing stuff. Okay. That's perfect. And then just a little bit about demographics. Ethnic background? Would you describe both of you as white non-Hispanic?

Sasha: Actually, I'm white but Hispanic. My grandfather was born in Mexico City. My husband's white non-Hispanic.

Interviewer: Okay. So, your kids, you would describe yourself as mixed race. Same with your kids?

Sasha: Yeah. Will's adopted, and he's Hispanic also.

Interviewer: Oh, okay. And your highest level of education for both of you-

Sasha: We both have masters degrees.

Interviewer: Okay. That's it. Anything else you'd like us to know about navigating all this stuff that's out there?

Sasha: The only time I've really felt confused by it was the Minecraft one. That was kind of I was like, "What is it?" There's zombie's but there's not. I've tried to figure out, I've heard NPR stories about how this about building, and I'm like but it's a computer. When he does play it as his friend's house, that one he just focuses in on it. "I can't leave until ..." You're never gonna be done. You're building a world. Don't give me this garbage about being done. There's other things, other stuff that's like, "I finished a level." Okay. I will give you that level. So, it's hard to do the-

Interviewer: Open ended.

Sasha: ... open ended things with Minecraft. He doesn't have much access to it.