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Mother of 3 children, 7 (girl), 5(boy) and 18 months (boy)

Interviewer: The first thing is, would you please tell me the age of your children again?

Interviewee: Seven years, five years, and 18 months.

Interviewer: And it's a girl, boy, girl?

Interviewee: Girl, boy, girl.

Interviewer: That's perfect. Can you tell us the kinds of devices you have in the home? The different devices you have?

Interviewee: We have laptop, television, and telephones.

Interviewer: Oh, a wall phone?

Interviewee: Phone.

Interviewer: Oh phone-phone. Let's see. So laptop, TV, and phone. What kinds of things do the kids use laptops for?

Interviewee: Some PBS Kids ... PBS Kids, Teaching Monster, and watching TV. Teaching Monster and watching YouTube.

Interviewer: What kinds of TV do they like to watch?

Interviewee: From two years, they want to see [inaudible 00: 01: 11], cartoons, [inaudible 00: 01: 13] but recently, they started one of the shows, the life shows, the family who are playing, watching TV, doing something and [inaudible 00: 01: 26] and I thought all the time, don't watch this stuff, we can't do that. We can sit together, eat, good, something more fun. We have fun and watching them have fun, it is not fair. What you can [inaudible 00: 01: 40], you just wait for them to have more fun.

But they like all these shows. I try to see something else to do. Can you come here and do something and just stop them from watching this stuff. But they like it some of [crosstalk 00: 02: 03].

Interviewer: And they hear about it from their friends, too.

Interviewee: Yeah, and because YouTube, when you like something, it will give you more from the same, so when you watch one, you will see like ten commenting. So, they know the members. She keeps telling me, "This boy is five. He is as old as my son. He lives in the same place", because they like living with them. See a lot of shows and a little bit of them has something useful, you know? Most of them just do nothing, just nothing.

They will talking, eating and making jokes and drinks with others. Something that is [inaudible 00: 02: 55], something like we will make this food and we give them food!

We give them some ... I can buy some chocolate [inaudible 00: 03: 06] to have some here. It is not as good so it is ... I think it give negative feedback and if you can't take your child to very fantasy places to play or go on a lot of picnics or vacations, it is not good to just watch the channel and laying or going to this places. It will give you, "Okay, I can't go there, why we can't go there? Why do they go and we don't?".

Interviewer: That's what the last mother said. The same thing she said.

Interviewee: Yeah, it is hard. It is why when somebody's told, we start to go to something like, "Okay, I will take you to extra reading classes, we will go to the library, I will find some workings to learn some division and some Arabic", to make them busy. We know that if we do one, two, three, we be fine. I started thinking from the beginning, I will do one, two, three. I will go to the library for two days. I will go to reading classes for two days. I will go for summer camp if we [inaudible 00: 04: 17] cleaning and reading and learn it for this, we will go at three, we will go to some place. To not stare and stay a long time just watching TV. Watching bad things.

I keep telling her, "Look for something useful". Like, there is Life Again, a show called "Life Again". It gives good information, like what is a volcano, what happens when you eat too much ... if a person eat only apples all his life. Yeah, it is like gives the information. Okay, if you eat apple all your life, or you eat a lot of coffee, that will have [inaudible 00: 05: 08] will happen for your heart. Gives them vocabulary and learning. This show is useful! This will give you something, you can keep in your mind to give you in the future. [inaudible 00: 05: 21]. Something will get you silly after that, just to want to think everyone [inaudible 00: 05: 30] everyone to just laugh at nothing.

Suppose when you do something or get someone in trouble, you [inaudible 00: 05: 38] have, to try to help them, not to have fun and start to laugh just because he is someone laughing in this situation. Those are [inaudible 00: 05: 52] why some people, when they are sad, they take a ball or something and hit them with it. Some people [crosstalk 00: 06: 00] really sad, they think something to break it down and take something because in our TV shows, in our movies from this, before all the days, they used it to do that. He is to tell you the actor is very sad to take anything in his and take it down.

So, when people see that when he is sad, he do that, when he said, "I will do the same", my mind won't tell me to do that even when I was thinking because I have that. I have emotions and have the ideas in my head, something in this situation I will do something. And in this situation, I will do that.

So, as you see, this show, they have experience. If someone fall down, I will start laughing. If someone puts the coat [inaudible 00: 07: 03] I will just ... it's just like an invitation from the kids to the mother, because they see my mother is

each day start to get up and do something, I will do the same. I will imitate what I see regular.

Interviewer: Let's see, and what do the kids use phones for or do they use them at all?

Interviewee: Actually, they don't have their own phones. About the ... they try to borrow mine because I say, "Okay, you are too young to have your own phone" and that's right when I forgot to give them tab but it's turn it into water, and get it ready to buy another one. Because I don't want them to spend a very long time just sitting and playing and downloading tons of apps. When they take my phone, I [inaudible 00: 08: 04] and this one we tried, we give it up. This one, we'll try it, we give it up. So, I found my phone, I had no space. I delete all of this. I will put password for my phone. No one can play with my phone. Because even they will watch YouTube, watch videos or downloading apps. And as soon as they want to feed the cat, make her some food, and I have my phone, it was like, "Meow! I don't know what's happening, what's that?". [crosstalk 00: 08: 41].

Yeah, it's [inaudible 00: 08: 49] it's just, the cat wants to eat, the cat, "Oh, okay, I can take care of you, it's the cat, too". It's [inaudible 00: 08: 57] every second, so I delete everything and make new phone for a while because I am okay take it for a little bit and give it back, okay? That's enough. Delete everything and [inaudible 00: 09: 15]. That's it.

Interviewer: Do you have any ideas about when you think it might be a good age for kids to have a phone? How will you know? Any ideas?

Interviewee: Yes. Actually, it is hard now to decide. Because everyone have a phone.

Interviewer: Even at their age?

Interviewee: Even at their age. Or if they don't have phone, they have a tablet, they have iPad, it is the same. Because at this ages, we wouldn't know to use a phone to make calls. They were not calling. So they are with me all the time, or they are too ... if they have troubles at school, they would call me. So, there is no need to have a phone.

But because everyone gives his kids this iPad even in Egypt, it is here in United States. Even Egypt. Even Egypt. When we go to Egypt, my sister and my aunt, everyone have their kids, seven, five, four, they have it. She has his tablet, you can see and take your tablet. So, the kids become jealous, why he has I don't. Why this one have and I don't. [inaudible 00: 10: 33] I like to look at it as much as I can. Because when I say give it to you and say, "When I take from you, you can't have it now, you can't do that now", it will be taking her rights. I give it you, I give you right now. So, it is hard to take it from you, it is hard. I can't get it from the beginning, I will not give you. And you will be okay because you will find one of the things to do.

But if I give it to you and if it become a routine of life, we [inaudible 00: 11: 11] I would wait, I would check this app. Even for us, when we use to do Facebook, it is hard to get out. The internet is now, "Okay, I can do that". I'm studying for doing my [inaudible 00: 11: 26]. Okay, and during my studying, during the place, I say, "Okay, I must delete Facebook, because it wasted my time". It's better for me to use this time to study, to evolve something, to do something useful. But I can't. One day, two days, [crosstalk 00: 11: 47] for 10 minutes. But I can't. It's like 30 minutes.

I tried to decrease the time but I can't take it off. If I give him the phone, I think it will just be harder to say, "Okay, you can't". It will be harder for me to get out of this habit I became ... I became like it's a habit in my life. It's like a person who started to smoke, it is harder to stop smoking but from the beginning you can slide, "Okay, smoking is dangerous. I will not smoke. I will not take wine." You do something ... I know that is harmful for me from the beginning, I will not do it. But when I start, I found something good.

Okay, when I am so sad, I am nervous or something, I smoke. If I need to smoke, I need to smoke. If I bored, I am late on my time. Because he know now exactly when I am bored, I will play [inaudible 00: 12: 51] but now if I am bored, you can do something, you can draw, let's do craft, let's do something. We have a lot of life choices we can. But after doing this, you have one choice, it is harder. When I take the choice off, when I take you, I better take, I say, "Two hours only today". I am a true mother at heart. I can't. I can't with that. Because when I say, "Okay, don't do that now", [inaudible 00: 13: 21] "Please, please, please", "Oh, okay, for a little bit". I can't, I'm thinking it is not good but I can't in my natural, it can be tough, I can't be tough.

So, I said, can we make it late as much as I can. I'm thinking [inaudible 00: 13: 41] if he go to school and he will come back in the past if he had trouble one time, so I can ... yeah, you know what? It is really if he is in the bath, he has some supervisor, who can I call to find out but the solution is not to go out and I need to be in connection with him. I have to give it to her. And it will be like optimistically in the age, he is responsible. He know he's got a lot of skills to manage his life. He knows that, "I have a test today, I'm supposed to study for if I do something, I spend a lot of time in my own, I will be in trouble in my studying, I will not finish that". I know that if he is something bad, he is responsible to get the consequences of what he did. He won't be like, "No".

We are still lucky to have this thinking. They were not thinking that, if I studied more or did more, I will keep it and I will be in a good future. Someone to play because they are kids. So, I try to let them play in something useful, for example. The abilities to have something and new to learn. That will not be given from the laptop. For my little one, she is 18 months and she

start watching some that learn "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes", so I think they are actually the kids learn the activity but with all the families just left their kids to learn from TV, they didn't learn, they didn't even talk. They can't talk. And I know a lot of mothers won't, when they just want to tell their kids, "Okay, just watch the TV", started to have signs of more [crosstalk 00: 15: 58].

[inaudible 00: 16: 03].

Interviewee: Yeah. It's harder. And even the kids at seven, when they started watching the TV a lot, they didn't started to kick, hit, they have the urges to do these.

Interviewer: Let's see. Are there are any sources of advice that you turn to when you're looking for parenting advice having to do with media? Magazines, websites, other people? Anything you use?

Interviewee: Actually, I try to read but I failed. I try to read, but I failed. So, I submitting in Facebook groups like for doctors, for specialists in the parenting, helping children who have troubles or helping children. It is helpful, actually give me other information if you kids is angry or your kids is started to kick, what will you do? If the stories about people who are in trouble is okay to use in a bad situation, and they started to progress and the way they do something. Someone who is not [inaudible 00: 18: 04] I remember story about a girl was not succeed much in school. So, the parents started like, "What do we tell when?". They started to love more or show the love more for the other kids who are rude. What's very affected her and how one teacher in her school when he had no kids, he started to support her, show her how she is special, how she is so good and how this has very affected her, it's two weeks, she started to be good, she started to obey her parents better, she talk with her parents, her parents, they help her.

This stories gives you idea, okay, if my kid in the same situation, I will do that. If my kid is so angry, I will try support her, [inaudible 00: 18: 58] will do it. That was I think more helpful for me to learn without being rude. Because it's like, gives you stories. And in this situation, those people do that, which helped them. You take the conclusion but they give you slight story help.

That beside, that everyone experience. Maybe in the same groups, someone comes and say, "Hey, my son is this age and do one, two, three and I wait for the answer from the specialist, okay, you can go and try one, two, three". I found that helpful for me.

That beside, maybe I read but not in this field because I am [crosstalk 00: 20: 07].

Interviewee: And I like [inaudible 00: 20: 29] so I will study and he think a lot for reading, just to pass my ... get my reading score, to pass all of it. I think I fail a lot of articles from very, very different particulars. I read it art, history, it is like four or five paragraphs in very different situations. I get the information

and the subjects maybe I can't pick up a book and read this. I will never do to read in history how those events happened in London and [inaudible 00: 21: 09] or Hawaii consumes for energy than flying [inaudible 00: 21: 16]. A lot of subjects may be it's helpful for me, because when you sometimes connect to the idea to make it new for the kids. And when you say, "Okay, we can do that". Why that, can we ... I find some information that I just learn about it, return it to my head, and say, "Okay, that is like that. It is that." Like, the same situation.

I never thought I would watch a video that you have be a lot parent. Actually, I can't trust that someone ... I'm not sure that you are a good parent.

Interviewer: How do you know?

Interviewee: Yeah, you can't advise me. That's the same as how to be a mother in two weeks. Are you a mother now or a certificate if you are, if you did it, to try but if you don't, why you didn't? Why if you have the secret to do that, why you didn't do that? And why I like conversation is because a good parent, I know that the good parent have a good children but there is no ... what is a good children? He may be successful in school but he have troubles in his attitude, he may be feeling something bad in his behavior will be coming back how when he is mad, when he has kids, [inaudible 00: 22: 56], it is not ... no one even asks if we don't know if I am a good person, I don't know. So, I can't know that that's a good parent. I can't ... I know I say I watch a video to know how to do a crafting with kids, how to organize your home to do cleaning easier; that's it. But to be a good parent, that's hard.

Okay, you can't find something like how to organize some day, I will take my kid outside and do something like this. [inaudible 00: 23: 34] and it is trusted, okay, you go outside, you take the [inaudible 00: 23: 38] you did one, two, three, so I will do the same and I know there isn't anything in my head, my kids are happy, that's it. Why not something in a good place, in a very long time. And because our goals are different.

Yeah, because when I tired today to find ... I tried to find a schedule to do for summer. Okay? So, I found, okay, Monday, we will watch a movie. Tuesday, we will do something. Okay, I try to search for some thing good [inaudible 00: 24: 13]. Because I know before at the beginning of the [inaudible 00: 24: 18] clean our home, we do something, we schedule. Okay, because I am a Muslim, I try to make my kids [inaudible 00: 24: 28]. Okay, so, I want my kids to spend 10 minutes with [crosstalk 00: 24: 35] to be habit in summer and don't forget to be in the schedule.

I will not find this advice. It is hard. But I can do it myself. I still searching, have a schedule and to edit it, to find, okay, in the morning I will clean or go out and doing something, we'll read, we'll do that. To be like, is it for me to be this hard

time of the summer? Starting back to school, it is easier because they will go through the school.

Interviewer: Just the little one is at home? The other two are in school?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Well, that's nice you get so much time with the baby.

Interviewee: Yeah, so little. But it is like when we approach the little one, she didn't start to say "I am bored". If she did, it is hard because they will start saying "I am bored. Okay, I am bored". This is her side. And because I don't always turn her back to school to be good as we want her to, because my kid is in kindergarten, I want him to be good as I can afford it because these teachers are telling me that he is very good at school, I have to be ready to have a good start. And the other one is doing creative with the grade and I want her to be better second grade because they don't read or do that. And I kind of forgot she has division she like to [inaudible 00: 26: 12] Egypt, she take box with her and her [inaudible 00: 26: 16] some activity to do.

Interviewee: She like to read and she encourage me, okay, let's go to the library and like to read and when she stops in we have challenge, [inaudible 00: 26: 36] and she like, I don't know [inaudible 00: 26: 43] but maybe because when she was little, I talk some stories and I started to read to her but I think as the kids also, I'm sure if they are affected when you read for them or I might of, I don't treat that way, even when I would let them, my mom read for me stories and I think that help me because when I am 10 years or 20 years, I have this curiosity. I like to have this books from other family member who says we should be reading.

[inaudible 00: 27: 26], you can find other things here to do [inaudible 00: 27: 28] and do something.

And when my sisters-

Interviewer: How many sisters do you have?

Interviewee: Two.

Interviewee: And because I think my mom didn't read for them as me, they didn't have this love interest, they didn't like it that much.

Interviewer: Are you the oldest?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: It's harder when you have more kids, to find the time.

Interviewee: Yeah [crosstalk 00: 28: 00] we can find a nonfiction book or we [crosstalk 00: 28: 07].

Interviewer: Do you have any ideas for libraries, how libraries can help you as a parent?

Interviewee: Help me as a parent? I think it is someone if you have a trouble with your child because [crosstalk 00: 28: 57] it is good if you know that is library, you can find someone who will let them, I will have visitation with my kid, what can I do? I think it will be great because I think if they have two classes to teach them how to [inaudible 00: 29: 19] I think that is not that helpful, because if you don't have a trouble with your kids, [crosstalk 00: 29: 26]. Most of our ... no, [Ladia 00: 29: 29], no. No, no. Go. And talk to this one.

You. [foreign language 00: 29: 37].

If you want to have the trouble usually when [inaudible 00: 29: 46] maybe some little ... somebody else know when they started to be, they started to have babies, they started to learn, but usually this goes too fast now. Or maybe my culture as Egyptian, but I don't know the situation here try to jump into a class to learn.

Interviewer: Some people do, some don't.

Interviewee: Yeah, but I need that it is most of that for me [crosstalk 00: 30: 17] you find someone to talk to, to give you maybe it's not a big problem to begin with [crosstalk 00: 30: 27] or find something special because it is something like [crosstalk 00: 30: 34] it needs help, yeah. I like to learn what to do in this condition but it is not like so many kids [crosstalk 00: 30: 40] like to go to your doctor and see [crosstalk 00: 30: 45] go to the library, I will ask her. You have a literary that is easy something and it will be nice, I believe.

Interviewer: That sounds nice. Alright, thank you so much.

Interviewee: Yeah. [crosstalk] That's because the computer here, no one used it. That should be it. Because especially when you go in the summer, so, everyone now is maybe faster because the computers are not available here so everyone was looking to find the place to have this technology but now everyone have this computer, every kid has that access to use this technology. So, we try to come to the library [inaudible 00: 32: 16] or to read a book, it helps, because the library, if it's get electronic, it will not have this reservation. It will not ... I think- Everyone entertains a book. Even the kids. When you start to read and you find the book, it's helpful to read in the book. If [inaudible 00: 32: 43] okay, I will leave myself and my laptop finds a book online, finds everything online. It is hard. When this thing's library for I think two weeks, they would know where every book are. Okay? I research for this school in this area. I researched under fiction, even if the books they use it to visit. I visit this corner to take my book.

But [inaudible 00: 33: 16] okay, they will do updates. They will do update. There are maybe we come one day, okay, electricity's off, or we have internet connection problem. Technically, we don't have this problem with the books. We can

find the book. Even if you can't find it, for someone else to look and it will appear, you don't need teach and you carry it later and that's it. So, the parents like that ability to come to see the book and to get kids away from technology.

Interviewer: That's what the parents keep saying.

Interviewee: This summer, it is just to keep our kids away because when he [inaudible 00: 33: 58] he would eat, he would play, he would do something funny at home. When there is no books, no kids to play with, no crafts, it is only one way I can watch TV. [inaudible 00: 34: 11] tech [inaudible 00: 34: 14]?

Interviewer: Because he has no option?

Interviewee: Yeah. Don't have an option. Even if they have, we have books also at home but they don't read it. At the library, it's more exciting [to read]. And you don't need the programs, okay, if you read the book too because [inaudible 00: 34: 32] if it is a sheet of paper, say "Okay, mom, [inaudible 00: 34: 41]". Okay, I will read the book. I will read it for you in a minute. Just to talk for-

Interviewer: Oh, that's why she said "20 minutes".

Interviewee: Yeah, because for if she read for 20 minutes, she get a sticker. Okay? That is the way to encourage them to read more, to do more.

Interviewer: Thank you so much. It's been really helpful.

Interviewee: Thank you.