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Interviewee: Mother of girl (11)

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: Just one.

Interviewer: Just one and she's 11.

Interviewee: She's 11.

Interviewer: And a girl?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: We'd like to talk to you about electronic devices. You know, all that stuff. Anything with a screen, TV, smartphones, iPads, all that kind of thing. What kind of devices does your family own and how do you use them in the family?

Interviewee: We have a smartphone, a tablet, laptops, television. That's about it and the second part of the question was, how do we-

Interviewer: Is how do you use them in the family or what they are for?

Interviewee: Usually, they're for ... During the week, they're for homework. One the weekends, it's kind of leisure, games. Anne plays with dress up, fashion design games. There's a lot of cool games.

Interviewer: Does she use the phone for that or does she use the tablet?

Interviewee: She uses the computer, actually. She uses the laptop for that. There's a couple of apps that she'll use on the phone, but primarily she uses the laptop. During the week, we do math games. Complement kind of what she's doing in school. We look at videos on YouTube. She likes to do the Musical.ly game on her phone. We've actually used the computer for online lessons as like a take lessons website. So kind of just a variety of things, but during the week it's strictly educational. She likes animals a lot, so it's usually either math because we brush- ... They show us fractions and it was tough. So we brushed up on math a lot and then, animals. I'm learning with her.

But a lot of the teachers are even relearning how to teach them. So everyone's kind of like ... It's a challenge because one plus one doesn't equal two anymore. It's like one plus one, but no. Then you take the one over here and you ... So it's ... They have early dismissal days for the teachers to relearn how to teach the classes?

Interviewer: Really?

Interviewee: So everyone's learning together, which is kind of interesting.

Interviewer: That's nice. Yeah.

Interviewee: But it's frustrating too, you know?

Interviewer: Yeah. So how do you find out about some of the tools that you use or you said, Anne plays dress up games? How does she find them? Do you know?

Interviewee: A lot of the times, her cousin will tell them about it.

Interviewer: Her older cousin?

Interviewee: Yeah. She has an older cousin.

Interviewer: That's nice.

Interviewee: There's a lot of resources at the library. We'll go on the info boards of the library. That's how I get a lot of the educational websites.

Interviewer: Oh, what is it? Info wars?

Interviewee: No, just the info boards.

Interviewer: Oh, bulletin boards.

Interviewee: When you're walking out. Yeah.

Interviewer: Oh, yeah.

Interviewee: I go through magazines. If there's little websites, parent magazines I'll go through. I'll jot it down if there's an interesting website. I'll look at it first and then, if it's going to be beneficial to her, then we do it together. Sometimes the schools will provide websites to go on, so just different resources. I like Khan Academy. That's a good website to go on.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: So I usually find little websites in magazines.

Interviewer: Any particular magazines that you like?

Interviewee: I like Parents magazine. I like Ask. That's a kid's magazine.

Interviewer: Oh, haven't heard of that one.

Interviewee: Yeah. I'll go to the library when they put out the free books and I'll find a lot of magazines that way. But Anne, if she has fun websites, she usually knows about them from an older cousin or from a pop-up. We were watching dress up games on YouTube because we were making doll clothes.

Interviewer: Oh, how nice.

Interviewee: So we were getting ideas from YouTube. Sometimes there'll be a pop-up and we'll click on it. I put a parent block on the computer.

Interviewer: Oh, what kind or how did you find it?

Interviewee: On her iPhone, I think we went to the settings just to block it that way. So I think you have to put in a password. I create a password and then, her dad did the block on the iPhone.

Interviewer: Do you think it works?

Interviewee: Yeah, because she couldn't ... She was trying to find a cheat code for the Sims video game. A pregnancy cheat code, so you could determine the gender of your-

Interviewer: Oh, that's nice.

Interviewee: She couldn't even find on that the phone.

Interviewer: Really?

Interviewee: Yeah. I was like, "Oh, good."

Interviewer: That's good to know.

Interviewee: Yeah. She's like, "Mom, I can't look up ..." "Good. Good job." Because what happens is ... It's so scary, but even without them searching for it, even if you just put P, like she started her cycle and she wanted to know if she could get in the bathtub. So even putting P, it brings up other suggestions that maybe someone else that has access to the same wifi may have looked up and it was just so [inaudible 00: 05: 54] I felt like I was answering way too many questions that, you know. So parent locks are definitely important.

Interviewer: Good. Let's see. So who's the primary users? Let's see, you said ... Or do you use them with Anne or does she use them alone? Let's see, you said TV.

Interviewee: TVs usually ... and it's not even ... The TVs just Netflix. She has particular ... She watched Riverdale.

And she watched Stranger Things. Riverdale's based off the Archie comic books.

Interviewer: Oh, that makes sense.

Interviewee: Yeah. So now they're teenagers and they're in high school and they just have high school drama.

Interviewer: Are they people or?

Interviewee: Yeah. It's not animated. Yeah, because we watch them ... Like, I can't sit ... I have stuff to do, but I'll watch them. At least the first couple episodes with her, just to kind of get an idea of ... Because everything's rated TV MA, but when you watch it, it should be rated R. So I'll watch it with her, just to kind of get an idea of what the story line is. Just kind of paying attention, being on top of things.

The TV is strictly, like I said, usually Netflix's. She doesn't really watch a lot of other programs on there. The computer is either, if she has school work to do on the computer. She likes to do the Google docs for writing stories. She used to do the paint ... I guess, just the paint on the computer, where you can do the different fonts and stuff. Her phone's usually for text messaging. She's not usually on her phone a lot.

Interviewer: Does she text friends or relatives or?

Interviewee: It's either mom, dad.

Interviewer: That's nice.

Interviewee: She has a few best friends that she keeps in contact with, her cousin. Her cousin lives in Delaware. They're pretty close. But she just doesn't really ... She doesn't like to text. I have to kind of remind her to respond to me when I text her. But she has a pretty good balance when it comes to the screen, just because it's always been enforced since she was little. She's never really been ... We read a lot. So she's never really been one of those kids that was like sat in front of the television. Even with these little shows that's she's been ... This is all new, like her binging or her little Netflix shows. I mean, she's growing up. I kind of let her sometimes.

Also, there's a lot of resources with the tablets. So I remind her that it can be used for that as opposed to just constantly YouTube or ... So, kind of we use it for different reasons.

Interviewer: And how do you decide other than the parental controls, what she can use and what she can't?

Interviewee: As far as?

Interviewer: Some people set time limits, some people ... Like you said, you review stuff first. Do you have any family rules or?

Interviewee: Well, she's not allowed television during the week. So Monday through Thursday, there is no television. She plays soccer. There's just so many other things that she's involved in. On the weekends we usually have a mommy-daughter date. So it's kind of like-

Interviewer: Oh, that's so nice.

Interviewee: We're occupied with just living, that we don't really have a lot of time to be engaged on the screen. When she has a free Saturday night, if she wants to catch up on her shows, then it's fine because we keep a balance, you know?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: I guess the limits are throughout the week. Especially throughout the school year, she doesn't watch television during the week and summertime, she's in the south running around in the grass. So just keeping her active, so she knows that there's more than just the screen.

Interviewer: That's wonderful.

Interviewee: I love it. I love being a mom. I love kids too.

Interviewer: Me too. Let's see-

Interviewee: Now she's 11, I have to be like, "Anne, you want to cuddle?"

Interviewer: Does she still cuddle?

Interviewee: She's like, "No mom, not right now. I'm just going to have some me time right now." Yeah, I know. That's what I said.

When she does have her moods, I'm like, "Yeah, okay. I'll drop whatever I'm doing. What do you want to do?"

Interviewer: So nice. Let's see, do you have any ... You've talked about resources that you look for advice and finding websites and things. Are there any people you talk to?

Interviewee: My sister-in-law.

Interviewer: Oh, that's nice.

Interviewee: Yeah. She's an awesome ... She's a really awesome mom.

Interviewer: You're lucky you have that.

Interviewee: Yeah, but not really. It's kind of one of those things where, you know how you just feel like you were just meant to do this? It's just one of those feelings. I just never really felt like I needed a lot. She's getting older, so when there's tough conversations, I definitely pray first. Like, "Okay, I just need the words ..." Seriously.

Interviewer: To get through it?

Interviewee: Yeah because you have to sometimes step out of the emotional mommy mode and really sound advice. So I pray before those conversations. But everything else, my patience is ... I don't know where it came from, but I don't know. I just don't ... I never felt like I needed a lot of advice. If anything, I'm the go-to person.

So when it comes to magazines, definitely when it comes to [inaudible 00: 11: 31] ideas, like fun stuff to do in the summer or just kind of breaking the monotony a little bit. I do like the Parent Magazine that I keep talking about.

Interviewer: Ask or Parents?

Interviewee: Parents.

Interviewer: Parents. Yeah, I like that one.

Interviewee: Yeah, I like that magazine.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewee: I'll go to the library, just kind of walk around the city, find just different resources and fun stuff to do, but that's kind of it. I'm knew the type of mom that I wanted and I knew the type of mom, you know, and ... But also, you know your kids personality and are individuals, so we have a really good relationship. We talk a lot.

Interviewer: Let's see. What else was I going to ask? Oh, are there any other resources you can think of? You mentioned Parents Magazine and you said-

Interviewee: I think that the biggest thing that has helped me honestly has been reading and just kind of going to different places like the libraries and the museums.

Interviewer: We have good museums here.

Interviewee: And different festivals in the city. Yeah, and a lot of them are free. A lot of stuff and a lot of the resources that I find are free. Let's go to the city. I find them at the library.

Interviewer: Yay!

Interviewee: Yeah, seriously. We went to this cool science ... During science week, there were so many different exhibits going on around the libraries and different hands-on activities. So just getting out there and just doing stuff. I definitely don't know everything, so I read a lot. If there's something that ... Like, if we're going somewhere new and I need to kind of research about it a little bit, I'll do that. So it's just ... I can inform her, you know? I just pay attention and I love kids. I volunteer at the community center and I see a lot of kids that don't necessarily have people that just listen to them and just talk to them, so just kind of doing that.

Interviewer: That's nice. Can you think of when you were a kid ... Oh, is she done?

Interviewee: She's done.

Interviewer: The only other question is if you have ideas for the library or how you as a parent, the library could help you?

Interviewee: Honestly, I think that if there was more activities. I feel like a lot of parents kind of drop their kids off at the library and it becomes more of a baby sitting center than, it does ... A lot of times, when we go to the local library near our house, there's a lot of classmates there. They arrive from school and it kind of just becomes where it gets hard. There's maybe one or two children librarians at this [inaudible 00: 14: 30] and it kind of gets hard to create a structure program because it's just chaos. So I feel like ... and I know that particular one started introducing cooking classes for the parents.

Interviewer: Yeah, isn't that neat? Yeah.

Interviewee: So I feel like if there were more activities to kind of engage the parents as well, it would encourage them to bring kids out too. Then, even maybe just have the kids more involved with the activity ideas. Because it seems like, even with the older kids, I notice that there's a lot of programs here towards the younger guys.

Interviewer: The preschool?

Interviewee: Yeah, but I don't know. I love the library. I've always since I was little. I used to take her to the toddler times.

Interviewer: Oh, how nice.

Interviewee: So she grew up reading and I definitely think it's important to understand how vital early literacy is. I feel like since I was younger, Philly has definitely enhanced their library programs.

Interviewer: Oh good.

Interviewee: I mean, even with the exceptions of the ones that have closed and it seems like the ones that have survived, they're definitely trying to think of ways to just make it better.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative). More programs. Okay.