

NavScreensParent44Transcript2018

father boy 12 girl 9 – also a primary caregiver for his sister, age 10

Interviewer: Would you please tell me, again: you have a boy who's 13?

Interviewee: No, actually, he'll be 13 at the end of this year. I have a boy who's 12.

Interviewer: 12. And a girl who's 10?

Interviewee: And a girl who is nine.

Interviewer: Oh, nine. Okay.

Interviewee: Yeah. She'll be 10, this month.

Interviewer: Oh, that's right, the 26th.

Interviewee: The 26th.

Interviewer: Happy Birthday, do you have any birthday plans?

Interviewee: Probably get these two guys together and take 'em to a park or something. My sister is also turning 10, who I'm here with.

Interviewer: That's nice. Yeah. Let's see. Oh, okay. We'd like to chat with you about electronic devices, TVs, smartphones, laptops, anything with a screen.

Interviewee: Okay.

Interviewer: That kind of thing. Can you tell me about the devices your family owns and how the family members use them?

Interviewee: Well, apart from my sister, apart from my children, my son and my daughter, I have four other sisters and another brother. I'd say of my four sisters, three of 'em are under 10 right now.

Interviewer: Wow. That's a big family.

Interviewee: Yeah and from what I can remember, in this millennial age, they're all brought up off of Leapfrogs and iPads and things of that nature and I remember them swiping at the screen for as long as I can remember. It's pretty much, it's been in their lives from the time they were born.

Interviewer: It's crazy isn't it?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Let's see, when the kids use electronic devices, do they tend to use them alone or do they use them with the parents or with other people?

Interviewee: They tend to, it's a little bit of both. It seems to be, of course there are days where we have family gatherings and there's a lot of everybody is just all in one

room and going in 12 different directions, though. And it's like they're at the dinner table and they're ... It seems to be that, it's used at family gatherings but it's also used as like a maybe a unpronounced nanny of sorts.

If the parents are busy after coming home from days of working, from a great deal from what I can tell that, my father and their mother does, they try to monitor what they do as much as they can. But then it's points and times where they're in the house but they're not there. So it's not a monitor 24/7.

Interviewer: Let's see. Can you walk me through a day that you were with your kids, a recent day, and tell me what devices you were on? Got it? If you need to leave I understand.

Interviewee: No, no, no.

Interviewer: And tell me the kinds of devices they use during the day and what they do with them over the course of a day you spend with the kids?

Interviewee: It would generally just be me with my kids and sitting together watching maybe if we're not watching TV or we're somewhere at a park or something, and we're not doing something physical, then we might be sitting together at a picnic together and watching Paw Patrol.

As long as whatever kind of family function that we're at, it seems to be, I wouldn't wanna say a deterrent, but it's a way to bring us closer, it seems.

Interviewer: Let's see. How do you make decisions about what devices you let the kids use, or what programs they can watch? Music is fine.

Interviewee: Pretty much goes on a basis of, especially music, there's been times me as a parent I kind of have a parenting style where I do monitor. I do monitor a great degree what they're watching and what they're soaking in. But, initially, I'll see where they're at, and what they will and won't accept for themselves and quite naturally, a great deal ... For instance, my sister, she likes funny videos and it's a compilation of videos that seems to come up.

And it seems to be the source of where these videos that come from is generally kid oriented. But sometimes out of these compilations, certain videos stray a little too far to the left. And these kids are smart, my kids as well. My son for instance, he love Marvel and he loves DC. But as of late, a bunch of the Marvel movies are PG-13, but as of late there's been a rated R Marvel movie that's come out.

And he loves the characters and he gets into the comics as well, so I tested the limit to see what he's comfortable with, his self and, it becomes a point where he makes a grown-up decision and said, "Hey, Dad, I like comics but, this is a little bit too much." And then I work with him through that. Saying that, whether

or not he did or didn't like the material, I would still draw the boundary after that.

Interviewer: That seems crazy to have a Marvel comic and make it R? 'Cause kids are gonna wanna-

Interviewee: Right. Yeah. And actually, I was having a conversation not so long ago. It seems that America, today, generally wants to put these things into kids' heads. Because as an adult, you would kinda figure that, our time should be filled working and striving to take care of our families. And come home after work and then discipline our children and try our best to raise 'em up in a home environment. So where would you really find time to watch TV as an adult, which basically implies that everything that's TV oriented is for the audience of children.

I really for an adult to have leisure time to watch TV is just kinda asinine to me. I just don't understand that. But I do understand the necessity of an escape. But a lot of the stuff, material that's been produced, today, I feel is aimed towards children, anyway. Yeah.

Interviewer: Let's see. Do you have any places that you get advice on screens and kids? Any magazines, websites, or any people you talk to?

Interviewee: Not really, I'd say, no. It's a intuition, a feeling thing for me. It's based off of how I've been raised and what's right and just wrong, naturally. And I try to feed that to my kids, as well.

Interviewer: Thinking back when you were a kid, you said how you were raised affected how you raise your own kids. Did it affect how you set rules, or how did it affect you?

Interviewee: I was spoiled, so.

Interviewer: Oh.

Interviewee: Yeah I was spoiled and I actually look at that, now, to be a bad thing on my behalf, kind of now. Because I'm still spoiled. But, for instance, I can recall, I'm 28, I can recall my father in 2000, when South Park debuted on TV. Might've been a little bit before. Maybe '99 or '98.

Interviewer: OK.

Interviewee: But that debuted, and I was maybe 10 or 11, and my dad was like, "You can't watch it. You can't watch it." And I'm like, "But it's a cartoon. Why not?" And even till today, I can't watch South Park, no matter ... It's just like it's instilled in me not to like this TV show.

Interviewer: That's interesting.

Interviewee: I mean, I might watch a episode here or there, but I never got into it. It was like, I was just raised to not take on that material. I might find, as an adult, I

might find other comedic material or something that catches my fancy. But from what was instilled in me from my father, to not like this TV show, for some reason, it just stuck with me.

Interviewer: That's interesting. Let's see. Is there anything else you think that would be helpful for us to know? Are there any ways that libraries could help you as a parent in dealing with issues of screen media and kids? [crosstalk 00: 12: 17]-

Interviewer: But anyway, is there any way that, as a parent, the library can help you?

Interviewee: Actually, like I said, I was here maybe since her age. And the way the internet has been ran, the blocks that it had, I was just on the internet looking at her play games and there seems to be a great restriction on here, too. So I kinda felt secure with that.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: I think that it's working great.

Interviewer: Oh, good.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Do your kids have phones or computers or do they have ... Do you put parental restrictions on them?

Interviewee: My kids will be, within the next year, my kids will be having phones. I'll be making that happen. But, I've been looking at some options. They do have iPads, now, so yeah. That's when they're home, after homework is done, then that's their, for my siblings as well, that's that time to have your leisure and your fun. But for my kids, personally, I'm looking at different options. Maybe they have Firefly phones or Bar phones where there's not a option for internet access.

Interviewer: That's becoming more and more popular with the kids.

Interviewee: Yeah. I'd rather just and, I don't want 'em to become ... Especially, the reason for me getting them that type of device is for them going to school and me being able to have contact with them in emergencies. And I don't wanna be in school and distracted. I think that can be a great ... I know that I was distracted with my phone in high school. So I wouldn't want that to happen with them.

Interviewer: Let's see. Oh, can you tell us a little bit about your background? Are you a musician? Is that for fun or is that professionally are you-

Interviewee: It's fun, still. I'm still young, I feel. But I'm taking actually, I need to go and talk to my co-music guy once I get her back on. But it seems like for fun, but I'm still young where I can take the steps to ... I'm into many endeavors and, it's like a list of priorities.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Nice. Let's see. I think that's all I have. Do you have any questions for me or any other ideas?

Interviewee: I would, for the library, I would say definitely to continue to expand on security for the internet, because it's so many different ways that they get through to kids through that type of medium. And I think that it's very ... I think that it's very necessary to keep a lid on that because, I don't know it's just the internet is still a very new aspect that's taken control. And like I said, with the things that the media is feeding the kids, it would be very necessary to be four steps ahead of these guys if that's what's really cared about.