

File Name: NavScreensParent8Transcript2018

Interviewee: Mother of 1 girl age 8

Interviewer: And so, how many children do you have?

Interviewee: Four. Three biological and one married into, I guess you could say.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. And, what are their ages?

Interviewee: 23, 22, 14, and 8.

Interviewer: Okay. And, are they primarily boys or girls?

Interviewee: The older three are boys and the youngest is the girl.

Interviewer: You have quite a range.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Our project is on children ages 5 to 11. So, we'll ask questions primarily of your child in that age range.

Interviewee: Okay.

Interviewer: Okay? So, we'd like to chat with you about electronic devices such as TV, smartphones, laptops, iPads, eReaders, desktop computers, and game consoles. Basically, anything with a screen. Tell me about the devices your family owns and how your family members use them.

Interviewee: Okay. We have computers, we have two computers. We do not have a tablet. We have phones. I'm trying to think. We have a PlayStation, but it's like never used. That was kind of dad's thinking. He wanted to get it and then, like, nobody plays it.

And then, we have TVs. Like, there are two TVs in the house. We have three. There's one in the garage. We used them ... The children don't really use the TVs much. They don't watch TV. Very rarely anyway. Like, if we watch a movie together as a family or something.

The computers probably is what they mostly use. Like, Roadblocks and Minecraft, stuff like that.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: I would say they play anywhere from zero to ... It depends on what day it is and how busy we are, to, I don't know, two or three hours a day? [inaudible 00:02:04]

Okay, I'm sorry. Is it not getting it?

Interviewer: It's getting most of it, I think.

Interviewee: I'm not sure exactly what-

Interviewer: No, you're fine.

Interviewee: Okay.

Interviewer: You're fine.

Interviewee: Okay.

Interviewer: And, how many phones do you have?

Interviewee: [inaudible 00:02:16], I have one. Our 14 year old has one. The two older boys do not live with us. They're already moved out and on their own.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. So, you have three phones in your home.

Interviewee: No. I'm sorry. She has one that she'll occasionally get on. It's not set up to do phone calls and texting and stuff like that, but she can get on there and play games.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Interviewee: But, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. That's a good way ... An introduction to a phone.

Interviewee: She always has it plugged in. She never wants to unplug it. So, she very rarely gets on there. I think she gets on my phone more than that one, but yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Do your children use devices anywhere else such as friends or relatives homes, daycare, or even the library?

Interviewee: Great question. They do, I think. If they do, I'm not aware of it.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: I'm trying to think. 'Cause we go to grandma and grandpa's a lot and usually we're swimming over there. At Katie's? Is that where you might? Yeah? Okay. So, maybe the computer at Katie's.

Interviewer: Is that a friend?

Interviewee: A cousin. Yeah. A relative. Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Okay. And, how about in the library? Do you use a computer?

Interviewee: Uh, no. Actually, no. We never use it here. I don't think we ever have.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. I've written down this list so we'll come back to that occasionally. And, I think you've already answered this in terms of who is the primary user. For the computers, who would you say uses those the most?

Interviewee: Our 14 year old son, probably.

Interviewer: Okay. And, for what purpose?

Interviewee: Gaming.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: He plays video games.

Interviewer: Like, online games?

Interviewee: Yeah. He has a Steam account. I'm not sure if you're familiar with that. You can get all different kinds of games. I help him play games on there. And, he's probably the one who's on it the most.

And then, she's probably second. And then, they're also, I don't know if this is relevant, but they do online school.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: They don't go ... They're not in ... So, it's still like public school, but it's online and at home. So.

Interviewer: Sure.

Interviewee: Kind of like half homeschool.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: But, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: So, during the school year they're both on it a little bit more.

Interviewer: All right. Well, it sounds like they'd need to be if they're not in school. Okay. And, for the phones, I think you already explained that. It's primarily yourself, your husband, and you explained her use of it.

Okay. And, the PlayStation? You don't really use that?

Interviewee: Yeah. No.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: [inaudible 00:04:48] get started on. No.

Interviewer: Okay. And, the three TVs, who uses those primarily?

Interviewee: Dad. Or, he's a football, basketball, baseball, soccer, yeah. So, it's usually dad watching sports.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Let's see. Think about your child's day yesterday. Now, walk me through the day from the time your child woke up until bedtime, paying particular attention to devices he or she used yesterday.

Interviewee: Yesterday, my gosh. Yesterday. Let's see. You got up, did breakfast. Oh, my gosh. Why is this so hard to remember? It was only yesterday.

She played on the computer yesterday for a couple of hours. Yesterday, we did some work in the bathroom, some tiling.

Interviewer: Hm.

Interviewee: So, she probably played on the computer for two to three hours. And then, we went to grandmas and grandpas in the evening and then swam. So, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Would you say that's a pretty typical day?

Interviewee: Yeah, well yeah. For the Summertime, the evenings, yeah. Every night we've over at grandma and grandpa's swimming.

Interviewer: Okay. And, when it's the school year, would you say that she's on the computer more because she's at school?

Interviewee: More because of school.

Interviewer: On the computer?

Interviewee: Yeah. She gets a little bit more bored with it during the school. I mean, she'll do it for school and she'll play a little bit on there, but yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. All right.

Interviewee: Probably so though, yeah.

Interviewer: Let's see. Looking at the list again. How do these families fit ... Or, how do these devices, excuse me, fit into your family routines?

Interviewee: How do they fit into our family routines?

Interviewer: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewee: That's a good question too. Never thought about that. Phones, more for communicating, getting in touch with each other. The computers are ... I honestly, more used for school. I mean, they do their games. I'm not sure how to answer that. I'm honestly not.

Interviewer: Okay. Well, that's fine.

Interviewee: Okay.

Interviewer: I mean, they may not fit into your family [crosstalk 00:07:19]

Interviewee: It's more like when they're bored. Like, if we're not going to the zoo or going out to do something, then yeah. But, if there's not anything going on then the computer.

Interviewer: Okay. Great. Okay. Let's see. How has the use of these devices or how they fit into your family routine changed as your children have grown older?

Interviewee: They seem to be more interested in the computer and they play, you know, a lot more. More of a variety of things. Like, when she was younger, she would play like ABC Mouse and she played that for a little bit. But, now, you know, she plays with the Roadblocks, Minecraft.

And, it seems like they want to get on there a lot more, if that makes ... Yeah. When they're bored. I'll have to talk them into doing something else. I'll be like, hey, you know, had a little bit too much computer time.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: But, yeah. Do you remember how those routines were established when your child was very young?

Interviewer: Gosh, no. It just seems like it was such a natural thing. She has been ... Done the online school since Kindergarten. So, she's had fairly early exposure to computers. My 14 year old, he started after fifth grade, so he started in sixth grade. And, I don't know, it just seemed like it was just, it just happened.

Interviewee: Okay.

Interviewer: You know? I don't know. She saw her older brother playing on there and so she would want to get on there. And, we got the ABC Mouse because we thought that, you know, educational. Plus, you know, I don't know. I think they should be exposed to computers these days. I mean, you kinda need to know. But, yeah. I don't know.

Interviewee: Okay. All right. Do your children have friends or relatives who make suggestions or model things to do on the different devices?

Interviewer: Hmm. Probably so. Yeah. Her cousin. She and her cousins will Skype each other and be talking to each other while they're playing games. So, yeah.

Interviewer: While they're playing games?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Oh. Sounds too complicated for me.

Interviewee: Right? But, yeah. So, the younger ones. But, I don't think anybody older really. But yeah, between themselves they do.

Interviewer: Okay. So, grandparents don't really show them games or model anything on these kinds of devices?

Interviewee: That is ... Uh, no. Actually, her grandmother plays a game on her phone called ... It's a word game where you have to figure out the words from text list or ... It's some kind of word game like that. But, she'll ask for help with it. Sometimes, when we're over there, she'll be like, oh, I'm stuck on this word. Can you guys help me?

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: So, yeah. They always have the TV on over there, if that's relevant. But yeah. That's as far as I ...

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Let's see. Who primarily helps your child with the devices? For example, when they need help getting started or when something needs fixing?

Interviewee: That would be either dad or big brother, 14 year old son.

Interviewer: Okay. All right.

Interviewee: I am a lot, but not ... Yeah.

Interviewer: All right.

Interviewee: Yeah the computers. But yeah, usually dad or brother. I'll be like, go ask your brother, or your dad. I don't know.

Interviewer: How about when she's using her phone?

Interviewee: Can't think of anytime she's ever had any issues. She'll ask me to plug it in to charge. But, she's hardly ever on the phone, really.

Interviewer: So, she's pretty much uses the computer independently?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Let's see. Who makes decisions about purchases about screen media?

Interviewee: That's mostly dad.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: All right. And, who makes decisions about what the children are doing on the devices?

Interviewee: Uh, probably more me. We both do at times, but probably more than me since I'm a stay at home mom. I'm there more.

Interviewer: Okay. Which of these devices does your child use independently? We already talked about that a little bit.

Interviewee: Yeah. Computer.

Interviewer: So, she can log on all by yourself and get into the program she needs, etc.?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Any others? Does she use the television?

Interviewee: Oh yeah. She knows how to turn on the TV and stuff. And, switch channels. And, she knows how to record things if she wants to record things. I think she at one point had all the Harry Potters recorded, but then they all disappeared. I don't know whAt happened. They somehow got deleted because she's a really big Harry Potter fan.

Interviewer: Mine disappear as well on the DVR. Okay. Let's see. When do you feel you need to guide your child's use of these different devices?

Interviewee: When it seems like they're playing them too much. I haven't ever had any issues with her. It's more my 14 year old. He almost, sometimes, seems addicted. And, you know, he can't ... I'll be like, hey, you need to take a shower. And, 30 minutes later, he hasn't moved. I'm like uh-uh.

But yeah, when it seems ... When they're not listening, and following direction, and stuff like that.

Interviewer: Okay. And, in what ways have you provided guidance in how they use them?

Interviewee: Okay. So, we did a thing a while back, and we really need to start it again, we had a list on the fridge for each of them and they had to earn their computer time. And

so, they have chores that they had to do and they could earn up to two hours of computer time.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Now, it seems like we haven't been doing that. They still do their chores, but we haven't really been following that.

Interviewer: Summer's disruptive, isn't it? Okay. How do you make decisions about guiding your child's use of electronic devices?

Interviewee: How do I make my decisions? I just ... It's more ... I want them to be well rounded and not just on their screens all the time. I'm not saying ... I'm not perfect. I have days where they're on there, you know, three or four hours. But, I really try to get them out of the house and we go places. We have a zoo pass, we go to Frontier. We have Frontier City passes and White Water passes. We get out of the house, go to the park, go visit family. I have a huge family.

But, yeah. It's more just wanting them to be well rounded and social.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you consider your own childhood experiences with media when you're making decisions?

Interviewee: No. I didn't really have any. Um, that's a good question. That's funny. My parents, they were in control of the TV. We had one TV. And so, they watched their shows. I was always playing outside.

And then, I think they got an Atari when I was younger and that was theirs too. So, I never really ... I don't know. I don't. I don't know if I compare my decision making with my children based on that. I might. I might think, hey, I was outside a lot more and you guys need to get out and play. But, yeah. That's a good question.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: I didn't really have ... I didn't have it as much as they do. It wasn't so prevalent, you know? It wasn't such a big thing.

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

Interviewee: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: Okay. And, how do you decide if it's educational?

Interviewee: If they learn anything from it? If they ... You're making faces at me. It's like with the ABC Mouse, you know? It helped her learn to read and go there ... Oh. It didn't? She's saying, no, it didn't.

YouTube? YouTube helped you learn to read? Okay. Yeah. I don't know. That's a good question. But, I honestly don't know how to answer that.

Interviewer: Oh, I think you've answered it.

Interviewee: Because, there's a lot of stuff that they played that I'm like, that's not ... You know? Like, Roadblocks and the Minecraft. But, I'm like, well, maybe they are.

I mean, they're getting that ... They're building their things and they get excited about it. So, they do learn some things from that. But, it's not as educational as, let's say, like the ... But, she's like beyond ABC Mouse now. We canceled that a while back. So, probably not so much anymore now. Now that I think about it.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: I mean, I'd like to think I do, but probably not as much as I should, honestly. Now that I'm really considering that.

Interviewer: So, what other purposes do you see for your child's use of electronic devices?

Interviewee: Other purpose? Well, I think about their future. Like, what a career they're going to have and how they'll need it then. But, I mean, that's so far off. It doesn't seem too relevant yet. But yeah, I do think about that.

Interviewer: So, she uses it for school, as well.

Interviewee: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Interviewer: And so, education. But, how about for recreation?

Interviewee: For recreation? Yeah.

Interviewer: She likes to get on the computer and watch YouTube?

Interviewee: Oh yeah. Yeah. She likes her ... She subscribes to a couple of YouTube people.

Interviewer: Okay. All right.

Interviewee: That's probably what she uses it mostly for. She'll play my Minecraft and Roadblocks, but probably more YouTube.

Interviewer: Okay. All right.

Interviewee: I didn't even think about that until she stopped that.

Interviewer: Are there any uses you worry about?

Interviewee: I think YouTube, I do sometimes. I mean, she'll be like watching videos where they're playing with a toy. And, I'm like, why are you watching a video where

they're playing with a toy? Why don't you go play with the toy yourself and actually have that experience yourself, right? I mean, and she's like, you just don't get it, mom. And, I'm like, okay. No, I don't.

Interviewer: I agree with you. Okay. So, what websites, magazines, TV shows, or other resources have you seen or heard about about parenting for children's use of electronic devices or screen media? So, anything you're read or anything you read online?

Interviewee: I don't think I ever have. I think I've seen like at the grocery store, like on, like a parenting magazine or something. Like, articles or titles for articles about stuff. I don't think I've ever really read anything. Um, no.

Interviewer: Okay. All right.

Interviewee: You know, I think I've seen on the news something about I'm really limiting it under the age, a certain age, but I've never really looked into it or read anything, personally.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Have you received advice from anyone about guiding your child's use of these kinds of devices? For example, have you gotten advice from professionals in the community, like librarians or your pediatrician? Teachers, doctors?

Interviewee: No, I haven't.

Interviewer: No. Okay.

Interviewee: No. Her eye doctor has asked how much time she spends on there, but I guess just for his information about her eyes. But, they haven't given any advice.

Interviewer: Okay. Have you received advice from anyone else? His parents or your siblings, anybody like that?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Well, this next question probably doesn't apply then. Was this advice useful to you? What else would you have liked to have learned? So, if you're seeking out advice, what would you like to learn?

Interviewee: I would like to know how much time ... I mean, if you think about it you don't know 'cause it's such a thing these days. I mean, it's just everywhere, screens, phones, the tablets, the games, and computers

What is considered healthy, and how much time, and the content, and I ... You know? It's ... My older children, it was just kinda getting started the internet and everything when they were younger. And, I was really strict about it. It scared me. I was like, they hardly ever played on there.

And then, as they got a little bit older, I let up a little bit and let them play a little bit more of it. But, I was always so scared that they're gonna get like ... You know, somebody would ... Somebody from the internet would talk to them. Like, if they'd be in a chat room or something. It scared me. I was like, oh my gosh, somebody is going to come kidnap you and take you away. But, safety things like that are another thing.

That's one thing. Like, with the younger ones, I talked to them about that, just safety things. But, I learned a lot though, I think, from the older boys to them as far as that one. Just being able to talk to them about it and being a little bit more aware.

Interviewer: Do you feel more comfortable giving them guidance then you'd probably did with the older children or are you just kind of grown up with them?

Interviewee: Yeah. No. I would like to know though if it's ... You know? I don't know. I mean, I think this is great what you're doing. Hopefully, this all gets figured out. And, we'll know better for the future.

Interviewer: Okay. Let's see. How do you know whose advice to follow?

Interviewee: Instinct? I don't know. This is not really ... Is this more like the advice for ...

Interviewer: In general.

Interviewee: In general? Instinct.

Interviewer: I mean it could be for screen media, but just in general.

Interviewee: Instinct, whatever I feel is right. If I feel like it sounds right, then I'm like, yeah, I agree with that.

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

Interviewee: Um, pretty much all areas to see. Let's see. I can't think of anywhere where I don't feel comfortable guiding them other than like when they have an issue with the computer. I don't know how to help them with that. But, guiding them pretty much everywhere.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. And, I think you've answered this one. Are there areas in which you have questions and would like further guidance about for now or in the future? Would you say you've already answered that.

Interviewee: If there's anything I would like more advice about?

Interviewer: Yes.

Interviewee: Oh, well, you know, as a parent you always wonder if you're doing the right thing. But, I don't know. So far, we've successfully gotten two older children out of the house and raised. I don't know. There's always something, there's always something to learn. So, yes. I think life is a learning experience. There's always going to be something I'm going to need advice on. Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. What are the main things you do with technologies? We've talked a little bit about communication, entertainment, work related research, creative productions. Would you say those are pretty much the areas that you ... I mean, the main things you do with technology?

Interviewee: Yeah. Communication. That's just phones though. I don't even ... I have a Facebook, but I never use it. Ever. I don't do the Instagram or any of that stuff. Everybody's always ... My sisters and family are like, hey, you got to get on here or you missed this or you missed that. I'm like that, I just ... It's not me. I can't. So, yeah. Communication. And, their schooling.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Entertainment. Yeah.

Interviewer: Do you use the computer or your phone to do research?

Interviewee: Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Well more looking at recipes or like a crochet projects patterns. Research. I'm trying to think. I don't know if that counts as research. New recipes.

Interviewer: Doing research are the same thing.

Interviewee: That's probably it.

Interviewer: So, in relation to the devices you've mentioned, would you describe yourself as an expert, beginner, or somewhere in between?

Interviewee: Somewhere in between.

Interviewer: Okay. And, could you tell us about your child's other parent and their experience with technology?

Interviewee: He's an electrical engineer. He just, he's very bright. When computers first became the big thing, he got one and he said he's very into it. He knows way more than I do and he'll start talking all these technical terms that I have no idea what he's talking about. And, he's only two years older than me, but he just seems to have taken to it a lot more.

Interviewer: So, you would call him more of an expert?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: For sure.

Interviewer: All right.

Interviewee: He's the troubleshooter and he knows the latest gadgets and the latest things. And, yeah.

Interviewer: And, you've mentioned he uses the TV a lot for recreation.

Interviewee: Sports.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Yeah. A big sports fan.

Interviewer: And, doesn't use the PlayStation. How would he use the computers or the phones?

Interviewee: He is only ever on the computers when he was like paying bills or checking his sports websites. He's on a lot of sports forums. But, yeah. That's the only thing I can think.

Interviewer: And, the phone?

Interviewee: At work. For work, he does ... For the phone communication. Well, he'll get on the internet on his phone a lot.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Let's see. So, it would be helpful for us to have some basic information about you and your family. How would you describe your ethnic background?

Interviewee: Caucasian. And, I don't ... Mom's always said we're Irish. So, I don't know.

Interviewer: No. Caucasian is just fine. And, you're husband?

Interviewee: Same.

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

Interviewee: Some college.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: Yeah. I was in college when I got pregnant with my oldest son and I've felt more of a calling to be a mom then finished school.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. And, how about your husband?

Interviewee: Some college as well.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. And, what are your professions?

Interviewee: I'm ... Well, right now, I'm a stay at home mom. And, he is an electrical engineer. He does electrical design for ... He works at his dad's company.

Interviewer: He sounds really interesting.

Interviewee: It sounds really boring to me.

Interviewer: So, is there anything else you'd like to tell us on this topic? Anything that's occurred to you as we've been talking?

Interviewee: You know, you asked me about the advice thing and there are some people I knew ... And, their children play a lot. A lot. I mean, like, it's .. Okay. So, my sister, her 18 year old son, that's all he does. He doesn't even have a driver's license or anything and I don't know how to approach that. I don't know if that's something that I even have a right to approach my sister about and say, hey, this isn't okay.

He's not living his life. I mean, I would like advice about that.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: I would love to know if there was anything I could do to help. You know? I don't know. Does that make sense? Is that ...

Interviewer: It does. There are a lot of research studies that say one thing and then a lot that say other things related to teens and technologies. And, specifically, how much time it should be online or if it's starting to disrupt the rest of their life. Then, they say it's probably too much. But, there are people that say it's addictive and there are people that say you learn a lot from it.

So, I don't have any answer for you.

Interviewee: I've seen the addictive side. I can see that. My 14 year old, I worry about him sometimes. I just ... I have to pull them away. I have to be like, no. But, I feel like I'm keeping him active elsewhere enough, but right now, it's not as big of an issue as it is like with my nephew.

But, I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. All right. Well-

Interviewee: This is making me want to go read all about it now and find out everything I can.

Interviewer: That's wonderful. I hope you do. So, any further comments?

Interviewee: Not that I can think of.

Interviewer: Okay. Thank you very much for participating in this study.

Interviewee: Yeah. You're welcome.