I: So this is the last interview for this stage of the project. What I am going to do is talk to you about, just about the whole project so you get an idea of, because I have been talking to your mum for a really long time since she was pregnant with you. So kind of talking to you about that so you understand a bit more about the project.

S: Okay.

I: And then we will check, we will watch the video together and check whether you are happy with bits and pieces and see what you thought of it. Also if we had time we will talk about, I did another day in the life, which I did with your mum but it was when you were two. So I don’t know if you looked at that one as well, that is on the website as well?

M: We couldn’t get that one to come up.

I: Oh did it not? I don’t know, they don’t always work on the iPad I think.

M: No, maybe that’s why.

I: Yeah.

M: We saw all the new ones-

I:Yeah.

M: But couldn’t get but maybe if we watch it-

I: Yeah we could watch it on here if you give me your password for the Wi-Fi.

M: Oh I will go and get that.

I: Erm and then at the end we will just talk about what will happen next. So what will happen with this stuff that we have made-

S: Okay.

I: And about, did you get the letter about the Mass Observation Archive? I know you can’t come because you are going to a pantomime aren’t you?

S: Erm yes.

I: So I will just tell you a bit about that and what is going to happen.

S: Okay.

I: Okay, does that sound okay.

S: Yeah.

I: Cool. So this is part of, we started doing a big project about motherhood and that is when I met your mum. And I met your mum at antenatal class when she was pregnant with you. And she said she would like to take part. So I interviewed your mum when she was pregnant with you and she told me what your thought it might be like to be a mum and what sort of mum she thought she would be. And then I also interviewed your grandma and asked her what it was like when she was first a mum and what it is like being a grandma. So I interviewed her after you were born. And I interviewed your great grandma (laughs), did you know this? Did you know all this?

S: Erm my mum told me this morning.

I: This morning yeah so that is what has been happening. And then when you were a year old I went back and interviewed your mum again, and we did that at work in the office.

M: Oh yeah (laugh).

I: We didn’t have very long did we (laugh).

M: No, no.

I: But we talked about what it was really like compared to what your mum thought it was going to be like. And then we did a day in the life, which was meant to be me following your mum to see what it is like to be a mum of a toddler, of a two year old, but there was also a lot of you in there as well (laughs). Because you wanted to be part of it as well. So there is a lot, we captured a lot of you and what you were doing. But you won’t remember that at all will you? But I remember that really clearly what we were doing.

M: Hm.

I: We went to your auntie’s house and you played with your cousins in the fairy wood and you did painting. And we also had a picnic at your nursery. So that is what is on the other one, that is what on the other day in the life and there is all the pictures of that on the website.

M: Oh yeah.

I: It has got all pictures of you on that day and what you were doing.

M: I think it was because, was there a, oh it wants Adobe.

I: Erm and then I interviewed your grandma again (laughs) when you were two, nearly three and for that interview we asked your grandma to bring some things like objects that represented what she thought about her life at the moment and the future. So it is quite similar to, do you remember we looked at your toys?

S: Yeah.

I: It was a bit like that. And I did the same with your great grandmother as well and then I interviewed your mum again when you were three. That was in work as well wasn’t it?

M: Yeah, yeah.

I: Yeah so that is what happened before this stage, before I came to talk to you about your toys. So it has already done all those interviews with people in your family and it is already building a picture of what it is like to be a mum, and a grandma and a great grandma, in this period- at this point of time. Erm and then for you it is like what it is like to be a child now. So we kind of know now what it is like to be two (laugh, mum laughs) to be Saffron age two and obviously we have got this. So this really capturing for other people to see and understand what it is like to other people of what it is like to be a seven year old girl, well eight, you were an eight year old girl when we did that weren’t you? An eight-year-old girl going to school at this point in time. So we did it in 2014, so what that is like. So what I will do is show you a little bit of what I talked about with your mum so you understand. Do you have any questions about that?

S: Erm no.

I: No (laughs). Does it feel quite strange?

S: Yes.

I: Did your grandma tell you that she had done that or your great grandma?

S: No.

I: No. Yeah so I have known your family for quite a long time now.

M: Hm yeah.

I: So this is when your mum was expecting, when she was pregnant with you. These were some of the books that she read to try and think about what it would be like. And I think this book was really important in your family.

M: Yeah.

I: Because it was about how giving birth can sometimes be a bit scary for new mums and this book – well maybe your mum might be able to say it a bit better (laughs).

M: Yeah it is about not being frightened.

I: And that was really important and that was something that your grandma had given your mum. Do you know about when you were born? Have you ever been told about it? Do you know who was there?

S: No.

I: No.

M: Yes you do!

S: No I don’t.

M: Don’t you?

S: No.

M: Oh right. Who do you think was there?

S: Erm I know that you were there.

M: Oh yeah.

I: (Laughs).

M: It would be very difficult if I wasn’t. Daddy and Nanna. Nanna wasn’t intending to be there but you came so quickly at the end that she was still in the room.

S: Oh.

I: (Laughs).

M: She was going to take over, Daddy was going to come and take over from Nanna but it didn’t happen like that, yeah.

I: Yeah and she was also there when your cousins were born.

M: Yeah.

I: So a very supportive grandma.

M: And we had the same midwife. We had the same midwife who was there for Lorna’s birth. Gosh I can’t remember her name was Mrs Happy or something, she had a funny surname.

I: I vaguely remember that.

M: Yeah something unusual.

I: Did you look at, I sent you these quotes did you look at them?

M: I have not had a look at them. Oh yeah I did, I remember actually saying all of this.

I: Is that all right for me to read it to Saffron?

M: Yes that is okay, yep that is fine.

I: Shall I read it to you, well maybe your mum should read it?

M: Shall I read it? Right well I am hoping, I don’t want to suddenly be a mummy and nothing else, at the same time I mean obviously I will be a mum but having a separate identity. My mum always seemed to do it and friends of the family seem to do it. But I have seen other people’s mum where the children become everything and they just have nothing. They don’t seem to have anything in their lives. My mum was always, I mean she has always worked and she has always been fairly outspoken and had specific ideas and ways of thinking. Yep?

S: Yeah.

M: Do you understand what that means?

S: Erm…

M: So yeah well I work and some other mums don’t work do they?

S: No.

M: No.

S: Like… erm…

M: Oh actually there is not a lot. There is not a lot now is there?

S: No.

M: No they have all gone back to work now.

I: Have you ever thought about that Saffron about how there are some mums that work and some mums that don’t?

S: Erm no.

M: If you were a mum what do you think you would do?

S: Erm, work.

M: You would work. Or would you like to stay at home all day with your children?

S: No.

I: (Laughs).

M: (Laughs). Which do you think would be easier?

S: Work.

M: I think it is actually (laugh).

I: Had you ever thought about that about your mum working and other mums not working?

S: No.

I: Just the way it is? Yeah. Okay so that was what in that interview we were talking about that and your mum was really excited about being a mum but she didn’t want to loose who she was as well. She wanted to still be, well I called you Tina (laughs).

M: Yeah you did (laugh) Tina.

I: You still wanted to be Tina, still be that person and not just become mummy and not have anything else. And that was, your aunty and your mum worked and your nan, well she did a bit didn’t she?

M: Yeah she did, she did.

I: So there is kind of a story in your family about having something for yourself and being a bit independent. And then I met your mum a year later, so it was actually Christmas time and you were a year old and your mum was talking about Christmas shopping and how you were always trying to climb out of the pushchair (laughs).

S: (Laughs).

I: So you said, it was quite easy last year because Saffron (I have called you Saffron in the research) would sit in the pushchair but she doesn’t want to sit in the pushchair she wants to get out and walk all the time so it is much harder. I am just trying to juggle everything, I didn’t quite realize how much time it would take. So kind of-

M: Yeah (laughs).

I: Although you have ideas about being a mum you don’t realize actually how much work it is to have a young baby. And then we just talked a bit about what you were doing so even when you were a year old we got a picture of what you were doing at that time. So your mum said, Saffron is on nursery on site and I know if there is a problem I can just walk over there and see her. She was very settled in the baby room and now she is very settled in the toddler room and it is actually useful because I am in the office earlier so it is making me manage work better and they seem to get them out and get them lots of fresh air and do lots of painting so yeah they seem to enjoy it. Do you remember that at all being in the nursery?

S: No.

I: No (laughs).

M: Do you remember anything about the nursery?

S: No.

M: The [nursery name]?

S: No. I only remember one of the teachers.

M: Okay can you remember what you used to do?

S: No.

M: Can you remember going and sleeping on your mats?

S: No.

M: No. Do you remember James being there?

S: Yeah. That is one of the things I do remember.

M: Yeah.

S: We got that too.

M: Do you remember what you used to play with James?

S: What?

M: What did you play with James?

S: I don’t know.

M: Oh right (laugh).

S: Oh there is one more thing I remember about nursery.

M: Hmm.

S: It was that we had pegs with our names on it and mine was a cat.

M: Hmm yep.

I: Oh you had a cat?

M: Can you remember your other friend at nursery?

S: No.

M: No?

S: Oh yeah, Ginny.

M: Ginny.

S: And I had er…

M: There was another little boy but I can’t remember his name.

S: I had another friend but I don’t know her name.

M: Oh erm Eliza.

S: Yeah and another friend.

M: Another one (laughs).

S: I don’t remember her name.

M: No.

I: So you do remember a bit then?

S: Yes some of it.

M: Hmm.

I: Yeah.

S: I remember the little boy’s name.

M: Who?

S: Andrew.

M: Yeah I don’t think it was. Was it Andrew?

S: Yeah. Who the big boys played with.

M: No the one that you played with.

S: Er I don’t remember.

I: Don’t remember. And then there was another little bit that your mum said, can you read that?

M: Yeah I think it is good for Saffron to spend time with people other than me. I mean she does spend a lot of time with my family and when I am not around, it is nice being a mummy and the first time you are called a mummy but I didn’t want that to be the only thing but it has not worked out like that. Yeah so that sort of, so that follows on from my before comment.

I: So yeah I think in some ways you can never imagine what it is going to be like but you know you managed to get a balance of what you wanted.

M: Yeah (laugh).

I: So your mum really wanted to be a mummy and thought being a mummy was lovely but she wanted time for herself. Does it all feel quite strange hearing all of this?

M: It must feel quite strange because you have gone through the same thing as you have been doing all this research?

I: For me? Yeah it is interesting (laughs) erm the bits that I am picking out are quite different.

M: Yeah.

I: You know looking at the data it is nice to see you having that independence but also maintaining a close bond with Saffron.

M: Yeah.

I: You know though natural birth and breastfeeding, which was really important to you.

M: Yeah.

I: Erm so having that connection but coming on to, oh I will come onto the next one actually. So you can also see Saffron becoming independent.

M: Independent yeah.

I: And the work that you were doing to promote that.

M: Yeah.

I: So this was when I did the day in the life when you were two, and I wrote some field notes which is on this website as well. So it might be that you, have you only got the iPad or have you got a computer as well?

M: I have got a computer.

I: It might be that you want to go back and have a look at that because all this is just-

M: Oh I will do.

I: So this is just a little snippet from that day. So this is when we went to the nursery and had the picnic and this is what I was saying. The children are playing on the climbing frame so I wander down to have a watch. I notice how Saffron often wanders off whilst Tina is talking and she seems quite relaxed about this, I think I meant Tina is quite relaxed about this.

M: Hmm.

I: Saffron dangles from the ropes, there are lots of children on the frame lots of fingers hanging and clumsy feet finding their footing. I am slightly anxious that something is going to happen to the children under my supervision (laughs).

M: (Laughs).

I: Gail comes over, who I think is your older cousin. and asks me if I will help Dawn ,who is your younger cousin, on the climbing frame. Gail waits in anticipation on the ladder. Luckily Tina’s sister is there in a flash and helps Gail to walk over the frame, I think that should be Dawn actually. After a while we return to the picnic. Cake comes round and Tina’s sister exclaims how nice it is. I notice Saffron on the slide. It is a big slide and she is surrounded by other children but she goes down anyway. Tina and her sister laugh and I comment that she is quite fearless (laughs).

M: (Laughs).

I: So that was you when you were two and there is a lot of that in the field notes.

S: I think I am starting to remember the playground.

M: The playground yeah.

I: Yeah you can remember the playground now from hearing that?

S: And I think I can remember the boy that you were talking about, I think it was the boy who was always painting his toes.

M: Possibly yeah.

I: Yeah.

M: Yeah.

I: So yeah I just think that is quite interesting because I was following your mum but there is a lot of you in my notes and as I said in my notes you seemed quite fearless and quite independent. There is a funny point in my notes where we are on the stairs and I am talking to your mum because we are getting ready to go out to see the health visitor and you said, stop talking, who are you (laughs)?!

M: (Laughs).

I: So do you remember that from hearing about your nursery? It is all coming back?

S: Yeah.

I: Do you remember what you were like when you were two?

S: Erm no.

I: No.

M: Well you liked the nursery.

S: I think I have got some pictures of the nursery.

M: You have got your folder of nursery haven’t you?

I: Yeah well if we have a look at the thing we can have a look at the day in the life because that has got pictures of the nursery. So this is just to say, all about Saffron which is the name I have given you – it is just how we are building up a picture of you from the notes I have taken and the stuff we have done together. So you remember doing the favourite things interview that was the one where we talked about all your toys.

S: Yeah.

I: And then before that was what we looked at, the day in the life. And then the one where we did your school, where I came to school with you. So that is how we are kind of building a picture of what it is like to be you. Erm do you have any questions or anything.

S: No.

M: (Laughs).

I: Okay lets have a look. Yeah so shall we have a look now at your day in the life.

M: Do you want to start it?

(Audio plays).

I: Just say if there is anything that you don’t like or you would like to be taken out of it.

(Audio plays of conversation between researcher and step grandfather about the ‘tough time’ of the family).

M: Is that the bit you said about?

I: Yeah.

M: Yeah it is fine yeah. I think my mum and Mark are going to listen to it today.

(Step grandfather says they are getting a lot of spellings wrong).

I: I kind of wish they hadn’t put that in because it sounds a bit negative.

M: It is just, yeah.

I: Because they got a lot right.

M: Yeah it is quite odd because you don’t really get to see what they do really do you? And PE, sitting is not...

I: And food as well seeing what they eat.

M: Now I am trying to remember when-

I: It was summer wasn’t it. No it was just after Saffron’s birthday, just a couple of days after Saffron’s birthday.

M: Oh right because I am trying to remember. I think they were the new caterers hmm (laugh).

I: I lost you for a bit then.

M: (Laughs).

I: Do you remember this bit?

S: Yeah.

I: Yeah.

(Recording lost).