G: Where am I going to be?

I: You can be here so it can record you properly. So see the little numbers there?

G: Yeah.

I: That shows that it is recording. It is recording my voice as well as yours.

G: Yeah.

I: So what I am asking you is if you can show me and tell me about your favourite toys you played with up until now.

G: Yes.

I: And what is your favourite now.

G: Okay well I think erm this is definitely my favourite toy or thing erm, my bike.

I: Yes.

G: Erm I used to ride it and I still do now. I will bring it over here.

I: Bring it over here and we can prop it, lean it against that wall and we can take a photo of it later on.

G: (mumbling about moving it) Ouch ouch.

I: Careful. It looks like a mountain bike. Is it a mountain bike?

G: It is a mountain bike.

I: And how long have you had it?

G: Well oh let me think. I got it for a birthday present I think it must have been my (.) fifth or fourth birthday. I think maybe fifth.

I: Right. So you have had it a couple of years or more.

G: Yeah. Maybe sixth, probably fifth.

I: Can you remember who gave it to you?

G: Er yes my mummy.

I: Mummy?

G:Yeah.

I: Yeah. And how much do you use it?

G: Quite a lot because I do all these courses on Sundays and I learn a lot of skills. So I can do a few little wheelies on it.

I: Hmm.

G: Obviously I can’t cycle it in here.

I: No I wouldn’t expect you to. So what other skills do they teach you?

G: Erm track stands hmm and some of like the hard stuff.

I: Hmm.

G: Erm and my mum mum mum mma ma. So (.) they teach us like–well we cycle around and then we have little tea breaks erm.

I: And is it just you?

G: No it is not. It is with a whole group of people with a leader.

I: Does Ben go?

G: No it is from six (.) no you have to be seven or over.

I: Right. And do you ride your bike during the week?

G: Errrmm ,not really, no.

I: No.

G: Unless it is like half term or something and I am going away.

I: And then do you go on cycling holidays with your mum?

G: Yeah.

I: And with Mary?

G: Yeah and this weekend I have like got (.) erm a race.

I: Hmm.

G: A mountain bike race.

I: Who is that with?

G: Oh loads of other people. We are put into age groups er, and I think it is on the Saturday.

I: So that is your all time favourite thing?

G: Well yes from when I was about five.

I: Right. And do you think you will carry on riding bikes from now on?

G: Yeah.

I: And what about like when you are at home here, when you are not out on your bike, what do you play with then?

G: Erm well I still play with this.

I: What down here.

G: Up and down the lane, like practicing. Er and like (..) well erm I like cycling up and down, doing stuff, like wheelies (laugh).

I: (Laughs)

G: Having lots of fun.

I: And what do you do indoors?

G: Well trains.

I: Like this one?

G: Yes.

I: So how long have you had this?

G: Ohhh. Well we did borrow it from someone a long, long time ago. Erm how long ago? Ahhh I think I was about (.) errrrrrh erm three? Yeah.

I: So a long time ago?

G: Yeah.

I: You were saying that you haven’t played with this for a while…

G: Yeah.

I: And you were saying that you haven’t played with this for a while and then you suddenly brought it out only last week?

G: Yeah.

I: What made you bring it out?

G: Well (.) I just thought I don’t know to do with these game and I just thought (unclear and sound of toy moving) all these games to play with and I just I thought, oh I can play with this.

I: And what do you like about it?

G: Well I like it that you can make it up and put everything in a different place. Cos like here is broken but you can just put anything where you want, so you could put a bit here and like put this here where it is, and when you pack it away again you can get it out and rebuild it –the same thing or something completely different.

I: So every time you get it out you can build it up in a different way.

G: Yeah.

I: No that’s good.

G: See I could even change it now like erm. There – finished!

I: Now you have changed it already! And the little train is clockwork isn’t it?

G: This one. Yes you just –well battery.

I: Battery.

G: I have got –now let me find another one. Now this one (crash noise) the batteries haven’t been changed for a long, long time. Now switch it and that is off, move it forward.

I: I didn’t ask you what do you like best about riding your bike?

G: Well the best thing about riding my bike er (.) well I like, the best thing about my bike is that I can do anything I want, so like one minute I am doing a front wheelie, the next minute I am cycling with my hands on the handlebars. With my hands on the pedals cycling.

I: Without your hands on the-

G: No with my hands on the pedals, pushing the pedals with my feet up in the air -- no my feet here.

I: On the handle bars?

G: Yeah. Here looking. Er see if I am like this, like that.

I: Sort of upside down?

G: Yes. I can’t do that yet.

I: No.

(Train station electronic noise.)

I: Ohh that was the station.

G: Yes.

I: Before you were playing with the stations and the trains that you have out now, what were you playing indoors before that, if this has come out in the last week or so?

G: Well like what I have been play for like a year?

I: What this?

G: No like what I have been playing with for like a year?

I: Yeah. Yes.

(Train sound electronic noise.)

G: (Laughs.)

I: (Laughs.)

G: Well Mastermind.

I: Mastermind? Let’s see.

G: Do you know Mastermind?

I: I know on the television yes. Is it like that?

G: Yeah, yeah. No its not. Well it is sort of a guessing game. Do you want to play with it?

I: Well why don’t you, we won’t have time to play it exactly but if you bring it over here then you can show me what you do with it.

G: So basically what you do is, someone- maybe one or two people are the guesser and the other person’s there so the people who are guessing don’t look- like that. Then the person who (.) oh and there is picking the colours. There are four colours. Say that green, yellow and white and they don’t have to be in any order. Um and then they cover it up with this special thing that says Mastermind on it. Then the other player or players has to guess it and whenever they –- and so the white and black pegs, so the white represents right colour, wrong place.

I: Right.

G: Black represents right colour, right place.

I: So you want to get black really.

G: Yeah you want to get all four blacks.

I: Right.

G:And to make, and to make the game harder what you can either do is do this (sound of counters moving) –that makes it really hard. And so does this, although I haven’t tried it before (sound of counters moving).

I: What in a different colour?

G: Er and no, what makes it really hard is to do this (demonstrates) cos they have to get it by say five or six or four, depending on how good you are. And this makes it really hard.

I: And what sort of questions do you get asked?

G: Er questions for like playing this game?

I: Yeah

G: Well erm it is like the guesser (pauses and mutters to himself moving counters) well the guesser has to ask like –well I am just trying to think, because on the first guess it is just luck if you get it on the first guess, so say if the guesser put this…

I: So there aren’t any questions you have to answer?

G: No

I: You have just got to put all those different pegs (?) in the right order-

G: Yeah.

I: don’t you? Right I have got it.

G: And the person here say- (mutters to himself quietly) rah so there’s that.

I: And who do you play it with?

G: Well erm I have got a childminder called Maria. I play it with her when I get home. I also play another game with her.

I: And who usually wins?

G: Well (ugh noise), well the aim is to get it by two or three er. Well I had my old childminder called Vanessa, she got it in one. That’s just luck.

I: (Laughs)

G: Isn’t it? Yeah.

I: Sounds like it.

G: I nearly once got it in three. But Maria got it innnnnn four or five. Ben has played this game before.

I: Hmmm.

G: He got it in abbbbbout (sigh) Erm I think (sigh) now how many are there, (counts) one, two, three, four, five, six, seven eight, nine, ten. Eh? Two, four, six, eight, ten –yeah. Erm he got in maybe about (.) maybe (laugh) maybe seven or eight.

I: Right so do you play with Ben as well?

G: Yes but he can’t be, he can’t be on his own in a team.

I: He has got to be helped.

G: Yes because like here if I cheat by putting a white with a black and a black, er if I put a white, black, white, white when it is meant to be a white and a black and a black and a white.

I: Right.

G: And then here (picks up object) when you get it (…) because (moving things about) if you put like a black and a white and a white, if they put a black, white, black and black that can’t be right can they?

I: (Clears throat) I don’t know. I think you have lost me.

G: There black, black, white. So count that three colour. Three colours, three colours in the right place. Three blacks and three whites can’t be. No. But three whites and one black can be (sighs).

I: Right. I am very impressed.

G: So that is Mastermind (rustling of objects). The other game is Monopoly.

I: Ah let’s have a look at that then. Do you want to leave that down there and I will take some photos of it when we are finished?

G: So this is Monopoly. There are two games of Monopoly, Junior and Spanish Monopoly.

I: So who do you play Monopoly with?

G: Well my child- Maria and Ben and I used to play it with Vanessa and Mummy and er yeah that is all the people. So you have to keep these ticket booths (?) (shaking of counters) erm (unclear) and someone chooses a colour.

I: Right that’s right and you have to go round don’t you?

G: Yes. Round the board.

I: Yep.

G: Which is here. Round the board.

I: Yep.

G: And then erm. So you start on Go and then you get five ones, four twos. Five ones, four twos…Five ones, four twos, three threes, (erm) three threes, two fours and one five.

I: That’s all you money.

G: Yeah and then if you get say, say if I (unclear?) and I got from here (shakes counter) with this, no hang on wait say if I was green and I landed here, that is with this ticket booth if you like you get a free ticket with a number and I was coming along and I was yellow… Oh hang on someone else was green and they got a ticket there and I was yellow. So I was coming along, so I was here and I got the cards. And I went one, two three, four (counting the moves on the board). You, you, so if I landed on this it would say pay three dollars so I would have to pay three dollars. But if I land here I have to pay three dollars to the person who is green.

I: Right so it is quite complicated.

G: Yeah (rustling of counters), yeah really complicated.

I: So how long have you been playing that then?

G: Oooh well I have been playing this for a long, long, long time. Oh. Errmm hooow lonnng just hooow loonng (lengthening the words as he thinks). Erm mum, mum, mum, mum.

I: A couple of months?

G: Oh I don’t know maybe I got it ooof I don’t know maybe when I was about (.) two.

I: Two? Monopoly, gosh. And do you remember who gave it to you?

G: No, I can’t. It was so long ago. I have been playing it, well I started playing it when I was about two and a half or something. I have been playing it for, let me think, so I am now seven and a half that’s four years.

I: Yes.

G: Five years.

I: Oh yes from two and a half that is five years.

G: Five years. Ooohh.

I: Seems to me like you quite like playing games.

G: Yeah I do (laugh)

I: So is there anything apart from the train set that you play on your own?

G: Well I don’t play the train set on my own.

I: Don’t you?

G: No. I play it with Ben.

I: Right.

G: Well like all these games you have to play with other people and you can’t play by yourself. Can you?

I: No.

G: Ermm I do play with this, or this, or this (sound of large toys clunking). I play with this quite a lot.

I: Ooh what’s that?

G: Er a car (sounds of heavy toy clunking on the floor). It is really annoying because I can’t turn it off because this one is a wire. So like it goes forward and it stops and then it goes backwards. It bumps (laughs) forwards. Erm I did have another car, that one there a big one.

I: Hmm.

G: Let me just try it. It might work. Hmm.

I: Perhaps it hasn’t got the battery.

G: No it hasn’t got the battery, hang on are there batteries in there? No the batteries are in there. Ohh (sound of toys clunking). There is that and there is also this. Oh I know –car on (laughs).

I: (Laughs). So what is that?

G: A very small car.

I: And with a little remote control?

G: Yes. Its noisy.

I: That is a clever little car isn’t it? So that is not on a wire so that can go where it wants.

G:Hmm. We think (laugh) but because it is so like small it can’t push. I have had this since my six birthday or my seventh birthday.

I: So do you like the remote control cars?

G: Yeah I love them.

I: What do you like about them?

G: Well like they can go erm (..) they can like go pretty much anywhere around the room and they don’t go too far away. Because like the remote control is going to only go a certain amount of distance. So like (..) erm so like it is fun playing with them. I got this when I was six and I got this one when I was oooh how old was I? Oooh okay I was just seven.

I: Oh so that is quite new?

G: Yes.

I: That’s the bigger one. And have you got toys that you sleep with?

G: Yes I have, upstairs.

I: Well we can get them a bit later. Is there anything else that you want to show me?

G: Erm here, erm. Down here? Anything else down here, well let me think. No I don’t think so.

I: And erm they said that you don’t play in your bedroom you always play here in the lounge?

G: I do play a tiny bit in my bedroom in the mornings because I wake up at like six. I sleep in a bunk bed and I play games with Ben.

I: What sort of games?

G: Erm well maybe reading games. And we have days where we have to do jobs which is a game I made up.

I: Hmm

G: So Ben does Wednesday and I have to do Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday.

I: (Laughs). Sounds like he has got the best choice hasn’t he?

G: Yeah because the jobs are like when I am really tired on a morning Ben will like wake me up at six and erm he will erm he will like say, ‘It is your day come on.’ and the jobs we have to do is get each other a book and read stories to each other.

I: Hmm that is good.

G: Yeah. We have to be quiet though because we don’t want to wake everyone up in the house.

I: No. Right.

G: Even that.

I: Even that.

I: What did you do today? What did you do this morning?

G: This morning? Well I got this train track out last night hmmm, errmmm, this morning well I woke up had breakfast, went to school. I went on a school trip at school.

I: Oh right.

G: In the morning just as you came in.

I: Where did you go?

G: I went to the church. Erm very, before I went to school before I had breakfast, actually after I had breakfast I did some piano.

I: Did you?

G: Yes because I have piano lessons.

I: What is your favourite time of day?

G: Erm I think dinner.

I: What dinner at lunch time or dinner in the evening time?

G: Dinner in the evening time. I like to have a main meal and it is the end of the day and then you get to go to bed. And erm it is really fun. Because sometimes when I wake up at six I get really tired and I want to go back to sleep but I can’t because it is school.

I: (Laughs) Awh.

G: Luckily I can have a lie in well no I can’t at the weekends because Ben wakes me up.

I: Right. That’s what happens when you have got a younger brother isn’t it?

G: Yeah and he’s like, “Come on lets go and watch tv!” And I am like (groaning), “Oh okay you go down.” And he is like, “No I can’t turn the tv on.” Then I want to go back up to bed but I can’t get up the stairs.

I: And thinking about things on phones and things like that-

G: Yeah.

I: Do you use like an iPhone or an iPad or anything like that?

G: Well I use an iPad at school and I go on the computers at school.

I: Hmm what do you do on them?

G: Well erm yesterday we used the er computers, maths to type up a script and we sometimes use, like in maths erm maybe a few weeks ago maybe a couple of weeks ago we did some tests and maybe about week later Year 5 had to do some tests and we got to play on the iPad and do maths games.

I: Maths games on the iPad?

G: Sometimes we play literacy games.

I: Hmm.

G: Erm it is really fun. Because like maths games you like earn stars to play races, so if you earn five stars you can play a really fun, fun game and move the iPad around tilt it and the car moves and you can get (.) points and win money on the iPad.

I: Right.

G: Well you can’t.

I: No not real money.

G: No.

I: So you don’t have anything like that at home?

G: No well my mum does but I don’t.

I: No.

G: I am not allowed to play hmm hmmm (pretend crying sounds) not allowed to play.

 I: So do you think you will get anything like that in the future?

G: Well yes I will in the future.

I: And do your friends have them?

G: Yeah they have like an Xbox.

I: Hmm.

G: Cos when I have been round to peoples’ house they have been like, “Do you want to go on the Xbox?” I’m like, “Yeah!! Cos I don’t get to play with any of these things.” Cos I don’t.

I: (Laughs). And nothing like a Nintendo or anything like that?

G: No.

I: And have any of your friends got iPhones or anything?

G: No. A few of my friends have got iPads.

I: Right.

G: But no iPhones - yet.

I: Yet.

G: No. They said erm they might get an iPhone for my birthday next year.

I: When you are eight.

G: I might as a well.

I: You might.

 G: I might.

I: And do you watch much on tv?

G: I watch some tv. Quite a lot. I don’t know how many hours. Well I watch quite a lot in the morning. So that’s three hours so that’s six hours. No hang on that is maybe about five hours.

I: What tv?

G: No on a weekend.

I: On a weekend. Right.

G: Erm –

Mother (?) laughs in background.

M: Not true!

I: (Laughs).

M: When do you watch tv at the weekend?

G: In the morning so that’s two hours so that’s four hours.

M: Four out of the whole weekend.

I: Oh right if you are going to add up the whole weekend.

M: Yes. Four hours for the whole weekend.

I: Yes?

G: Yes but how much for the whole week?

M: You don’t really watch it in the week do you?

G: Well I do a bit, cos it depends which week doesn’t it?

M: Well when do you watch it? You don’t watch when you are playing-

G: No I watch it on an evening on like Friday evening with Amelia.

M: Kay and I have slightly different…

I: What views on it?

M: Not views but I don’t know I tend to want to do things with them. So maybe on a Friday you will but it is not very much in the week is it?

G: So maybe about one hour so that is five hours.

M: Five hours altogether.

G: Yeah.

I: And do your friends come round to play here?

G: They do when I go to other people’s houses –house.

I: When they come round here what do you usually play with?

G: Well erm they sometimes bring other toys and games. I sometimes get this out –no I don’t. Last time I got this out for my friend (it was) a long time ago. And sometimes like we have got loads of books here. Sometime we play like bus stop and those…

I: What like with the cars?

G: Yeah.

I: And what sort of toys do your friends bring round?

G: Well they bring round like their toys and erm (..) Erm (.) well. Sometimes my friends bring round like maybe dolls and stuff. Sometimes they bring round like…

I: What sort of dolls?

G: Well princesses.

I: Do the girls or the boys bring those round?

G: The girls (laugh).

I: (Laugh). And do you play with them as well.

G: Yeah.

I: Hmm. Good. And what about do you take toys to school?

G: No you are not allowed.

I: You are not allowed.

G: No.

I: No.

G: Unless you be – Well you are but you will get sent to the Head.

I: And we don’t want that.

G: No.

I: And do you think you will play with different things as you get a bit older?

G: Yeah. I think with the birthdays and Christmas.

I: What do you think you will get?

G: Erm ma mum ma ma (stalling for time). Well I have put a few things on my Christmas list. Like a piano stool. And I would like a grand piano which I think actually I am going to put on there now.

I: (Laughs).

G: A grand piano.

I: Well it would take up a bit of room that would.

G: Erm I am going to have an iPhone-

I: You hope.

G: No I don’t have one but I am going to put an iPhone on my Christmas list. Erm an iPad. Erm…

I: But do you think you will get one if you ask for one?

G: Yes I think I probably will. Erm, erm maybe (.) a new toy.

I: Hmm. And do you have a routine sort of the same sort of thing everyday?

G: Well when? In the mornings or…

I: Yes in the mornings and through the day.

G: Yeah well we get up at seven.

I: Yeah.

G: We go down. I have to do my piano and then I have to stop at quarter past eight. And then we do the special duet thing.

I: On the piano.

G:Yeah.

I: What you and your brother?

G: No! My mum.

I: (Laughs) ah.

G: It wouldn’t be my brother he is only five (?unclear).

I: He doesn’t play the piano?

G: No. He wants to play the flute though.

I: Ah.

G: Which erm might be a bit hard.

I: Oh I don’t know it is what people play after the recorder.

G: He doesn’t know how to play the recorder.

I: Ah.

G: I know how to play the recorder.

I: No we used to do that at school.

G: After I have played the duet part on the piano I erm go to school.

I: Yeah.

G: Erm (laugh) at school we have got this special routine of doing (..) erm register and then we pick, start with the day before and they get to pick someone to take the register from the list.

 I: Right (..) What and then you have lessons?

G: Yeah then we have lessons. Lessons change. Usually we have register and then we go straight to maths but some times it change, changes.

I: And do you stay at school for lunch?

G: Yes. Well you are not allowed to go home for lunch unless (.) well, no you are not allowed to go home for lunch. Erm so we get to school, everyone has to be at school by nine. If they are not in by, yeah if they are not in by nine they have to go to the school office and say, “I am here.”

I: Hmm. And then you come home from school…

G: At three fifteen. Well we leave at three fifteen so we usually get home at half three or something.

I: Hmm.

G: Sometimes like we go (…) er sometimes we go erm (brrrh sounds with lips stalling for time) er sometimes we like don’t go straight home. Sometimes we go to buy flowers like we did today.

I: Hmmm. Did someone meet you from school?

G: To pick us up?

I: Yeah.

G: Yes usually Mummy but sometimes we have got on a Tuesday… No Mummy picks us up Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Amelia picks us up on Tuesday. Kay picks us up on Monday.

I: And then you come back here and play something?

G: Yeah. Got swimming on Saturday. So we don’t watch, we don’t watch -we usually watch till about nine on a weekend but with swimming my lessons start at half past nine.

I: That’s quite late isn’t it?

G: So I can’t watch till nine even though (unclear) it is quite late but we do have to walk there, and get up and brush our teeth and have breakfast.

I: No that does take a little while.

G: Yeah.

I And do you keep the toys you don’t use any more or do you throw them away or put them somewhere else?

G: Sometimes we give them to the charity shop sometimes with give them to friends. Like this Scribbler we have still got even though we don’t use it (unclear) to a friend.

I: Yes it is nice to give it to a friend.

G: We might keep it. Look you can draw on it with this pen. I don’t know how works though.

I: No.

G: Look it shows up and then you can rub it out (sound of Scribbler erasing).

I: Yes I can remember those. But you don’t use that much any more? No. And what sort of boy do you think you are?

G: Well blond haired.

I: Yes but what sort of personality do you think you have got?

G: Well er active.

I: Um hm.

G: I do, do a lot outside. Erm (.) Ermmm I do a lot outside I er well er I am like…

I: Do you think you are quiet or noisy?

G: I am noisy (laugh).

I: You are noisy (laugh).

G: Yeah noisy. Erm…

I: And do you have lots of friends or just a few best friends?

G: Well I have a few best friends and other friends. And those erm friends the other friends, I am always with my best friends but I have my other friends as well.

I: It looks like your brother is fond of reading and you are the one-

G: He is a bookworm.

I: He’s a what?

G: A bookworm.

I: A bookworm. And you are not a bookworm you are an active worm.

G: (Laughs) yeah.

I: So do you want to get have you got a fluffy toy, well not a fluffy toy but something you like to sleep with at night.

G: Yes I have.

I: Do you want to get it?

G: It is right upstairs.

I: Do you want me to come up or bring it down.

G: Erm I think come up.

I: Come up.

Both move upstairs.

M: How much longer might you be?

I: Not much longer. What I would like to do is take a picture of whoever it is who goes to bed- Minty and then I want to record separately little sounds like the train and the car. And then a panoramic shot and individual shots.

M: Oh right okay.

(Further discussion between interviewer and mother about calling a cab and getting the train).

I: So who is this?

G: Minty!

I: And what’s Minty?

G: He is a lamb.

I: He is a lamb.

G: From?

I: And how long have you had Minty?

G: From?

I: From? Where?

G: Yes.

I: I don’t know?

G: Read it.

I: Ah he is from Lymouth. He is a Lymouth lamb.

G: Yes.

I: Great.

G: Oh I hurt my head.

I: Are you alright?

G: Yes I am fine.

I: I will have to take a picture of Minty.

G: Without his shirt on. Ooh he is naked.

I: (Laughs).

G: I will put his shirt back on.

I: So do you bring him downstairs when you play?

G: Well we don’t really use these toys when we play.

I: Right so these toys just sit here?

G: Yep. Sometimes like when we use these we use these. This is Ben’s.

I: Okay lets do this because I don’t want to run out of time.

G: Shall I put him here or should I be in the photo? Can I be in the photo?

I: No sadly you are not allowed to be in the photo.

G: Why?

I: Because we are not allowed to have people in it you see.

G: Okay.

End Interview.