I: So what I am going to begin with is to say that this is a kind of erm finishing off of the study, or at least this part of the study. So it is partly to explain to Davey, what erm we have been doing. So I don’t know whether you-

D: Wait whose we?

I: What’s we? We the project?

D: No whose we?

M: Whose we.

I: The project is me and Rachel, and Lucy and Mary Jane they are all part of the project. But my part of the project is you and your family and two other families. And right at the beginning we talked to everyone’s mum when they were pregnant and you were nothing but in a big tummy. So that was when it all started. And so I talked to your mum then…

M: Do you know why? Do you know what this is about? Why Sue was talking to me?

I: No? Well it was because we were looking at how a mother has changed for your mother and it was different from her mother or other mothers in a different generation. And if you go back generations it gets even more different. So erm because of that we also talk to erm, well we actually talk to erm your-

M: Louise.

I: Louise.

M: Are you listening?

D: Hmm.

I: Yeah we also talked to Louise because she was a bit like a mum to your mum when she was pregnant and we talked to your mum’s mum as well. All about what it was like to be a mother when they were a mother. That was when it all began see. We went on to talk about other things. And obviously we talked, well not obviously but we talked to your dad as well and got his views on being a dad, you being around and we came back and talked to your mum again and again.

M: (Laugh).

I: And then we did something when you were two years old that I am going to show you on here. And then the other sites we are going to look at is; your favourites (you know when you did all your toys)…

D: Oh yeah.

I: And-

M: Which have probably changed again.

I: Which I will ask you about when we get onto it. And also you know I came into school with you?

D: Oh yeah.

I: So we have got a website that goes through that as well that I am going to show you. But first of all I am going to remind your mum when I first came, do you remember these?

M: (Laughs).

I: (Laughs).

M: Yes. Oh my god. Those slippers have such a big importance in my life. An I remember that, that used to be on your pram I think if I am right or on your Moses basket.

D: Why is it-

M: And then they got moved to the cot. And these were your Winnie the –

I: Do you need a light on.

M: Yeah put the light on. These were your clothes.

D: I thought they were-

M: Oh yeah and he never wore these, these were a present actually.

D: Mum I thought those were-

M: I don’t think he ever got to wear them more than once.

D: I thought those were dirty diapers.

I: No these were-

M: They are not dirty diapers they are clothes. These were slippers, they were given to me before I even got pregnant by somebody who was very special to me who said, here have these slippers keep them in your erm-

D: Can I see?

M: On your shelf somewhere and when you get pregnant you will have a boy and look what happened.

I: Ooh. Have you still got them?

M: No.

I: (Laugh). Oh have you given them to someone else?

M: Yeah I returned the favour (laugh).

I: (Laughs).

D: What happened if like you had a girl?

M: I think the slippers would have changed colours (laugh).

I: (Laughs).

D: (Laugh) bye bye.

M: And I remember this one but I can’t remember if, it used to rattle, it used to go rattle and you used to love looking at it because it had a mirror.

I: I just printed out these few but I have got a whole lot here as well, I did a whole lot more.

M: Oh my god, the pregnancy diary I still have. The books I don’t have any more. Oh wow Beauty and the Beast, Little Red Riding Hood, do you remember these books Davey?

D: I am not a girl.

M: No but do you remember the set?

D: No. because I am not a girl.

M: When you were a baby baby you used to have them.

D: No.

M: But this is the set that I bought you before you were even born.

I: Yes you weren’t born yet and your mum-

D: But how did you know I was a boy?

M: I don’t know. That was why I bought everything for babies, it didn’t matter if you were a boy or a girl.

I: And I was going to also, there are a couple of quotes I was going to read out. This was when erm-

M: I was hormonal by the way.

I: (Laughs).

M: (Laugh).

I: This is actually talking about your dad.

D: Oh.

I :And saying you asked him his views on motherhood and in ten years, he said, he told you, in ten years time he would like to be at home and me working. So you have got until next year.

M: (Laughs). Fine, we are working towards that actually.

I: Saying, he wants me to go back and change my career or start something up even if it means him being a housewife or a house husband he would do it!

M: Yes that still stands.

I: Does it? Great!

D: Not really.

M: Davey you don’t know what we are talking about. Yes it does He is in the bedroom call him and get him and he will tell you.

I: Then a year later in February, well no a bit more than a year later, 2007 which is the second interview, erm you said, yes he still does talk about being a house husband in ten years time. He says when he gets to fifty five he is more than happy to take over.

D: He is not even fifty five yet.

M: Yeah but that still stands. He often says the same thing to me, find a job that pays more money than me, go to work and I will stay at home.

D: Hmm.

I: And would you like that? Your dad at home instead of your mum?

D: I am not going to say it out loud but I am going to do it in action.

I: You don’t what?

M: He is not going to say it out loud but I am going to do it in action.

I: Oh. Okay.

M: There is your answer.

I: (Laugh). Oh well we may not be doing the project but I will come back and ask you next year (laugh).

M: (Laugh).

I: And then this is just from talking, interviews with your dad. This is.

M: Shall I get him to come here?

D: Eh um.

M: Shall I ask him?

I: Well he doesn’t have to.

(Chair scrapes).

D: Mum!

I: That is the chair I know.

M: He is coming.

I: Ah he is coming. Your dad is coming. He doesn’t have to come for all of it unless he wants to.

M: No. He has just gone to get dressed (laugh).

I: (Laughs).

M: Do you want to ask something else until he comes?

I: Yep I want to say about anoynmisation. Because what I want to do at the end is that erm I have got another consent form…

D: Hm hm.

I: That applies to everything. So I think I left one with you last time but this one has got, I think I did but then we forgot all about it. Or at least I did.

M: I don’t know.

I: So I have got one. But it is your consent for us to use this for an archive. Which means that it goes in a public place where people can apply to see these websites and some of the material, you know transcripts of perhaps the day in the life and things like that.

D: Hm hm.

I: And for that I have to make it clear, because your mum knows what it means by anonymsiation and everything but you need to know Davey that we change your names you see, so that people can’t recognize you.

D: So you changed my name to Jack?

I: No we changed your name to David (laugh).

M: (Laugh).

D: I am not my uncle.

I: No, no, no.

M: What about, what about do you want to tell him my name?

I: Yes and your mother’s name is, lovely I think, its Anastasia.

D: (Laughs).

I: Who was a Russian princess of course.

D: And what is his name?

I: Richie.

D: (Laugh).

M: (Laughs).

I: And your surname…

D: Oh god.

I: Is Arben. A, R, B, E, N.

M: Oh really?

I: I don’t know who- you know some of us- I mean I think I might of I chose Anastasia because I like it-

M: I like it.

D: I have got erm-

F: Ooh hello Sue. How are you?

I: (Laughs) I am okay how are you?

F: Good, good, good.

I: I was just quoting you in vain as it were.

D: Tell him his name.

I: Hm?

D: Tell him his name.

M: Your name in the project is Richie.

D: (Laugh).

M: Davey’s is David and mine is Anastasia.

F: Anastasia? Princesses Anastasia.

I: Yes. And your name is Arben A –R-B –E- N.

F: There you go.

I: So there you go. And I was just saying a couple of quotes from the first-

M: Sue can’t see you through.

F: Yeah I know, I know that is why I am coming round here-

I: From the first interviews that I did with you and I was quoting you saying, this when, when Anastasia (laughs) was pregnant, that you would be happy to be a househusband-

F: Oh yes.

I: In ten years time.

F: Yes.

I: Then I asked you again a year later and you were still saying it, so and you said when you were fifty five you would be happy to be at home.

F: (Laugh).

M: (Laugh).

I: (Laugh).

F: And I still am.

I: Are you?

D: For a Week.

F: Yeah.

I: Good.

F: I am lazy.

M: Hm hm.

D: Hey I only get two days off you get a week off.

F: Good.

I: Ah but you get a week on don’t you?

F: Um hm.

D: Yeah. I have five days on.

I: I think they are shorter days though. I think if you added up your hours you might find it is a bit less.

D: It is still more.

M: So I still think that it still stands that you wouldn’t mind me going to work. You always say that to me. For me to go to work soon.

F: Yeah many times. If you can make enough money for me to retire I will.

I: You would have to do all the work at home though.

F: I could do that. I could sleep and watch Eastenders.

M: (Laugh).

F: And then chat on the phone

F: Do all the regular housewife things.

I: Yes? Cook, cook, clean?

F: Oh yeah, yeah we have got loads of things (unclear).

I: (Laughs).

M: (Laughs).

D: I am the chef here now.

I: You are the chef?

D: I am learning to cook.

M: Don’t talk with your mouth full.

I: And the other thing, what else did I quote. Oh yes that you said that- it sounds like court doesn’t it? You said dear lord, you said that you wanted to carry on your name. Do you remember that?

F: Yes there you go.

I: And you said that your niece only had a girl. So obviously, you, me – ‘I am quoting now: me having a boy means that our name is carried on because it is a minor point. Our name is new’. Are you listening Davey? This is for you as well. This is what your dad was saying.

F: Lets have loads of babies all boys and then we can start a dynasty again.

I: Yes that is right. So because you were saying there are only a few of us Arben names around. Is that because it is a change of name? Because I didn’t realize that.

F: Yeah.

I: Right.

D: Heuch!

I: So you are starting a new, a new line.

F: Yeah.

D: Dun, dun dun!

I: That is really good.

M: Dun, dun, dun.

F: He watches too much tv I think that he –

I: (Laughs).

D: I didn’t get that.

I: What?

D: What you just said duh.

M: You didn’t understand that? What he just said?

D: No.

M: Right. So when I married Daddy I took on his surname. When you were born you took on our surname so we are called Arben. When you get married and you have a wife she will have your surname Arben. And if you don’t have kids then that is it there will be no more Arbens after you. But if you have kids their surname will be Arben yeah. So the Rookmen name carries on through generation and generation, right?

D: Unless you have kids.

M: Yeah and if you have a girl and she marries someone else then she will take his name and she won’t have the Arben name so that is the end of the Arben line.

F: So it is a great responsibility to have lots of boys (laughs).

I: Yep so you are going to carry the family name. It is good.

F: You still don’t understand do you?

M: Yeah he does, he is worried about having children.

F: Oh they are right troublemakers.

I: Oh well you don’t have to worry about it yet.

F: Anyway.

I: Yes and the only other thing I noted down, I mean there was lots and lots that you said but was that you were erm very happy, this was erm 2006, you were very happy to take Davey out in a pram on your own because the time that we were in meant that people didn’t stare at people in prams. Cos in the olden days as it were, not so long ago, you know you wouldn’t see a man pushing a pram would you.

D: No.

I: In my parent’s generation who would be quite, well my mum would be a hundred and something now but my dad didn’t push prams around.

F: Change nappies and-

I: Change nappies.

M: But if they were walking down the street wouldn’t they push the pram? Wouldn’t he push the pram?

I: Oh he probably would have done, yes. But on their own-

M: On their own-

I: Yes. People would have though there was something wrong.

M: Yeah.

I: So that was-

M: Yeah so Davey that is a change you know. The making of the modern parent.

I: Yes. So what I am going to go onto next is, do you remember in 2008 the day in the life where I spend a day with erm-

M: And we went to the animal zoo.

I: Yeah.

M: Do you remember?

I: No? You may not because you were only two.

D: Oh.

I: But I am going to show it to you.

D: Bless me (sneezes again).

I: I am going to put it on. Bless you.

D: Thank you.

I: You might have seen this I am not sure.

M: David’s favourite things.

D: I want to know what David’s favourite things are.

I: Yes so what happens is you scroll it like that-

D: Timeline.

I: And then you click on the picture.

(Day in Life audio plays – ‘bulging black bin liners’)

M: They weren’t mine!

(Day in the life audio plays – David was asleep)

D: (Makes mock snoring noises).

I: See then you go down, actually I don’t have to go that far.

(Day in life Audio- contact photos still on the fridge).

M: They are still here.

I: Oh fantastic.

(Day in the Life Audio- ‘up most of the night either watching soaps or making food’)

I: (Laughs).

M: (Laughs). Oh my god. There is you. Do you remember being in there? Yeah?

D: But not that day.

(Day in the Life Audio- ‘I think it was CBeebies but he wasn’t interested’).

F: He never was really, teletubbies and the...

M: Well he was.

D: And that is the end of it.

(Day in the life audio plays –on the dvd)

M: I have still got that DvD.

I: Have you?

(Day in the life audio plays –to sell on Ebay)

D: Ha ha ha.

M: Oh wow look at you.

I: Can’t quite see them.

(Audio- Baby gym- we didn’t take bus).

M: Cos you were.

(Audio – hair tied back quite severely)

M: (Laughs).

I: (Laughs).

(Audio – she tried to loose weight- she only lost a few pounds…)

M: Oh Sue this is so not like my story!

I: Is it not?

M: No. I don’t know I… it is like you are talking about someone else.

I: Really?

M: Yeah.

I: But it is based on what you told me isn’t it.

M: I know,it is, it is, but to me it seems like, someone else.

I: Someone else. How weird.

M: Does that make sense?

I: Kind of yes. I mean I look at my diaries from like long ago and I sound like someone else. I am like why did I do that or-

M: Yeah.

I: Why was I having lunch with them I can’t even remember who they are. Is it like that?

M: It is like a different lifetime ago.

I: Lifetime ago.

M: A parallel universe, not me (laugh). It is. It is. It is spot on.

(Audio- chocolate éclairs).

I: Yeah great.

M: (Laugh).

(Audio – trains going past, David was clearly more interested in trains).

M: (Laughs). Do you remember the train line?

D: Yeah. Mum do you remember that time when it went cock a doodle do (animal noises)!

M: Yeah the ducks had a go at him.

I: Oh right.

M: He was annoying the ducks and they were so quiet and then all of a sudden they went woooo!

I: (Laughs).

(Audio plays – feeding the sheep).

M: Wait a minute do I hear ducks in the background?

I: Yes the film people put in a few animal noises.

(Audio plays – I was impressed how often her phone rang).

I: (Laughs).

M: (Laughs).

D: Is that it?

I: No nearly it.

(Audio plays – also eating from it herself)

M: (Laughs).

(Audio plays – David’s uncle arrives and says –hello big boy).

D: (Laughs).

(Audio plays- She looked quite at home behind the bar).

I: (Laughs).

M: (Laughs).

F: She has quite a few friends at the bar now.

M: Oh that seem like a… oh like… ah… bits of it seem real but some bits seem unreal. And I know, it is all there but it just –

I: Doesn’t seem like you?

M: No.

I: Isn’t that interesting?

M: What do you think?

F: It is like a Beetles record company – A day in the life- yeah (laughs)?

I: (Laughs).

M: No I think what it is, is because my life before being a mum; having a career, working you know and doing, doing what I was doing working my way up and it was good and the travelling and fun and then all of a sudden you change and become a mum (…) and you are a bit spaced out really. Now I can look back and say I was quite (.) not spaced out in terms of his (unclear) but I was just saying in terms of the whole life (.) in general. I mean looking back I know myself as that before Davey and those two years were hard. They were really hard. And now I, I associate myself with what I was like before Davey was born and I know myself as that so looking at this, well it is that period where you just think, oh god can you just forget about that please?

I: Yes.

M: Because it was a really hard time and…

I: So you sort of like put a parenthesis around it, you sort of bracket round it, do you?

M: Yeah.

I: You sort of put it on one side.

M: Yeah and I think I sort of came out of that, I don’t know like probably when I went back to working (laugh).

D: (Laughing).

M: Because it is different you are so, because you know when you are working all your life you are in a routine and you give it up to stay at home you sort of feel, and I mean not in bad way I don’t mean that in any bad way but you feel handcuffed. You think, okay I am a mum now and this is my world and I don’t know anything but that and you don’t see anything else around you apart from your kid. You are oblivious to (.) you want to have the life you had and you can’t. And then you really feel handcuffed, and I don’t know at what point I snapped out of that period but now I can associate myself a bit more with my previous-

I: How you were before?

M: Yeah. Because I get to go out quite a lot, I socialize a lot. I have made a lot of friends through work. Going back to study as well with work. And it builds you up. Going back to work builds your confidence back up again. And yeah so that’s, and now I feel like I am getting back to, I am beginning to recognize myself (laughs).

I: The person you were before.

M: Yes (laughs). Which is why looking at this bracketed off period-

I: Yeah.

M: That you are showing me I am thinking, oh no. But you know I am not regretting it, I am not begrudging it. It was hard, I mean am not going to lie it was the hardest time of my life. Cos not having help, it was just kind of us three.

I: Yes.

M: Pretty much.

I: Yeah. No I think it was a hard time and you were in that tiny flat.

M: Yeah.

I: Which doesn’t make it any easier.

M: No, no and the neighbours didn’t help.

I: So Davey.

D: Yes.

I: What did you think of it?

D: Great.

I: No really was it interesting? Did you like it? Did you remember any bits of it at all? What did you think?

D: Interesting.

I: Yeah?

F: Is it like a story you would read from a book? You didn’t recognize yourself there did you?

D: No David’s timeline.

M: But even if your name was Davey in the film do you recognize any of those pictures or…

F: Jog your memory?

D: No that is why I said interesting, because I don’t remember.

I: Yes because you were two so it is hard to remember. I mean I don’t remember much if anything. I mean I don’t have any memory of being two, so I am not surprised.

F: Yeah, I don’t remember.

M: Does it feel like this story is about you?

D: Er …yes so?

M: No I mean I am being honest when I say that to me, like for me it was like listening to a story about someone else. Although I know that was-

D:No it is about me.

M: Yeah I know.

I: Yes.

D: No I am saying it is about me.

M: Yeah it is about you but I am just-

D: Yes.

F: And can you remember nursery?

D: Yesss.

F: That was how many years ago?

M: He was three at the time.

F: Five years ago Davey.

I: Five years ago.

M: Wow.

F: This was before that nursery.

M: Do you know something Sue it is really amazing to-

D: I can just about remember.

M: Have somebody show you-

F: Well that is why it-

M: Because well to some extent you know when you experience a hard time in your life and then you try and block it off in many ways and it wasn’t that hard but it was hard. And then to see it. Because you forget in time you forget about a lot of stuff.

I: Yes, yes you do.

M: Especially like what my thoughts were when I was pregnant. And to have somebody, I mean I might have read a diary but to have somebody to show you or, this was you, this is what you wanted, this is what you were thinking, it is quite impressive to be reminded of it and to reflect. And then I think, why was I thinking that, why… and yeah.

I: I think we should go on. Unless was there anything you liked about it or didn’t like about it?

F: Davey?

M: He is thinking.

I: He is thinking. No?

M: What was funny?

F: You didn’t know what to think or?

D: Nothing I just stare at stuff sometimes because it makes my eyes a bit funny.

M: Okay, all right so but we are asking you was there anything funny there?

D: No.

I: No (laughs).

D: Apart from I can’t understand. Too adult stuff (laugh).

I: Too much adult stuff. Yeah because you are only a little person there so if you can’t remember it it is very difficult to relate.

F: That is very grown up of you Davey to understand that.

M: Cool shall we move onto the next one then?

I: Yeah, yeah. So the next one is really when we began this study which is called Face2Face. And then we were looking at a bit about time which is why we were going through school with you to see how different times of day, to see what you do in different times of the day and also like digital things as well, like to see how much time children were spending with screens and iPads and Xboxes and things and iPhones and things like that. So erm we got more funding to do that and to explore erm like children’s lives. So it was decided that we would look at the families that we had done for the previous one which was all about motherhood but concentrating on you, the seven to eight year olds that were part of the study. Because there is another five families and all the children are the same age as you. So erm that is when we came round and asked you about your favourites. And I think you have seen this one although I don’t think you have seen it recently.

D: I think I know which one you are talking about.

I: Do you? Because we had a look at it that time didn’t we?

(Plays multi media)

I: I don’t know if you have seen it?

D: I don’t think I have seen any of it. Oh yes.

I: Remember this one?

M: Oh there is some funny stuff in here.

I: (Laughs).

D: This is the one that I was thinking of.

I: Yes.

F: Wow that is a busy room.

I: Isn’t that a busy room? But the time I came back in February it had all changed, it was much less busy. I mean you had got out a lot of toys for me so that was the case but there were still a lot of things around. And that hanging thing was full of fluffy toys which I think it wasn’t when I came back in February. But which one do you want me to press on so you can listen to it? Any one in particular?

D: Um ah.

I: Ah.

I: (Plays audio – ‘what do you like best about your toys?). Hang on a minute –

M: There was a guitar one that was funny.

I: Let’s put that on.

D: What was so funny about the guitar?

M: I don’t remember but it was one that was quite funny.

F: When was this, last year?

I: This was last November.

D: It looks like Christmas because I remember all the lights.

M: Yeah well we put our decorations up quite early.

(Plays audio – ‘what do you like best about your toys? …. I get sad and I can’t sleep without him).

D: True.

I: Do you still sleep with Barnaby?

D: Um hm.

I: Good.

(Plays audio- all about the guitar.)

D: Where is the funny-

M: And since then… Hm Davey has got a real guitar.

I: Oh fantastic. Let’s here it.

(David playing guitar).

F: You can really hear the tune.

D: She makes me do that. Hi [younger brother] this one is for you.

F: I think Sue was one of those, you were there weren't you Sue?

I: Hm. Um hmm.

D: That was it.

I: That’s very good. Excellent.

D: She made me do that at the beginning.

I: Right what do you want? Do you want the Darlek or do you want the guns?

D: Darlek.

(Plays audio about Dr Who. ‘We watch all the episodes’).

M: Not any more.

F: It is a bit too scary now.

D: No it is because they are not out.

M: They are scary.

D: No it is because they are not all out yet and there is a new doctor.

(Plays audio – talking about board games).

I do know my two times table.

I: No I think that is really thoughtful what you said. What about this one?

(Plays audio- the guns)

D: (Laughing).

S: Now do you want any more or have you had enough of that and want to go onto something else?

F: Had enough.

M: Enough.

I: Enough?

D: The phone.

M: The phone?

I: You want the phone?

D: (Laughs) I want to see how much chatterbox I did.

(Plays audio about phone).

M: So Davey has made a book in regards to Minecraft. Because Minecraft is his world now and he watches it on YouTube, on the television, on the iPad, on the phone on the Xbox.

I: Everything.

M: Yeah. Everything is Minecraft.

I: So you really like it? What do you like about it?

D: It never ends.

I: It never ends.

M: Yeah you build your own world.

I: Ah well what is your favourite world?

D: Well you can’t really have a favourite world, well you can but-

M: What did you build in your world?

D: I have built loads of things. I have built hunger games, I have built combat, I have built funland, I have built pyramid –well I am still building that.

F: School.

D: Yeah.

M: Legoland?

D: Um um.

I: That sounds really good, it sounds like there is so much on it-

D: And like ten houses.

I: Ten houses? Sounds like a developer.

F: It is one of those games that has infinite possibility of what you can create.

D: Yeah that is the fun of Minecraft it never ends.

I: It never ends.

D: Unless you run out of resources.

I: And going back to the one you just watched about your favourites, are any of those your favourite now or do you think you have changed.

D: Er there is still one favourite that I have.

F: Is Barnaby your favourite or not? I think Barnaby is still your favourite but I think it is like your mum, you take it for granted that it is always there.

I: Yes.

F: And his current favourite, the new kid on the block is this Minecraft thing. It is like a virus so many kids have got, so many of his school friends.

I: So they are all doing it?

F: And literally the minute he encounters his friends at school he is erm in tech with them, he has his friends over and they talk about them.

D: I actually have three. DJ Banana.

I: Ooh. What do you call him?

D: DJ Banana.

I: DJ Banana. He looks pretty amazing (laughing) And who is the other two?

F: Hmm I think it will hit the floor when Minecraft doesn’t take off (laughing).

I: Yep.

D: Pig, Bacon.

I: Bacon awh poor old pig.

D: Yeah a pig called Bacon. I have it for lunch sometimes.

I: (Laughs).

D: That is why he has got no tail.

I: What because you have eaten it?

D: Yeah.

I: Ho ho. Well I hope Barnaby is kind.

F: It is funny you don’t think about this stuff any more. You see them and you think, oh he doesn't play with them anymore.

D: Actually there are three more.

I: Oh.

D: There is Soft Cushion, this Bean-

F: Beanbag.

I: Beanbag. And yey good old Barnaby. I would be disappointed if Barnaby didn’t come out.

M: Yeah he often, mum please go into my room and get me Barnaby. For sleeping he has Barnaby.

I: Awh.

F: Mainly but he has sometimes gone to sleep without Barnaby. In sleeping we see him reaching for it.

M: Do you still like your Xbox and your phone?

F: You know since last November he got an Xbox because that wasn’t in his room then was it?

M: No.

F: November that was the interview wasn’t it?

I: Well in the day in the life he got the Xbox.

F: Oh right.

D: Yeah.

I: So that is on that.

F: Was that last year?

M: It was this year.

I: And I think you were going to get an iPad?

M: He did.

I: You got an iPad.

F: He is not really interested in that because it is-

M: He has got the phone and the Xbox.

I: That’s it.

F: The phone is more handy and these are more comfortable.

D: I was going to get another game on the Xbox but (unclear).

F: Snail mail Davey, snail mail.

D: Do you remember when I ordered that thing and it didn’t come?

M: Yes don’t worry Davey I have to go and pick it up from the collection point.

I: So how do you think, do you think you have changed in any other ways since we did the favourites last-

D: Yeah.

I: November. How do you think you have changed?

D: Age.

I: You probably got a bit taller as well. But anything else?

D: Um.

I: Anything about the way you think or-

D: Yeah.

I: Yeah how is that then? (Pause, laughs).

F: Davey this is talking about your toys.

M: Davey come and sit down.

I: Right we have got one more to go but was there anything you didn’t like about that?

D: Yes.

I: What?

D: Nothing.

I: So nothing you didn’t like about it?

D: Hm.

I: Anything in particular you did like about it?

D: Um mm.

M: So you liked it all the same or was there something you liked more?

D: Er one thing.

M: What’s that?

D: That I didn’t like. Too much information about my phone.

I: About your phone? I don’t think that is too bad.

D: It is a bit too much.

F: It shows you what you were thinking. What your mind was concentrating on.

I: Well you were talking about Mindcraft a lot so that is-

D: Mine –craft.

I: Right now this one which is the day in the life-

D: Hm I don’t remember this one.

M: At school.

I: When I came to school with you.

D: Oh that one.

I: Now this is sort of consultation because this is going into the archive. At the University of Sussex they have got a mass observation archive that is looking at childhood today. So they are starting to collect aspects of, you know it is a bit like the history of how children are today. So the stuff that we are collecting from Davey and the other children is starting this archive off. And people can apply to look at things. I mean you could apply to look at more things expect that you would, we could see them up here. But other things that aren’t anything to do with the project you could apply to look at it. So erm we would like some feedback. Not necessarily now because you might want to look at it at your leisure. See what you think.

F: How do you come up with these names? Is it a name generator?

D: You could have called me Martin.

I: Well basically it was a bit of a, well we weren’t in a hurry exactly but we had done it for the interviews that were going to have bits put in articles. So we had to all of a sudden think of names that weren't their names because we had to keep them totally anonymous. And erm I know I didn’t pick David for you so someone else must have done that, but I did pick Anastasia for you (laugh) and I think I picked Richie because I quite like that.

F: David is one of his friends.

I: Oh really, well that is very funny. Well I didn’t know that.

M: (Laugh).

I: Now where am I. Who am I. Yes so we have a clock in the middle because we are thinking about time. How it goes through the day and I am going to put it on… And this has just got audio clips so I took audio clips with this which are the background noises and then writing comes up so it is not quite the same as the others.

D: I can’t see my name.

F: Yes that is so that people who are reading it don’t know who you are.

I: Yes it is anonymous.

F: So your face is not showing too much in these photographs.

I: And this is your, well I will come to your (unclear) because your teacher is off sick sadly, I didn’t get to meet your teacher. Oh that is the one I meant where he is doing all the nice drawings.

D: Oh look Richie.

M: Oh look Zulu. Do you remember it Davey?

D: (Singing) In the jungle the mighty jungle, the lions come tonight.

I: I don’t think, that is not Zulu?

M: Me me ma le ku la (reading from screen??).

D: Oh it is a singer.

M: Is it?

D: It is a singer that I have forgotten his name.

M: Sing the song.

D: I forgot but it is a singer that Lydia was going to see.

M: Oh right.

(Audio plays).

D: Good afternoon, who is talking? PE.

I: You nearly won the statues.

D: (Sighs).

I: Do you remember? You were the last out but one.

D: So I came second?

I: Yes.

D: We had to draw round our hands.

I: I didn’t get an audio for it.

D: That’s tiny, see our hands?

F: Tomorrow he is going to his music lesson. He is going every Saturday.

I: Ah which sort, guitar or-

D: Drums.

I: Drums.

M: And music technology.

I: Oh great.

F: It is going to be the main (unclear)

D: (Laughs).

M: Electronic style and doing things on the computer.

I: Hmm. Fantastic. So you are going to be a tune writer.

D; (Singing to himself).

(Audio plays).

M: Did I meet you that day?

D: Yes you came to pick us up.

M: I can’t remember (mumbling).

D: End of the day and then back home.

I: See that is when I showed you the favourites.

M: Like what?

I: Like being shot in your bum when you were-

M: Oh yeah. If he didn’t have the kids over it would have been a completely different routine.

F: What is that Davey (laughing) if Seth wasn’t there?

D: If Seth wasn’t there I would be Charlie Brown.

I: So what did you think of that Davey, was it a typical day?

D: Yes.

I: Although the teacher wasn’t there so I suppose it wasn’t very typical.

D: It was raining.

I: Yes but you did normal things you do when it is raining.

D: Jump in muddy puddles.

M: Oh that is Peppa Pig.

I: So I don’t know if there is anything any of you, including you, would want to change in that or anything you didn’t like? Because that is what we want to consult you about. Which doesn’t have to be now, hopefully you can bring it up on your laptop because it is listed on that modern mothers website.

M: Yeah. I don’t think I would like to change any of it. Would you?

F: I mean it is basically a document of a day it is not a-

M: Yeah. But the thing you have to understand when you have a visitor as a parent, as a child rather-

I: Hmm.

M: It is not going to be exactly as-

F: Not a normal day.

M: Yeah not a normal day. When he was a baby that portrays more reality than now, because now he acts differently if someone is here. They act different, they talk different, they get away with a lot more because someone is here.

I: Right yeah.

M: Do you understand? So the routine we normally have which is come home from school, do homework after homework you can play if there is time, if there isn’t read a book, make sure you brush your teeth, go to bed, eat your dinner, da da de de. That is always the routine and in the process it doesn’t always go quite smoothly there is always ups and downs and that.

F: And a lot of shouting going on.

I: (Laughs).

M: Yeah so it does, to some extent it does like the time that Richie was here and he came and did the school thing. When there is a child here that is what happens they go to their room they do their thing. They record their thing they put it on YouTube, technology, Minecraft-

D: No.

M: They are hardly… I don’t even know they are in the house. Because there is-

I: There is two of them doing it.

M: Two or three of them. But that doesn’t happen on a weekly basis. It is not a once a week thing. Sometimes it is twice a week sometimes it might not be for three weeks he didn’t have a play date. Sometimes he goes out but in general, I would say, to some extent it does portray him but the other time we did a day in the life that was more sort of real because we did the, when they are little they don’t know how to act because there is someone around because they are more natural.

I: It is just how they are.

M: Yeah.

I: I suppose you could say it was a typical day when someone was visiting.

M: Yeah, yeah.

I: But not a typical day, which is the majority when you are on your own.

F: Acting is better (laughs).

I: So do you think with that one we caught a little bit about time. So the time as you go round the day so there is busy noisy times and there is quieter times.

F: Well the thing is you follow him.

I: Yeah.

F: So his day is complete in that sense from the moment he wakes up, school and that day he had physical activity and musical whatever you want to call it.

M: Yeah.

F: Whereas normally it is an academic day. At school it will be all about reading or whatever.

M: You got quite a lot of hyperness in that day because there were friends here after school so that was it you know hyper and then music and PE. Erm the canteen at school that is quite-

I: Phew it is full on that canteen.

M: Yeah.

F: But er that is what the kids are like at school.

M: Yeah the school, I think you got the school spot on 100%, even though the time table varied a bit. But in terms of, I mean even with him he was quite natural when Richie was here. It is just when he is around me or you, it is like better be on my best behaviour mummy said to me (laughs).

F: Mummy said be on your best behaviour or you won’t get to play on your Xbox.

I: Are you on your best behaviour? (All grown ups laugh). What did you think of your voice, hearing your own voice?

D: Nah.

F: Did you recognize it as your voice?

D: No because I sound like (squeaky voice) a mouse.

M: Well that is what you sound like (laughs).

F: That is what you sound like to us.

M: Because in your head you will hear your voice differently to us.

I: Yes.

M: But do you think when Sue came to see you at school, if someone said I want to see what your life is like at school do you think that is a true…

F: Portrayal.

M: Portrayal of what your day is like at school?

D: I don’t understand a word you are saying.

M: Stop doing that. Right I am saying to you if you had a pen pal you know a friend in another country who has never visited England and they wanted to say can you show me what a day in school is like if we sent them this do you think that is a true day in your life?

D: Yeah. Yeah yeah.

M: So it shows your day perfectly?

I: Yeah?

M: Is that still the same now in Year 4? How is it different now?

D: Harder work.

M: Harder work yeah. They are strict a lot more, they have to be quiet and listen.

I: Yeah I will have to come back and do another one.

M: Why not. You could extend this up until they are teenagers.

I: It would be good to come back in a few years.

F: This is the modern version of 7up.

M: See the real babysitter and the working mother.

I: That is right.

M: I am actually, the fact that I said that when I was pregnant, that you said that when I was pregnant, in ten years time I am happy to stay at home if you go back to work, I have started, I am in the process, slowly, slowly.

I: Yes, yes. And I wanted to ask like you have all, because you were in your mum’s tummy as it were been involved in the project for well since 2005. I mean there was a bit of a break between 2009/10 and now when we were writing up, before we got this new project. What is it like to be in a project for that long? How has it been is what I mean?

M: Shall I start? For me it felt more like I had made a friend.

I: Good.

M: It didn’t feel like your life was being scrutinized or-

I: Good.

M: It wasn’t anything difficult. It was quite fun to be part of it and to think that some day somebody could use that information. For some statistic as small as it may be you know.

I: Yes or not even a statistic. More like documenting what life is like-

M: In central London (laugh). No it was, did you think it was okay about Sue coming to do this project?

I: Did it make you feel different or special or anything at all?

D: Erm no not really.

M: Did it make you feel bad?

D: No.

M: Did it make you feel good?

D: No.

M: What about the fact that somebody might be looking one day on the internet and looking at all of this and you are talking about your toys? Does that not make you feel good that somebody is er understanding what it is like to be a child in this age?

D: Yes and no.

I: Yes and no?

D: Yes because it is information…

M: And no?

I: And no?

(Pause).

D: Because I don’t really want them to hear about my stuff really.

I: You don’t want them to hear about your stuff?

D: Because some kids this age they don’t have toys to sleep with. And I might feel embarrassed.

I: They might or you might?

D: I might.

M: Oh I am sorry I keep on saying to him there are children out there that don’t have-

D: No I am talking about the children that, they are old enough…

M: Yeah old enough for what?

D: Old enough not to sleep with toys.

M: Oh okay. But it is okay, I slept with a toy until I was twenty one.

D: Hm you realize that this is recording?

M: Yes.

I: Yes I do and I think some people they may not sleep with a toy but they may have them next to them on the bed or something.

M: How would you feel if you saw something like this a day in a child’s life. So you know Martin he is ninety eight how would you feel about reading about him as a child say about ninety years ago? If you saw a recording from ninety years ago what would you think? Would you think wow life is so different now? And that is why we are doing this because a hundred years later from today-

D: A hundred-

M: Okay say ninety years later you will be Martin’s age yeah? You will be ninety eight. And someone would look at that and say this is what it was like when Davey was eight years old, this is what it was like when Martin was eight years old and later on, years later it will be like this is what it is like when they were eight years old. And you can compare the differences between how mothers coped, the toys they had available, the children, the books, the education. Wouldn’t you think that is interesting to look back and see how things have changed?

(Pause).

I: Maybe I will come back and ask you in five years time.

F: Maybe you will be playing with your iPhone 20 or something.

I: That is right. And you will say Minecraft did I do that?

D: No I am never going to give up Minecraft.

I: You are never going to give up Minecraft?

F: Well that is a good thing to write down and then we can look at that. Because eventually you will want other things.

I: Or maybe you will be so clever that you will make up more things Minecraft.

F: Yeah.

I: Or a different parallel game.

M: A parallel game for Minecraft.

I: That is right. But you are going to be a singer song writer aren’t you?

D: No.

I: No. The electronic-

F: Train driver?

I: Train driver?

M: You do music technology at school don’t you like that?

D: Yes.

M: I mean it is your Saturday school but don’t you-

D: Yes but I don’t want to be a singer.

I: Ah sorry about the singer bit. But you could play the guitar and use technology to make the music bit. Would that be good?

D: Really what I do is beats with other beats.

I: That is how it starts.

F: Starts, yes. Calvin Harris made £30 million this year putting beats in front of beats.

I: And how about you do you feel you have been part of the project? It has been more-

F: Yes it has been more sort of child based. I am on the peripheral which is fine. Its er when you look back there are things you have forgotten. Obviously you have read to me some of the comments that I have made.

I: Hm. And you can have your interviews if you wanted.

F: Because I am saying the comments I have made, well I am being honest because years later I am still that person.

I: You are.

M: Whereas to me it doesn’t seem me like that. That is the difference.

F: Well I think for a mother it is a bit more and I have always recognized that. The mother is the creator. (Laughs). I was just there for a couple of minutes.

I: (Laughs).

M: I just had a thought as well, you know if you were doing this fifty years ago you know how I said to you looking back at this period in brackets. So I am looking at myself thinking is me that person and I am skipping those years in my head of being pregnant. And I see myself as that person before the bracket time and this time it is quite sort of boom shocking. Whereas probably if you asked a mum at the end of the project fifty years ago they would probably have said it was a natural thing, a normal thing to do. Because back in the day you got married you had kids it was the normal thing to do, whereas in my generation-

F: Well this is part of the project I presume.

M: That is what I am saying, like in my generation I was very independent, very independent like compared to my mum, think about it. Nobody has forced me to stay at home, to be a wife, to, it happened because it happened. But I am saying I had a job, I travelled a lot, I studied a lot, went to university on my own… Do you know what I mean? You are having an independent life and it is nothing to what would have happened if this had happened a hundred years ago. It is completely different.

I: Yes it is totally different.

M: What is expected, what was expected of you is no longer expected of you in this generation. And because you are independent you no longer have that expectancy on your back from nobody. I don’t come from a, how can I say this without offending. I don’t come from a religious background where they force me to do certain things or where I feel that I have to do certain things. So I am my own person and I love my own company-

I: Yeah.

M: And then to have a little thing rely on me.

I: Yes it is a responsibility.

M: Yeah. Anything else can you think of anything?

F: Erm I don’t know I am just you know observing it all.

M: It makes it look real doesn’t it?

F: It is real. It has always been real for me.

M: When somebody sees, when you see your life as an outsider.

I: Yes when you know that somebody is going to look in and see you yes not as you, as somebody sort of thing.

M: Even I because I-

I: You were sort of objectifying yourself in a way. Thinking is that, who is that?

M: Yeah.

F: I think it is sort of in a soap opera we see this storyline, everything has to happen, bang bang you know. All these big events. Whereas in reality it is sort of trickle, trickle. You just go through the day and there is a little change next week and then a little change. And then a year or two down the line it is like you are somebody different.

I: Yes.

F: And then you don’t recognize the person you were two years before and to the extent that two years after you may be someone totally different. To your core you are the same person but your behaviours and attitudes have changed.

M: I think I am getting myself back to this person I recognize whereas fifty years ago a mother will not-

F: The thing is we live in a different world now. I don’t think people will go back to that. Fifty years ago, I don’t even think fifty years ago-

M: Hey maybe fifty years from now-

F: In the early sixties-

M: They won’t give birth.

F: Yeah well-

I: Yeah.

F: They are doing that already. In the early sixties men and women started to work independently.

I: That is right yes.

F: We are talking fifty years ago. Fifty years ago is not that long ago.

I: No it is not that long ago and girls were wanting to stay longer at school and have careers and education and work. Whereas previously it wasn’t.

M: When did women start voting?

F: Was it early twenties? Emmeline Pankhurt.

I: That is right the Suffragettes. And another thing I had to say is that at Sussex they have got another year or so doing another project to which this is a bit related. Although I probably won’t be doing anything on it as there is no more interviewing. Which is called Curating Childhoods which is a bit like, it is the archive. So you know you get a curator in the museum it is a bit like building up a collection in the archive of documents and things. And they might have sort of events where they will want feedback from families who have been in our research. And also there might be a workshop I think, probably in Brighton which I think I mean if they have it I don’t know what the plans are because it has only just started but you will be invited.

M: Will you be there?

I: I think I would go yes. I would certainly go. And I think you know if you were invited expenses would be paid for and I would like to think that if you wanted to go that the children are invited as well. So erm would you be happy to be invited and involved in that?

M: Why not? We have done nine years of it we can do a few more.

I: Yes (laugh).

F: I mean you talk about us but I mean it has been nearly nine years since you have been involved.

M: How do you feel yeah?

F: Since he was born you have known him.

I: Yes I feel sort of privileged to have this window in your sort of involvement in Davey’s sort of growing up from baby and your sort of evolution if you like from someone who had been working, and then not working and then you were pregnant so I have seen everything evolve but talk to you about it too. It is not just an observation. And I feel it is a real privilege and I feel that I have made a friend, which doesn’t always happen with other people as well.

M: Awh. Did I meet you in Mothercare or was that somebody else? It was somebody else. Was it you?

I: I think it was me, yes.

M: Wood Green.

I: Yes we were in [council district] and [council district]. Me and Rachel but I seem to remember that.

M: Oh my god and I was shopping.

F: Yes and I was having a go at her because she was giving her phone number out to everybody. That is why she was getting calls from everyone.

I: (Laughs) Ah well she didn’t give her phone number to us. Because we had questionnaires that you filled in and if you wanted to be in the study-

F: And email addresses that was it.

I: You sent back a thing in a stamped addressed envelope saying that you wanted, that you were happy to be in the study and we can contact you on this number. So we didn’t ask people, I wouldn’t expect anyone to give their personal details.

M: How many did you start with?

I: We had sixty-two. Half in [city] and half in [town] because it was erm the Open University then. So half of the women interviewed were up there and half were down here. And then we picked four families from down… no we had twelve to start with, about I think half each. Because we had three bits to the research as you get funding-

M: What did you base it on? Why was I picked that is what I want to know? Why not some other random person (laughing).

End of interview.