**Jasmine**

18th feb. 2nd visit. Favourite things interview and impromptu family interview

**Pseudonyms**

YP = Jasmine

Older sister (carer) = Jess

Jasmine’s daughter = Rhea

Everything about today’s interview didn’t go ‘to plan.’ Jasmine didn’t have her favourite thing from the past, she hadn’t thought of one for the present and then A. came home in the middle of the interview and we had an impromptu family interview and I had no idea what questions I was meant to be asking since I hadn’t planned on doing it. It all felt very messy but at the same time really nice – more like hanging out and chatting and observing what daily life is like for Jasmine, Jess and Rhea.

I’m sitting on the train now on my way back from Jasmine’s house. I got there at midday to do the favourite things interview – as arranged via What’s app. . When I last saw Jasmine we agreed that when we next met we would do the family interview with Jess followed by the favourite things things interview but when I tried to contact Jasmine’s sister Jess I couldn’t get in touch with her so rather than hold things up I just arranged with Jasmine to just do the favourite things interview.

When I arrived Jasmine was in some fleecy black trousers and a big baggy white T shirt with her hair half up. She was holding Rhea who was a little unsettled this time. We went and sat down on the sofa in the open plan living room / kitchen and I felt that awkward feeling I get when interviewing someone who is also attending to their baby. The baby is clearly more important than the interview and I feel insensitive ploughing on with my agenda when the mum is being so attentive to the baby. So I sat on the sofa and chatted for ages while Jasmine soothed Rhea – rubbing her back and holding her, giving her a dummy and a bottle of water. I asked if we could carry on regardless and Jasmine said yes so I went over the consent form. There was then another pause as Rhea grumbled some more. Then we agreed to start. I reminded Jasmine that this was the favourite things interview and she said she had thought of one from the past but couldn’t think of one from the present. This is when I started recording.

We started with the favourite thing from the past and Jasmine told me that it was a stuffed unicorn and a stuffed Ernie that her mum gave to her as a child Jasmine didn’t have them with her and told me that they are at her old house or possibly with her mum who now lives with her Nan, outside of London. As she was talking I was thinking about the fact that I wouldn’t be able to get a photo of her ‘favourite thing’ as instructed, but also how indicative the absence was of Jasmine’s life and situation. In her interview she talked about the fact that she has moved lots of times throughout her life and so doesn’t have any of her childhood stuff with her and also that she doesn’t see her mum anymore, who she suspects does have what is left of her childhood things.

I then asked Jasmine what her current favourite thing was now. She wasn’t sure but immediately said that it *wasn’t* her mobile phone. This started a really interesting conversation about mobile phones and she started talking – unprompted – about the difference between face to face and BBM conversations, suggesting that BBM chats are more vicious and hard to handle. For Jasmine, not having a phone for three months amounted to a break.

We then started talking about what her favourite thing might be and Jasmine chose a lipstick and the earrings that she was wearing. We were talking about this when her sister Jess came home.

I found this awkward. We stopped the interview when Jess arrived but since we hadn’t finished I remained sitting there, chatting and suddenly all the boundaries weren’t clear. Jess was bustling around – her phone was going pretty much non-stop (messages I think), she was making lunch for her and Jess and cuddling Rhea whilst chatting to me and Jasmine. A package had arrived whilst she was out – a dress she had ordered on ebay. She whipped her top off and tried it on but her and Jasmine both agreed it was horrible and would have to be sent back. She kept saying that it looked good on the screen. She got the image up on her phone and showed us an image of an elegant, classy dress that looked nothing like the cheap number she had ended up with. We all agreed – better on-screen than off. After that, Jess said how hungry she was, a pizza went in the oven and Jess started making a salad.

Whilst we were chatting I asked Jess about doing a family interview and she agreed and got her diary out to select a date. We suggested a few and then Jess suggested doing it now – she said that she had 20 minutes before she had to go again. I agreed but was thinking inside about the fact that I hadn’t brought the list of questions with me and couldn’t really remember what they were. I quickly tried to find them on my phone but couldn’t get any reception in their living room. I thought I remembered that it was something about an average family day so I started asking some questions. Jess didn’t stop what she was doing at first (filling in a tax credit form, making lunch, checking her messages) and when I asked if it was ok to ‘start’ she said - yeah – in a tone like what was I waiting for – she was ‘multi-tasking’!. Since I was unprepared, Jess was multi-tasking, Jasmine was looking after Rhea and watching TV it all felt very unstructured. Of course the ‘data’ was right in front of me since I was observing Jasmine, Jess and Rhea doing their ‘everyday’ stuff. Jess bustling around rushing between singing lessons and work, constantly on her phone, checking on Jasmine and Rhea, whilst Jasmine was chilling on the sofa with Rhea – much ‘slower’ than Jess, as they described.

After Jess left, Jasmine and I got back to the favourite things interview but the momentum was lost. We talked a little bit more and then I took some photos. She showed me where the lipstick was in the bathroom and then I asked to take a photo of her bedroom. It was only then that I realized that her ‘bedroom’ was the room we had been sitting in – doubling or trebling up as the sitting room and kitchen. I could see how much that one room is her domain, cosy and happy on the sofa with Rhea nearby, the tv to watch and the kitchen not far away. I hope for her that it lasts and she can stay in one place for a while.

At the end I asked her how she had found the interview and she said it wasn’t awkward for her and that it was all ok. She said that she is used to talking to people and it seemed that way. She has seemed very open and comfortable with having me on her sofa both times I have been there. It unsettles me slightly that she is so open to me.

She agreed to do the day in the life interview and said she would rather do it on a school day. She gave me the contact details at her school.

**Themes**

* Needing a break from the phone (for Jasmine). Face-2-face conflict being easier to deal with than on-line.
* Teenage phone life as more intense but as slower paced. Growing up as getting busier and faster but less emotionally intense.
* TV and phones as most important (ipads less so)
* Jasmine not identifying as using her phone / social media very often. Jess identifying Jasmine as using social media and her phone a lot.
* Importance of face to face contact for the sisters in their large fractured / spread out family. Being there and watching Rhea starring at Jasmine’s face the whole time.