Key:

**I: Interviewer**

R1: Aaron (father)

R2: Lindsay (mother)

R3: Jordan (brother)

R4: Thomas (brother)

R5: Megan

s.l. sounds like

**I: If you just said who you were, err, and then it’ll hopefully…I’ll be able to pick it up later on where people are in the room.**

R1: Yeah, well, I’m Dad, Aaron.

**I: Okay.**

R2: Jordan?

R3: I’m Jordan.

R2: Who are you? To Megan?

R3: Umm, her sister.

All: (Laughs).

R3: Brother.

R4: I’m Thomas, her brother.

R2: And I’m Lindsay, her mum.

**I: Okay. Err, so we’re just gonna talk through what’s a typical day so if we focus on, like, a weekday, err, that might be easier to start off with. So from when the first person wakes up, what’s a…what’s a typical day?**

R1: That would be me. Err, a typical day, err, I set my alarm for twenty past five. I just hit the snooze button three or four times.

**I: Yeah?**

R1: And then get up at quarter to six and then I make the…I make them sandwiches. I make everybody’s sandwiches first thing in the morning.

**I: Yeah?**

R1: Before they get up. Err, I usually finish that about half past six and then sort myself out some breakfast and then I leave for work seven o’clock in the morning. I’m usually gone before everybody gets up.

**I: So you’re the really early riser of them?**

R1: I’m the really early riser, yeah. I mean, I…I make the sandwiches in the morning and it’s just one thing less that…that Lindsay has to do…

**I: Yeah.**

R1: Because it takes a little bit of time to put them all together. Then I disappear. Sometimes one of you will be up at half past six, generally you, Jordan. You’re the one that wakes up first then you come down, so I find you downstairs sometimes.

R3: Or if I have a nightmare, I’ll come down.

R1: If you’ve had a little night terror, yeah, sometimes I do find you, well, you get up and find me, yeah.

R2: I, umm, I get up at quarter past seven and I wake them up and I have to wake them up again, and then I take the washing down, and get the washing machine started, put the lunchboxes together, get them all breakfast, and then make sure they’re all dressed.

R4: We get ourselves breakfast.

R2: Yeah.

R4: We’ll clear up after ourselves.

**I: So is breakfast kind of haphazard? Is it normally together or…?**

R2: Normally about the same time as I’m putting their lunchboxes together and then they usually have ten or fifteen minutes they can do their own thing and then I’m shouting at them to make sure they’re ready for school and have their teeth scrubbed and I have my breakfast and then we all leave the house about twenty past eight.

**I: Yeah?**

R2: Umm, we’re going into school early at the moment cos Thomas has level six booster sessions, umm, so he goes in and sits with someone doing Maths or English and then these two sometimes sit in the car and read with me…

**I: Okay.**

R2: Until it’s (inaudible 00.02.53) school, and then they start school at nine o’clock.

**I: So what’s the…the first thing that the kids do when they wake up? What…?**

R4: Go downstairs and have breakfast.

R3: Umm, I have my breakfast and…

R1: You come straight down and what do you do? You come straight in here.

R3: No, I do not. Not anymore, Daddy.

R1: Do you not?

R3: No.

R1: Oh.

R4: Oh right, no, we get changed for school and then come down and do our…and have breakfast.

R3: And have breakfast.

R5: And then I usually go down and help them.

R4: I don’t get fully changed. I put everything on but I don’t put my tie on and my jumper. I just go in a dressing gown.

R5: Cos he’s lazy like that.

**I: So is there like a little bit of tablet time in the morning or is that…or has that changed now?**

R2: Yeah, if they’re ready…

R4: Breakfast and then tablet and then teeth and then tablet and then school.

R5: We just try to go on the tablet whenever.

R2: On Minecraft. Yeah, that’s usually the problem in the morning that they have to be ready before they go on any gadgets.

**I: Yeah.**

R2: Umm, and then they have a countdown to turn things off before we go to school.

R3: We don’t have a countdown.

R2: Well, I say we’ve got five minutes, stop, because normally I ask you to turn things off and you go, “I just need to finish this level,” or “I can’t pause it,” isn’t it usually the answer? Yeah.

**I: So you just need that extra bit of time to make sure that everyone’s finished?**

R2: Yeah, that they’ve finished their level or whatever they do, but I have been known to just take the tablets from them and turn them off.

**I: Yeah.**

R2: Which upsets them greatly, cos they probably lost anything that they were playing.

R1: They’ve only had the tablets since last June.

R2: Yeah.

**I: Yeah, so that brought in like a kind of slight change of routine then?**

R1: Yeah.

**I: You having to…**

R1: Totally. Yeah. Now, they’re great. But the thing about this if it’s broken, you have to replace them.

**I: Yeah.**

R1: So they’ve got to have more time now, not like a normal toy. You…you don’t keep…keep having it.

R2: Yeah.

R1: Yeah.

R2: Well, they’ve actually asked at school for you to be set up on Gmail, haven’t they?

R4: Mm. No, they haven’t yet.

R2: No, but…

R4: But Mr G is thinking about it.

R2: They want you to have permission to have your own Gmail address.

R4: I’ve already got one.

R2: Yeah, I know. Because they want to be able to…is that so they can send you homework and thins straight to you?

R4: I’m not sure, it’s just Mr G likes…

R3: No, I think it’s cos in ICT we’re doing, umm, staying safe on the internet and about emails and that, so I think it’s so that we can chat about what emails we’re getting, what rubbish and…that we shouldn’t open them.

R2: Mm. And they’ve even been given permission to bring their tablets in to read their books on…

R1: Yeah, probably the same…

R2: Which I’m not happy about really.

R3: But she won’t let us.

R2: I don’t really want the tablets to go into school.

R4: Because my reading book is on my tablet.

R5: You might lose them or drop them.

R2: But it shows now that the school are accepting these things and that maybe…

**I: Yeah, I’m not sure if it’s the same with all schools. It sounds quite progressive for a school to be inviting tablets in.**

R1: Yeah.

R3: It’s just for books.

**I: Just for books, yeah. How do you think that they make sure that you’re just using books?**

R4: Well, people bring in Kindles which is only for books.

**I: Okay, yeah.**

R4: And then some people bring in their tablets.

R5: I don’t think anybody’s brought their tablet actually.

R3: Ella has.

R1: How about policing?

R4: Well, they know that they’re only allowed books and if they play on games the person next to them…sitting next to them tell the teacher. They do.

R1: Great mates.

R4: I don’t sit next to anyone so…

R3: I was talking…I was talking to my friend and he was saying, “What if they were doing Temple Run because then it looks like they’re moving the book with, like, that?” And then I went, “What happens if they go yes, I completed the level, no, I completed the book.”

R2: The chapter, yeah.

**I: So people are at school, err, what…what’s the kind of the next bit of the day for everyone? Where’s everyone at this point after school?**

R4: I’ll be at school cos I’m at tennis.

R5: You’re doing lifts.

R2: What do you mean during school time?

**I: Yeah, so we’ve got…**

R2: So once I’ve got them to school, I then come back, umm, take the dog out and then I’ll start work because my workshop’s in the back of the garden. And then I’ll be in there or out with clients or, umm, up until about three o’clock when I go and pick them up, and then it gets really busy.

**I: And so school’s until what time?**

R2: They finish at…

R4: Quarter past three.

R3: What day are we doing?

R4: Friday is probably the busiest.

R5: Is it?

R2: Yes.

R3: There’s no days that are busy for me.

R4: And then it goes Wednesday and then Monday and then Thursday.

R2: Yes, Friday, there’s a lad that plays tennis with Thomas so he’s normally back with us three times a week so…

**I: Yeah.**

R2: I make him tea and then I get him to tennis as well, but on a Friday Thomas goes for an individual tennis lesson, four ‘til five, with his coach and then he stays on for tennis club night, five o’clock which I take Jordan to.

**I: Yeah.**

R4: Just ‘til half six.

R2: ‘Til half six, then six o’clock I take Megan to piano, which she does for half an hour.

**I: So is this Friday, was it?**

R2: This is a Friday and then, umm, my friend, Angela, which is Simon’s mum, collects them all from tennis and she’s just started taking Thomas back with her because he then goes on to scouts at half past seven and that’s nearer her house so she takes him off with her and then gets him to scouts.

**I: So this is kind of trading with other parents to…**

R2: Couldn’t do it without other parents. We’re often doing that, sharing lifts, making sure children get to where they go, cos on a Monday I have Simon and take him to tennis and Angela, Simon’s mum, takes Megan for (inaudible 00.08.57) and we’ll swap them all back again.

**I: Yeah.**

R2: Yeah, so we really couldn’t do it without the help of other mums.

**I: Yeah.**

R2: Cos quite often we have to be in two places at once.

**I: Yeah.**

R4: And it was Angela’s birthday yesterday.

R2: Yes, and she still took you to scouts.

**I: So is Friday the busiest after school evening or what the other ones like?**

R2: Yes, only because all three of them are doing…are doing something. So Mondays is baton.

R4: And tennis.

R5: Tuesday, guides.

R2: Tuesday you go to guides. Wednesday is tennis.

R5: Wednesday is netball.

R1: If I don’t get back at a reasonable time, you have to take them all, whether they’re going to a lesson or not, you take them with you.

R2: Yeah. On Thursday Megan goes swimming and then Friday is the mad day. Saturday they…Megan and Jordan have a tennis lesson in the morning but not to the level that Thomas does, it’s just to learn to play.

R3: And Mummy, on Thursday, I do before school club, fencing,

R2: Oh, yes, you started doing fencing in the morning.

**I: So it’s even before you’ve started school?**

R2: Yeah.

R3: Eight o’clock, it’s a school club.

**I: And do you feel awake enough to…?**

R3: I’m normally wide awake.

R2: You’re good in the morning, actually. You…you’re a morning person.

R4: I’m the worst. I’m in hell.

R2: Umm, yeah and then with any luck, they’re all usually in bed by nine o’clock.

R5: Not on a Friday.

R2: Not on a Friday because scouts doesn’t finish until quarter past nine.

**I: But does the older brother fit into…?**

R5: He’s never here.

R2: Oh no, he doesn’t want to know.

R4: He’s just in bed.

R5: Yeah.

R1: I don’t really see him. He said, “I didn’t know it was today.” He said, “If I’d have known,” he said, “I really wanted to be here to talk to you.” But I said, “Fortunately for you, he’ll be coming down again so…” But yes, Patrick, umm, I make Patrick’s sandwiches in the morning and then he’s…he’s eighteen, nearly, so his routine is out of bed, five minutes, changed, out for the bus. He leaves himself no time at all to…to spare.

**I: Yeah.**

R1: And quite often, well, not that often, once in a while, the bus will go and he’s not…and he gets there too late, so…

R5: Yeah, like very often the bus will go.

R1: So he kind of goes off to college and, err, I then liaise with him during the day what time he’s coming back and I generally pick him up on the way back home when I come back from work, unless he’s doing something I pick him up later on, yeah. You don’t see much of Patrick, do you, really?

R5: No, I see more of Ella.

R1: Cos he comes back after you’ve gone to bed.

R5: I…I see Ella in the morning.

R1: Or he’s in bed when you leave in the morning.

R5: Well, one day he...

R3: (Inaudible 00.11.48) sometimes.

R1: Yeah.

**I: Who’s Ella?**

R1: Sorry, they’re talking about Patrick’s girlfriend.

**I: Okay.**

R2: They’ve been together a couple of years now.

R3: When we’re in bed, we hear them going up the stairs and we just shout goodnight.

R1: Yeah, but he’s in London today with Ella. Ella’s got, err, an interview with Kingston University to see if she can get in there today.

**I: Yeah, so he’s one that you’ll keep in touch with during the day, using the phone or…?**

R1: Yes, I’ll keep in touch with him during the day with the phone, yeah, err, texts. I don’t know…I let him get in touch with me first cos he’s generally in class. Yeah, so that’s his routine for the week.

**I: Yeah. And is it quite important to have that phone contact with kind of the older child?**

R1: Yeah.

**I: How do you think it will change when…when these lot go into secondary school or…?**

R1: I’m not sure, yeah.

**I: Is that something that’s…?**

R5: We’ve got to get phones.

R1: Well…

R4: Cos if there’s an emergency and I’m stuck at tennis or something, what am I supposed to do?

R1: Well, generally school…err, Patrick’s at college so it’s a little bit different.

**I: Yeah.**

R1: When you’re at school, it’s generally…we’re gonna know where you are and what you’re doing and what your times are.

R4: What if I’ve been kidnapped?

R1: You’re at school. You don’t get kidnapped from school.

R2: We’d get a call from the…

R4: I could say my mum’s over there, I walk over and someone rams at me and takes me and I’m gone.

R1: I’m sure the kidnapper will let us know. They want some money for you.

**I: It’s quite funny to see that sort of age…I would have…not until the sixth form did we have even mobiles beginning to…**

R2: I know, I’m really not happy them having a phone. I really don’t see the need for it and it’s just a huge expense. I mean, what we spend on communications in this house is ridiculous.

**I: Yeah, so is that sort of the broadband and do you have a package for everything or is it…?**

R1: I did, I did with Sky, but the…for….they…they’ve been trying to supply us with broadband for a very long time and I’ve finally realised because now they have tablets which are wi-fi, phones are wi-fi, they can’t supply enough, the draw is just so great that nothing was working so…I mean, this week on the seventeenth we’re gonna get BT broadband.

R4: If we ever get phones then we can get rid of the tablets cos they’ll supply all the same games but…

R1: (Laughs) Oh re ally?

R4: I would say that.

R1: Fantastic. That’s great.

R4: You could get rid of the tablets, sell them and you’ll get some more money.

R1: Oh really? I’m glad you (inaudible 00.14.26).

R2: But at the moment I have my mobile phone…

**I: Yeah.**

R2: Umm, Aaron has his and pays for calls. We have…I have a landline for my business with line rental, we have the landline for the phone with the line rental, and if these three then have phones, that’s three more tariffs.

**I: It kind of multiplies to…**

R2: And…and actually it’s all for nothing, really. You know, they don’t…they don’t really need these phones, not when they’re at school.

R1: I think unfortunately you might suffer cos…

R5: Yeah, I know cos there’s three of us.

R1: Yeah.

R2: And then the excuse is oh, if we’re in trouble, but if they’re at school then they go to the office.

**I: Yeah.**

R1: It’s like the other day, Patrick had everything he wanted cos he was a single child.

R5: Yeah.

R1: He has loads and loads of toys.

R5: Give it a rest.

R4: And he could have kept his X-box and given to us but instead he sold it.

R1: He did.

R3: He bought it, that’s why, isn’t it?

R4: He could have given it to us.

R5: No, probably not.

R3: I think he…he said he bought it.

R1: I think he did.

R3: Cos I said, umm, do you have the X-box (inaudible 00.15.33) cos I might have taken them to my friend’s house cos they’ve got an X-box and he said, “No, I sold it.”

R1: He actually got fed up with it, which was quite good.

R3: And then I said, oh, cos we could have had it and he said, umm…

R1: He didn’t play it anymore.

R4: And he’s got a MacBook which takes up a ton of the wi-fi.

R5: No, he’s got his own, hasn’t he?

R3: The cloud, he’s got his own wi-fi. Yes, he’s got his own wi-fi box.

R5: Yeah, cos he says…

R2: It still draws on this.

R1: Yeah, it still draws of this. It just takes it upstairs through the…through the cables in the electric.

R3: And then he blames it on us cos it’s not working. (Inaudible 00.16.09).

R4: Turn the wi-fi off, it’s slowing down the whole internet.

R2: Cos he downloads films and things, doesn’t he? That’s what…

**I: So is that one of the main problems with the internet is having quite a few devices on it?**

R5: Yeah.

R1: But now it should be sorted with BT and it should be fine.

R2: If he wants to download a film he just…he leaves it downloading for hours and hours during the day cos it takes so long.

R1: Yeah.

R2: But he’ll be asked to watch certain films for his media at college so he has to find these films and download them.

R4: Can’t he just use YouTube or something?

R2: I don’t know. I don’t understand it all.

R1: I…I…don’t have Facebook, I don’t do Twitter, it’s just something I do not want to do or get involved in, but everybody…your friends keep digging at me that I should get it. it’s a good form of advertising, it’s communication but I just…I’m not that sort of…even using a computer, I basic…I use the basics on it, err…I don’t do anything else with it.

R5: Dad, one time you didn’t know how to turn it off.

R1: I turn it on and turn it off.

R5: No, the tablet.

R1: I just check my emails and that’s about it.

R4: He knew how to but he didn’t do it very well.

R1: If I need something, I ask you, don’t I?

R4: Just shout at me.

R1: I’ll say, come on here we are, I’ve got to do…I’ve got to write out…I’ve got to type something up, what do I do, and the kids just can…but so far…I mean, I’m just not into it at all.

R3: You’re just too old-fashioned.

R1: I’m too old.

R2: Well, they’ve got their school portal that they use to…

**I: So is that used for kind of homework and working outside of school or…?**

R2: I find it useful cos I can find out what homework they’re supposed to be doing, and also if they’ve forgotten their list of spellings or something, it’s on there.

R3: No, it’s not.

R2: Oh, it was on there, and also to help them with their homework, there are usually links to other sites to be able to help them with that so…I mean, really they’d be hard pushed at school, umm, if they didn’t have, umm, access to a computer.

**I: Yeah, yeah, I guess it’s becoming quite important.**

R2: Because the school just expect it now, yeah.

**I: Umm, so when does homework kind of fit in to kind of evenings?**

R3: For Thomas, weekends.

R4: I’m only doing it on weekends.

R2: When would you say you do your homework?

R5: Umm, I do mine when I get it. Well, sometimes the day after I get it or the day, because I have a lot of time after school.

R4: I’ve still got some homework which isn’t even done yet.

R1: I’m glad you said that.

R3: The only club I do after school is tennis.

R2: Well, netball.

R3: Oh yes, netball on a Wednesday after school and tennis on a Friday and a Saturday.

R2: So when do you fit your home work in then?

R3: Umm…

R2: Usually in the evening do you do it?

R3: After netball if it’s cancelled cos it is sometimes cancelled, er, or, umm, most (inaudible 00.19.22), I would say.

R1: What a good boy, Jordan.

R3: Or on a Saturday.

R2: When do you get yours done?

R5: Depending what Mr G’s is, I would normally do it straight away as soon as I’m given it, or if it’s like an essay, what he calls an essay, then, err, like a persuasive writing thing, I would do that on a weekend cos it takes a lot longer. Err, then Miss Palmer’s I normally do it on a Wednesday or a Thursday like Jordan, but yeah, we only got Miss Palmer’s yesterday cos she didn’t give it to us. Didn’t we used to do it…?

R4: I do lots after school so I’ve got to do it Saturday and Sunday.

R5: Yeah, Thomas actually starts on a Saturday and Sunday. He goes, “I’m not doing it now, I have to do it at the weekends.” That’s what weekends are for.

R2: They get very small amounts to do for each subject so each piece doesn’t actually take very long so they tend to clear it. Thomas saves all his up for the weekend…

R4: Because I get extra.

R2: And then he’ll pile through a mountain of homework.

R4: Well, because of the fact that I’m so smart.

R2: Megan has to fit in piano practice as well.

R4: I get extra English and Maths.

R2: But nothing ever takes long. You just think it’s going to take a long time.

R4: Cos it does.

R1: Well, if you leave it ‘til the last minute on a Sunday.

R4: He’s probably going to be (inaudible 00.20.45).

R1: Oh yeah.

R2: Yeah, so even though it seems like it’s a busy week they all have a time where they’re not doing something.

**I: And that’s when they…?**

R2: Yeah.

**I: Fit in their homework.**

R5: We don’t do anything on a Thursday.

**I: So in the evenings then, err, when people aren’t, err, out doing clubs or things, what other kinds of things are you doing?**

R4: Err, we’ve been making pancakes today.

R5: Umm, I don’t know, actually.

R1: You…right, come on. The TV’s on.

R5: Actually, yeah…

R1: What do you always, always watch on TV? Come on.

R3: Police.

R5: No, that’s stupid.

R1: TV programmes.

R5: We watch…

R3: Police stuff.

R4: We normally watch…

R3: Police interceptors.

R4: Yes, Border Watch. Border Watch is police stuff.

R3: Yeah, cops,, err, patrol, err, umm…

R1: (Sings) The Simpsons.

R5: Yeah, me and Thomas…me and Thomas mostly watch Simpsons and I normally…we normally lie just next to the fire.

R3: Err, there’s…oh, yeah, Ashley Banjo.

R4: Ashley Banjo, the Big Town Dance.

R2: We went to see Diversity down in [town name], didn’t we?

R3: Yes, on the twenty-second of December.

R5: No, it wasn’t.

R4: It wasn’t on the twenty-second cos we were in Wales.

R3: Yeah, I don’t know then.

R4: Well, sometimes very rarely we go down to [name of beach] with Mandy.

R1: In the summer. In the summer, yeah.

R3: We go on our (inaudible 00.22.16) boards.

R1: If I come home from work early in the summer, which can be about six o’clock, I check the tide times and if you are…if you haven’t got anything to do we shoot straight down to [name of beach] and have fish and chips on the beach.

**I: So I guess that’s how it kind of differs between this time of year are the summer, that you can be out a bit more and…**

R4: And I’ve got more tennis tournaments in the summer.

R2: Yeah.

R4: I haven’t done one in ages.

R2: Yeah, this time of year because it’s dark so quick, it’s a bit… Your friends come over and you go to friends’ houses.

R4: Sometimes on holidays we go down to see Mam-gu or she comes down and sees us.

R2: Yeah, my mum’s in Wales so holiday time we go to Wales or she comes here.

R1: Err, Mam-gu is Welsh for Grandma.

R3: Actually it’s not it’s Tad-cu but we kind of…

R4: No, Tad-cu is Granddad.

R3: Oh, I knew that.

R1: Tad-cu is Granddad. Mam-gu is…

**I: And how about, err, Minecraft then? I know that some of you are into that. Where does that come in?**

R3: Umm, I’ve liked always (inaudible 00.23.19).

R4: I like watching videos of people playing it, but Mum always says they swear too much, you’re not allowed to watch it.

R2: They’re on YouTube and…and sometimes there’s one commentator that does it and he’s good, isn’t he?

R4: Yes, his name’s CaptainSparklez.

R2: Some of them are playing the game, they’re swearing and it always seems to be when I walk in, and they say they don’t swear all the time until you walked in. Yeah, that’s why I like the computer being in there cos they never quite know when I’m going to put my head round the door.

R4: Except when I listen to it on headphones on my tablet.

R5: We mostly download stuff for Minecraft. If it was anything on a computer we…we…download texture packs for it.

R3: We have it on our tablets.

R1: I must admit you’re very good, you might hear people say things on YouTube but you don’t repeat what they say.

R3: Your tube does.

R5: You did.

R3: Your sticky thing. (Laughs).

R5: Oh yeah, it sticks like (inaudible 00.24.24).

R4: You keep on saying it’s shot. It’s not shot.

R1: No, that’s…that’s a (inaudible 00.24.30) in a tube for work and it’s called…yeah, but they’ve left a letter out. It’s called sticks like…

R4: Sticks like… sticks where others fail.

R1: Yeah, but it’s just…I use it when I go to work. No, I don’t know why they call it that, that’s just bizarre.

**I: Yeah.**

R4: We chose it on purpose.

R1: Yeah, they…they…nearly every tube now has got that written on it, and well, I don’t know why they do it.

R4: It’s (s.l. Evo-stik 00.25.06).

R1: It is. But I told you it’s shot, they…

R5: It’s not shot. (Laughs).

**I: So what time do you normally get home in the evening?**

R1: Err, it can range…I suppose the latest…sorry, the earliest I get home is…is six.

**I: Yeah.**

R1: But, err, it just depends on what I’m doing. Sometimes I stay at home. Sometimes I…I work…I mean, actually May I’m going to be away for about three weeks working, so then…

(Inaudible 00.25.42).

R1: Lindsay’s doing everything then.

R4: Hong Kong

**I: And what sort of time is, err, kind of evening meal? What normally happens?**

R4: Five o’clock.

R2: I usually feed all of them before they go off to the next things and I eat with them and I…

R5: If we’re not…if we’re not doing anything…

R4: I have school dinner at…

R1: Then I bring Patrick home and then I feed us so we actually eat separately.

R2: It’s just ended up two shifts, it’s just impossible to try and do something to suit everyone. I…I never know quite what Patrick’s doing so…

**I: Yeah, yeah, all different clubs and things and…**

R2: There are a few things I can make and then leave and then everyone dips into it, like a big pot of bolognaise but that’s about the only thing I can just leave for everyone to warm up when they come in.

R4: At school I have a hot school dinner and then come home and just have something quick to eat and then go, so I don’t have to have a big meal.

R2: We all tend to eat together on a Sunday but very rare that Patrick’s with us, isn’t it?

R3: Yeah, Patrick’s not part of this family.

R5: Whenever…whenever he is with us, Dad and Patrick just sit in here and watch TV and then us three and Mum are left in the kitchen.

R4: Well, no, no we’re not. We’re always in here.

R5: No, when we eat, you and Patrick are always in here and we’re in the kitchen.

R1: Oh, if you’re…if you’re doing something in the kitchen like homework, then…

R3: Yeah, I know but you always eat in here. You can’t say that you never actually…you always eat in the kitchen.

R5: No, when we have like a roast, we do.

R3: Oh yeah, of course we do.

R4: That’s once every month.

R5: And we haven’t had a roast in weeks.

R2: Not weeks. They’re so deprived.

R5: Ages.

R1: For ages, no.

**I: How about those kinds of Sunday meals, are there any kind of rules for what you can do at the table, things you can bring to the table?**

R2: Oh, there’s always…we never have tablets or phones or anything at the table. Yeah, I mean…up until it all got so chaotic with these three we all…we always had family lunch, didn’t we and Patrick used to sit down with us and…but it just seems to have…Patrick’s grown out of it and it’s harder to rein everyone in but we’ve always sat at the table with no gadgets, no nothing.

R5: I went up into Patrick’s room once.

R2: And they always have to ask to get down and they always have to wash their hands before they come to the table so it’s quite a routine.

R5: When I…when I go to my friends’ house they don’t actually…some, well, some of them do, some of them don’t but, like, some of them don’t wash their hands.

R2: I know, when you’ve got friends over and I say, “Right, everyone wash their hands,” they look at me like I’m weird.

R3: Simon doesn’t, cos he does when he has…

R2: Yeah, he’s used to his house.

R5: Really? They don’t…

R4: I went up to Patrick’s room and there was half –eaten pizza up there and a fork, and the ketchup was there.

R2: Yeah.

R1: Did you eat it?

R4: No.

R1: I bet you wanted to.

R4: I took the ketchup and ran.

R1: Yeah.

R5: Ran.

R4: It stinks.

R2: They have a friend who won’t eat with us. He has, I’ve actually got him to eat a meal but he only ate half of it, but I’ve still made him come and sit with us, even if he’s not eating.

R3: You’ve persuaded him.

R2: Yeah.

R5: Yeah, we made his favourite meal and he ate it or some of it.

R2: Some of it, well, only because I think his mum said, well, if you’re not going to go and eat tea with them then you can’t go.

R4: Is he coming round every week?

R2: No.

R3: No, unless you make…

R5: I don’t like going to (inaudible 00.29.08).

R4: Why?

R2: You find everything boring unless you’re involved, unless it’s for you, it’s boring.

**I: So what kind of things do people do together in sort of like the evenings or…?**

R3: Nothing, except sit down and watch TV.

**I: Is there a time when you’re all…?**

R2: There’s like if…if they’ve not been really late, we’ll take about a half an hour on the sofa watching The Simpsons.

R1: But they…they’ll come on the sofa and watch Ashley Banjo or…Saturday night, what’s on Saturday night?

R5: Splash.

R3: Before we go to bed, we…

R5: Mum’s at the pub.

R2: I work at the pub.

R1: Lindsay works at the pub so it’s just you and I isn’t it watching Splash.

R5: Every Saturday evening you’re at the pub and you’re going today.

R2: They like things like Strictly Coming Dancing and all those Saturday night competition things.

**I: So those kinds of family entertainment and…**

R2: Oh, X Factor.

R4: And Britain’s Got Talent.

R2: Yeah, all that sort of stuff where they can…

**I: What about the cop shows? Is that something that Megan watches by herself or is it…?**

R3: Megan is addicted to it.

R1: Megan is.

R5: I’m not addicted.

R1: I do come in sometimes, I’ve tried to stop you watching the silly American Miley Cyrus stuff that’s stopped now.

R4: Oh, well, we’re not normally watching TV cos Dad watches rugby all the time.

R5: Oh, I don’t… Yeah, I don’t watch that any more cos I watch cops now. I watch stuff like that now but you don’t let me watch all the kids’ stuff.

R4: Well, you’re watching rugby today.

R5: He…he doesn’t let me watch the kids’ stuff.

R1: (Inaudible 00.30.50) American stuff…It’s…

R5: I like Friends.

R4: Are you watching rugby today at two?

R1: What’s bad is you start to talk like them.

R5: Yeah, right.

R1: Exactly. That’s the annoying thing.

**I: The kind of Americanisms and…?**

R1: Yeah, and trying to stop that. It’s better if you talk like traffic officers.

R3: She talks stupid sometimes. She shows off.

R5: So do you. All right… (Laughs).

R3: When?

R5: When we were upstairs, yeah…

R2: That’s going to be about seven o’clock-ish when I’m clearing up from tea and things.

R1: Yeah.

R3: That’s only when you (inaudible 00.31.32).

R1: You like dancing, Jordan, you…you’re obsessed…

R3: I don’t. No, that’s Thomas.

R1: You do funny dances.

R5: Oh, do you remember when you were trying to do that thing on X-Factor?

R1: When you see kids with their trousers halfway down their…

R3: No, that’s Thomas.

R1: Yeah, and you think it’s really funny.

R4: You can see Patrick’s big bright yellow boxers when he’s walking along. He was walking away from the car, you could see his, err, chequered red and white boxers.

R2: I dread to think what the fashion will be when you’re proper teenagers.

R5: And when they were watching Splash…when we were watching Splash one of the diver’s trunks fell down and he pulled…

R4: There was a butt on live TV.

R5: It was like, look, let’s watch the underwater replay.

R4: And he did it twice.

R5: At the end they went, go, tighten up your elastic.

R4: And they said no underwater replays.

R5: No underwater replays.

**I: So are there any sorts of rules for TV or games consoles or the tablets?**

R2: I’m normally quite strict about age limit things.

R5: Not too late. Not too late.

R2: And they do tend to tell on each other if…

R5: And you don’t like (inaudible 00.32.45).

R2: I don’t like…

R5: Even these simple things.

R1: Once it hits nine o’clock at night, you’re not allowed to watch anything on TV after nine.

R2: Yeah

R4: What about all the kids channels?

R1: Sorry?

R3: Normally we would just watch…we watch kids channels if it’s a, umm, a…

R4: Or something on demand.

R3: We still haven’t watched, umm…

R4: Back to the Future,

R3: No…

R1: Lord of the Rings.

R3: Yes.

R1: I know you want to watch all of them and you haven’t seen them at all.

R4: We sometimes watch movies.

R2: Films.

R1: You do watch…yeah, you do watch films sometimes.

R4: Yeah, on Netflix and then if…

R1: Do you think generally you’ve seen all the films that come out because you’ve been to the pictures to see them?

R3: We don’t actually go to the pictures anymore. Oh yeah, can we watch…?

R2: We have. I took Megan to see Frozen.

R5: Oh yeah.

R4: We want to go and watch Lego Movie.

R1: Sometimes…you took Megan to see Frozen but you two didn’t want to see it, did you?

R4: Err, no, it’s because we went to…

R3: We were at (inaudible 00.33.58) house.

R1: Oh, did you?

R4: We’re going next week.

R5: So am I.

R1: So you do go to the cinema sometimes at weekends.

R5: I’m going as well.

R2: I am quite strict about age limits and swearing and that sort of thing, and I’m getting a lot of, “Oh, Mum, we are nearly eleven now.”

**I: So kind of pushing that boundary a bit?**

R2: But they are…

R5: Yeah, and you’re a detective.

R4: That’s what Dad is always saying.

R2: I know.

R4: Well, you are to us.

R2: They’re in that in between age now where I can’t say you’re absolutely children but they’re not…

R5: Fifteen’s are a little bit okay. You should let us…

R4: You should let us listen to swearing.

R2: Because you’ll start to think that that’s just normal.

R4: Yeah, but you’re gonna get older and eventually you’ll get used to it. Dad does it.

R5: I don’t (inaudible 00.34.22).

R1: No, I don’t.

R4: Yes, you do. If you’re angry, you just start swearing.

R3: Oh, stupid kids.

R1: No, you actually think that, they’re not swear words. There are swear words, that is what you call swear words. They’re not really swear words.

R4: Then when you keep saying the S word in front of us.

R1: Cos it’s written on that tube.

R5: Yeah. You admitted it. You admitted it.

R1: Yeah, I don’t really count that as a swear word.

R4: Umm, Patrick stood at the top of the stairs with no trousers on and he said, “Where are my trousers?”

R2: I just don’t want them to think that…that swearing and blowing things up and shooting things is…is normal otherwise…

R4: But we’re not gonna be terrorists when we’re older, are we?

R2: Ssh, and I don’t like the…the children’s games where they’re actually, umm, zombie-like and shooting each other and blood spurting everywhere, because otherwise they think that’s all just normal and…and everything about anything to do with that is just…

R3: You’ve said that so many times.

R4: Yeah, but, Mum, there’s games…there’s games that do that but it’s not real.

R2: I’ve watched them…I’ve watched it in Patrick, you get aggressive.

R4: I like being aggressive.

R2: Yeah, well, I don’t like you being aggressive.

R4: Patrick punched a hole in the wall.

R2: It makes you aggressive and…and angry. I don’t mind things like Minecraft because it…I mean, they’re even thinking about having it at school because you have to create these worlds and work out how to do it.

R1: Are they?

R4: Yeah, I’ve built so many…

R3: But I don’t think that’s a good idea cos anyone that’s like got Minecraft and everything, when they’re actually trying to teach it to people that don’t, they’re just gonna be like, yeah, yeah, there’s a big world that lets you do mineshafts and…

R2: But there’s things you can…you can go and collect stuff to be able to build things and you have to…

R3: Not on creative, you don’t.

R4: Yeah, but some people in our school know how to switch game modes. That means you can be doing survival but then you can just go…

R5: Thomas, Thomas, you can put don’t allow cheats on there.

R4: Yeah, but I’m not.

R2: See, now they’ve lost me.

R4: You can make it so you have every single item in the game. I know how to do it.

R2: But it’s good in as much as the aim of the game isn’t to go round killing as much things as you can finds.

R4: There is one thing that’s creepers. You can use TNT.

R5: Mum, the aim of the game is actually to kill the ender dragon. That’s how you win.

R4: Which means you need to survive and travel and then…

R5: She doesn’t wanna know.

R4: And then try and kill the ender dragon and you need to get all your items and get really good armour and swords.

R5: Bows and arrows.

R2: Did you just say swords?

R1: Swords.

R3: Did you know that (inaudible 00.37.20)…

**I: It’s as if they’re more game playing and trying to fill in time with… So the rules are slightly different during the holidays or…?**

R2: Yeah, I mean they are… the amount of time they spend on these things I really don’t mind. I know people come round and might see them like morons on it and think they do it all the time but they’re so busy with other stuff that they’re not actually spending that much time on these things.

R5: And there are three of us so you would think that we’re on it for ages but then the other person will want to go on.

R2: That’s what it feels like and they have to take it in turns on the PC so again they have to not have too long.

R5: I’ll go and get my tablet and show you what Minecraft is.

R1: Piano practice, you have to practice piano, haven’t you?

R2: So actually health-wise they are very busy and doing lots of sports and things, so if they want to spend an hour on the tablet I’m not going to worry too much about it.

R5: Mummy, you keep us healthy.

R2: Yes. Yes, I know, no matter how much you hate me for it.

**I: But then did you say there was a Wii upstairs as well that…?**

R4: Yeah, there’s a Wii system upstairs.

R3: Yeah, we just did that.

R1: That actually is only been up there two weeks, hasn’t it?

R2: It’s a bit of an experiment. They’ve taken it upstairs but it’s…it’s only geared up for the Wii. They can’t do anything else on it.

R5: I got a bit freaked out because you know there’s a…there’s a light on it to turn it on?

R2: What, the actual Wii box?

R5: No, the…

R3: Yeah, the red light.

R5: There’s a red light…

R4: On the power button.

R5: Yeah, and, umm, cos we didn’t switch the switches off, it was still there and I got a bit creeped out when I was…

R2: What, was it flashing at night?

R5: No, it doesn’t flash, it just stays red so I didn’t want to look.

R1: Because we never agreed to letting TVs upstairs.

R5: Cos I woke up at midnight…

R1: They’d just disappear to their rooms.

R5: It’s a tiny…tiny, it’s only about that big. It’s probably the size of a…

R2: Well, they usually play that when they have friends over so it means they’re all up there playing and…

**I: Yeah.**

R3: And they always scream up there. They don’t go there much.

R2: I know, but I don’t mind the noise up there so much as down here.

**I: And is there any sort of time sort of in the evenings or at weekends which people spend by themselves that’s sort of kind of your own time as opposed to together time?**

R1: My own time is generally…is eleven o’clock, half eleven at night, so if I want to watch something that nobody else wants to watch, I’ll watch that but then I’m not going to bed until after twelve so I’m not getting much sleep cos I’m up at quarter to six.

R4: You’re watching rugby all the time.

R1: I can’t watch it all the time, Thomas, it’s not on all the time.

R4: You watched two rugby games in a row once. So I just sat there for three hours watching rugby.

R1: Could you tell me the scores?

R4: No.

R1: No, it was an England game, six nations.

R2: I have an exercise bike upstairs which is my own time. I put my headphones on and I can’t hear anybody.

R5: Yeah, I came up once and said I’m going to bed and you were like okay, I’ve got thirty seconds left.

R2: Yeah, cos I do twenty minutes and it was counting down from thirty seconds.

**I: How about the kids then? Is there anything that you do by yourselves?**

R3: Umm, well, because they’re normally out, Thomas is at tennis.

R4: Tennis.

R3: Bronwyn’s maybe at piano or something, umm, I normally just lay down and relax, watching TV.

R4: No, he’s on the computer, playing Minecraft. I get back from tennis, he’s on the computer playing Minecraft and me and Dad have to try and get him to get off.

R1: But it’s only because it’s winter again, because what do we do in the summer?

R4: We go outside.

R1: What do we do? Play what?

R4: We go down to Victoria Park and play tennis.

R1: Oh, we do that, yeah, but we used to play tennis in the garden here, remember?

R4: I was a member at the tennis club so we’re allowed to just go down to the tennis club and play there whenever we want.

R3: So am I, Thomas. I think we all are.

R1: It changes, doesn’t it? In winter cos it’s dark, we are stuck indoors.

R2: But none of them tend to go off to their room and be on their own.

R5: I do.

R2: Bronwyn’s started to a little bit more. She puts a bit of music on and shuts the door and…

**I: Is that One Direction?**

R2: Yeah. But, umm, because these two share a room.

R4: Which we really don’t want to. When we get a new house can we have our own room?

R2: I don’t know.

R4: We could have a seven bedroomed house.

R2: Go out in the shed, Thomas.

R3: No, cos…

R1: What about the summer? You could camp outside.

R4: We did that once in the tent in the trampoline.

R1: You did camp in the trampoline.

R4: And we did it on grass.

R1: We had a tent that actually went over the trampoline but it wasn’t very good, was it? It was very uncomfortable and watertight, supposed to be…

R4: Cos it was on a slope we all…

R3: Yeah, it all went under it. We all ended up on Megan.

R1: The water went under the tent and then…but we did camp out in the summer. We put a tent up, don’t we? Everybody all squeezes in.

R3: Actually no, we probably all fell on Dad cos he weighed the most.

R1: Sorry?

R3: We probably all fell on you.

R1: Mum won’t sleep out there with you.

R4: I was at one end of the tent and when I woke up in the morning I was down the other.

R1: Yeah.

R2: I suppose cos it’s a trampoline so…

R4: And Dad’s the heaviest.

R2: Yeah, it sounded like a good idea to start with. It sounded like fun.

R4: Me and Dad jumped on the trampoline once at the same time and it launched me up in the air really, really high.

R5: Oh, do you remember you and Patrick would stand on the edge and maybe, say, those two and then I would stand in the middle and then you’d all jump and if you were the person in the middle they’d go up…

R4: I was really high. I remember going Superman.

R5: Oh yeah.

**I: So what’s the last thing that people do before bed normally? What’s…?**

R4: Umm, we normally sit down and maybe watch a movie.

R2: They all still have a drink. They have, umm, umm, warm milk or milk.

R1: Yeah.

R2: A night time drink. They know it’s bedtime when I say what do you want to drink.

R1: Thomas has warm milk, Jordan has water and Megan has cold milk.

R5: We are allowed hot chocolate.

R2: At the weekends.

R5: But I don’t like hot chocolate.

R3: Yes, Dad, we have it on a Saturday and a Sunday now.

R4: We’re supposed to have it Friday.

R1: I’m allowed to give you hot chocolate Fridays?

R3: Yes.

R2: They have to go up at half past eight, they all go and put their pyjamas on.

R4: Can we make the pancake batter soon, Mummy?

R2: In a minute. So there’s that cosy time when they’ve got their pyjamas on and then, umm, then it’s a drink, up to scrub teeth and in bed, but that’s usually when the high jinks happen at bedtime.

R1: Oh yeah.

R2: Send them up to bed and all hell breaks loose upstairs for some reason.

R1: There’s not a single night and this is the truth, where you go upstairs to clean your teeth without one of you…

R5: There is, Mum, yesterday…

R1: Calling that someone’s done something to one of you.

R5: There was yesterday.

R1: Nobody did anything to anybody yesterday?

R2: No, they didn’t last night.

R1: I wasn’t here.

R3: Actually we’re always better when it’s Mum looking after us.

R1: Oh, right.

R5: Yeah, cos when we…

R3: Cos you’re a horrible babysitter, Dad.

R5: Cos when we do that, then we just leave it, and when we do like that on your day, we all start with each other.

R1: Oh, really?

R5: Yeah.

R1: Oh, so you do it on purpose?

R5: Or you do…or you do, err, if we touch each other and then one of us, like, starts crying, basically, well, Mum just doesn’t do anything and you go, (Shouts).

R1: Yeah, that’s true.

R4: Patrick will (inaudible 00.44.57).

R1: They all get illnesses at bedtime. They all suddenly need cream for something or cough medicine. You know, they’ve had hours to think about it.

R3: That’s cos I’ve got a cold.

R2: Then at bedtime suddenly they need…

R1: I’ve got itchy skin.

R2: Something to relax them.

R4: Because I have eczema.

R3: That’s cos I have tonsillitis all the time.

R2: Yeah, it all happens at bedtime, doesn’t it? All of a sudden, I need something.

**I: And when is bedtime?**

R2: Nine o’clock, unless they’re, like he said, it’s a scouts night.

R5: Isn’t it nine thirty?

R2: No.

R1: You think it’s nine thirty.

R4: But it’s not.

R1: It’s nine o’clock.

R2: And even that I feel is a tiny bit late but they…the things that they do after school…

R3: We’ve been to bed at ten before.

R4: We have to (inaudible 00.45.37).

R5: I’m actually quite tired. Yeah, when I was in the car I got tired walking out the car. Ow.

**I: I think we’ve been through the whole day now. It feels quite exhausting just to… Okay, is there anything that I’ve missed that…that you can think of that might…?**

R2: I don’t think so.

**I: No.**

R4: I say not.

R5: I bet this is only meant to be like ten minutes but it took like an hour.

**I: Well, not quite.**

R2: So obviously the holidays are different and the summer’s different.

**I: Yeah.**

R2: We’ve done bike rides and things like this before but…

R4: But our tires are going.

R2: The weather’s a bit rubbish, isn’t it?

R5: Yeah, my tire’s flat, Dad.

R1: Okay.

R4: I want to go on a bike ride. When we’re walking the dog, can we attach the lead to the handle and ride our bike and (inaudible 00.46.32) will just run?

R2: No.

**I: Okay, I’d better switch it off then.**