

01-AAQ

*From open-ended interview

*HV1: The first question is, "We're interested in knowing what kinds of things you and Child K, your third grader, do in your everyday routines. Tell me about a typical day for Child K, from morning to bedtime, as well as you can remember."

*PAR: Okay, morning. We get up at 5:00. Yeah.

*HV1: Whoa.

*PAR: Get dressed, out the door by 6:30. They go to my sister's house to get ready for school. They get on the bus about 7:45, 8:00 and they start their school day. They come home from school at about 4:00. They come in, do homework, do their reading. Then they go outside and run around and play because most kids nowadays, they come in and go play video games. No. "Go outside."

[Laughter]

Like the old days. "Don't come back in. Go outside." They run around and play until about 6:00, 6:30. They come home. We may have time to get something to eat, time to go to church, go there, come back home, take showers, go to bed. That's about every day except on the weekends, when they're running off somewhere to go do something. We rarely are ever in the house.

*HV1: We're interested in learning more about your child's reading interests. Child K's showing (Home Visitor) some books right now. Where does she get most of her books from?

*PAR: Friends, school. A lot come from school when she checks them out in the library.

*HV1: The school library, you mean?

*PAR: Yes. When we're out in the store or something, she'll see something interesting. I'll go ahead and pick it up, or book fairs. They hit the book fairs and they hit them hard. They'll get five or six books and they commits to reading them all between her and her sister because her sister's on a higher

reading level than her. But she reads some of the books that she gets, so they're constantly doing the book swap.

*HV1: Okay. What are some of the things that you do to help Child K become a good reader?

*PAR: I push them. I challenge them, and as far as reading in school and stuff, they're not required to read every day, but I make her read every day. I buy them challenging books on things that they are interested in to make sure that they are challenging themselves to learn, y'know? Progress themselves in reading and put themselves on a higher level. Get them something they're interested in. You buy books that you don't want to read, you're going to look at them like, "Meh. I'll pass," and keep on going. So I let them pick out what they like to read instead of stuff that I think they should be reading.

*HV1: Do you do anything to help her learn the meanings of new words?

*PAR: Yes. We always have a dictionary somewhere around here, and especially when you're in the process of reading, "I don't know this word." "Go get the dictionary and look it up." "Oh, that's what that meant." "Yeah. The dictionary is a good book."

[Laughter]

So every time I catch them in the dictionary just looking at stuff, "Want to know new vocabulary words? It's a book about this thick, full of them. Go for it."

[Laughter]

*HV1: What do you do, if anything, to help her understand what she reads?

*PAR: When she has questions, I try to help her as best I can with questions that she has about things she's reading. She'll get to, maybe, a point in a story and doesn't understand what a certain word means or what's actually happening. I'm like, "Well, go back and read what happened before and then read past what you don't understand and you'll get an understanding of what's going on in the middle. And if you still don't understand, we'll break it down and figure out what's going on."

*HV1: What do you do, if anything, when she has a hard time with a book?

*PAR: Again, we'll pull the dictionary out because if you don't know a word we'll look it up, see what it means and use it in context of what she's actually reading. Again, going back to reading what you read before and see where it falls into context of what you're reading now, and also looking forward and then going back. That's all in the process of comprehension and I'm trying to push that on them because it's very looked upon, especially at the end of the school year and the grade testing. This is her first year doing EOGs. It's very stressful for both of us.

*HV1: Okay. What kind of test is that?

*PAR: EOGs. It's End-of-Grade Testing. Yeah. This is her first year doing EOGs and she's like, "I don't want to fail. I don't want to fail. I gotta read. I gotta understand this." Like, "Just calm down. It's not that serious. You've been passing all year. You're going to be pass your EOG."

[Laughter]

*HV1: What are some of the questions that you ask Child K when you talk about books that she's read?

*PAR: "What did you read? What's the title of your book? Some of the characters in the book? What are the characters like? What's going on in the story? Do you like this book?" If she can understand all of that, then I know that she knows what she's reading.

*HV1: What, if anything, do you do to motivate your child, Child K, to read?

*PAR: They like doing fun activities on the weekend. If you read, you get rewarded. It's a good system, in a sense, but in the end they still both benefit on each end. They get something fun to do, they get to run around and have fun with their friends, but they still get the benefit of actually doing the reading and progressing in school. And that's what has pushed them to the level that they are now. Both of my kids are straight-A students and I'm not going to say, "I request it." I demand it. There's no reason why you should not have straight-As in school. You have all the resources available to you and it's given to you on a silver platter, so you should take full advantage. So take full advantage. You will get rewarded.

*HV1: Are there other people in your home to help Child K in reading?

*PAR: Not in my home, but my sister because if they're not here, they're at my sister's house. And she has kids their age and we all do our part to make sure everybody is staying on top of school work and reading and things of that nature.

*HV1: And what does she do to help her to _____?

*PAR: Same thing I do: Stress the fact that, "You do your homework, take your ten or 15 minutes to read and you can go outside and have fun. You want to go outside and have fun? You do your reading. You don't understand something? Come sit down and talk to me. We'll work it out." That's the way we do it.

*HV1: How do you know if she's doing a good job reading a book?

*PAR: She can tell me the things that I ask. When I go back and I ask her questions, y'know, "What are these characters like? What's going on in the story?" and just different things about the books that she's reading. If she can tell me what's going on, then I know that she understands what she's reading and she comprehends it.

*HV1: How would you describe her reading skills?

*PAR: I would say she's above her grade level. I do know that. She has been reading chapter books since she was in first grade. I started them reading well before even Pre-K and they always come with these big words. "Where did you learn that?" "Oh, I saw it on this building and I kind of just put it together." I'm like, "What building?" "Oh, over there." I'm like, "You don't even know how to read." "Well, I sounded it out." "Hmm. Okay, yeah. That works."

[Laughter]

Both of them always. It just amazes me how much stuff that kids actually know and you don't even realize. You look up and they're talking to you and you're like, "Where do you get this from?" Never cease to amaze me.

****Other coded sections from home visit****

*PAR: She reads every day as part of her homework curriculum. I make her read every day. She doesn't necessarily have to read for her homework, but she reads every day, at least 15 or 20 minutes every day.

*PAR: The Guinness Book of World Records. She likes nonfiction. She's very inquisitive about the world and what's going on around her. She's always asking me some question or something, and when she gets those types of book she's like, "Oh, this is interesting," and she comes and asks me a million questions. I'm like, "I don't know what you're talking about."

[Laughter]

"I don't know who has the biggest head of all time. I don't know. Look in the book."

[Laughter]

She likes to ask me questions like that and we'll go and we'll be looking in the book. We'll look it up, and we've been looking at this book for hours. So she likes nonfiction books. Those are her favorite.

*PAR: I think once or twice a month because I stay so busy, but I mention, "Did you read your book today? Have you read? What are you reading?" I don't necessarily read with her, but I make sure she stays on top of it. I see progress reports come home and report cards and check their homework and stuff like that. "Make sure you stay on top of your schoolwork."

*HV1: How often do you take her to the library? Would you say never, hardly ever, once or twice a month, once or twice a week, almost every day?

*PAR: Hardly ever. With modern technology and the constant buying of books, we don't need to go to the library. You can check books out online and put them on the eReader and keep on moving, and she likes it that way. That way, "I get to play with my new toy."