

01-AGD

open-ended interview

*HV1: No, not at all. But they're more open-ended. And again, there's no wrong or right answer. And I might write things down, but just do for me, too, myself. So we're interested in knowing the kinds of things that you and he do in your everyday routines. Tell me about a typical day for Child J –

*PAR: Child J.

*HV1: -- Child J from morning to bedtime as well as you can remember.

*PAR: Get up, watch cartoons. I probably get up and cook breakfast, and they take a bath, put their clothes on. We still sitting around looking at TV. If he ain't decide to color or play the Wii, then when they start getting restless, I say, "Y'all need to go outside." He might go out there with his friends and play. Then we probably go over they Grandma house and we have a cookout or something. This the weekend.

On Monday, you know, they in school. And then we come back home. He'll get back in his cartoons or go in the room, watch – read a book or color. About the same thing because they don't really go outside and play, so my kids are housebound kids. They rarely go outside, so everything activity always consist in the house.

*HV1: Okay.

*PAR: You go outside a little more now. You stay in the house more than you go outside, don't you?

*HV1: Well, _____ interested _____ more about your – about his – your child's books and reading interests. Child J's showing (Home Visitor) some books right now.

*PAR: Mm-hmm.

*HV1: Where did he get most of his books?

*PAR: From school, libraries –

*HV1: School libraries?

*PAR: Mm-hmm. Most of 'em basically be coming like from school or like when he done did something good he might get two or three free books during the year.

*HV1: From the school?

*PAR: Mm-hmm.

*HV1: Okay.

*PAR: So that's where they basically come from – or the library. So either/or. And then his brother – one of his oldest brothers not here, so he constantly send him books and crayons and stuff like that. So – he just got that stack of crayons and stuff from his brother. He in training school, so he send little stuff that his age. He send it home to him. So he been getting mad books from him, so he just got like three new books from his brother and crayons and stuff like that. So from everybody – the family.

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

*PAR: Read with him. I mean, I don't really –

*HV1: Reading with him.

*PAR: Yeah – and then sometimes I don't even have to do that. I mean, like, he just so smart – it like once he got it, he just got it, and it just went from there. Like, I barely have to help him with his homework. Like, I sit there and make sure he do it right. Before I said, I don't have to help him read it because he don't want me to help him read it. So he kinda like a little man on his own, like, "I got this, Ma. I don't need your help."

"Well, I just wanna make sure you do it right." "But I got it, Ma. I read it myself." So it's like me just like this, "Okay, just tell me what you read, and I wanna see you reading it right," and that's it. So that's what we do, and I'm _____ very smart. Let me get some of his report cards. That boy got – I don't know what – everybody be asking me, "What did you do? That kids is so smart." Like, "I really don't know. I really _____." First, second and third semester –

*HV1: And –

*PAR: See his reading – you see what she said?

*HV1: Wow! Second quarter reading level exceeds –

*PAR: Over!

*HV1: -- exceeds third grade levels. Wow!

*PAR: He was exceeding it in second semester.

*HV1: What are the 3 here?

*PAR: 3's – that's A. That's a B. That's a B. That's a A. What's that? An A, a B, an A.

*HV1: Oh, I see. I see that. Oh, wow! Mathematics –

*PAR: Mm-hmm – B, and I think that was a C, but then a B, then it went back up.

*HV1: The social studies and science.

*PAR: B, B – mm-hmm.

*HV1: Okay. Prefer English language. Arts he got 91 and then 88 and then 86 and 3 – all 3 and 4.

*PAR: Mm-hmm – all 3's – you know, 3's is actually B's, but I don't know how they do it –

*HV1: 3 means performs at grade level. Most of the time he got 3 or 4 for reading in all of the quarters. Okay. Wow! I'm impressed. Do you do anything to help him make time for reading?

*PAR: Well, really with Child J, I don't have to. Child J just love to read, so it's never like you have to make time for him. You know what I'm saying? It's just like – I have to get on more of my middle son to read more than him. See, if I start getting on him and say, "You need to go back there and read a book,"

he gonna go run and go get a book and start reading. You see what I'm saying? So it's never – it's more me getting on my other one, and then he just go on and do it.

*HV1: He's the brother.

*PAR: Yeah. Yeah – he's middle brother – yeah.

*HV1: Middle brother – okay.

*PAR: But that's the one I'm more hard on. I don't really have to be so hard on him because he like right here.

*HV1: Yeah, everybody's different.

*PAR: You see what I'm saying? So that one I'm more hard on. So it's just like when I do say something to him, he'll move more quicker to do it. And he'll be like, "Well, you need to be doing this. See, I'm sitting here reading a book. Why you can't read a book?" So it's basically him being the older brother than him being the older brother.

*HV1: He's more mature in that sense.

*PAR: Yeah, really – really – he really is. He got a phone, but my middle boy don't have a phone. He done lost his, but he still got his. He don't take it to school. He set it on his table. When he get outta school, he gets it. When he go over to his little friend house, he calls and let me know where he at. This is what a eight-year-old do. He done had that phone four months and has not lost it.

I done bought him four or five phones, so that tells you how mature he is then. You know how they say all your kids are different? It really shows that.

*HV1: What, if anything, do you do to help him learn the meanings of new words?

*PAR: He loves some big words. I don't know. I can't answer that question. I don't know. That I can't answer. I mean, some big words I don't even have to teach him how to understand them. He know how to just sound them out. Like some stuff, I didn't – like he – at the age of five or six when the news came on and when the storms come up, you know, the _____ radar – blah, blah, blah, blah, blah – he read it all.

So I'm looking like – and he knew the big words and all, so it was like nothing I couldn't say. I was like, "Well, dang! Seems like he might be a little smarter than I am!" So I don't know. I can't answer that question. He just so – he just really – I'm telling you, he's smart.

*HV1: And what do you, if anything – what do you do when he has a hard time with a book?

*PAR: Oh, I help him. If I don't understand it, his daddy help him. I don't understand it, Grandma help him. And Grandma, she still – she went back at school, so it's like everybody in my house kinda like in school. So sometimes they all get together at the table – well, two of my children _____ where everybody get at the table, and Grandma be doing her stuff, and them two be doing their stuff. So we all just help each other.

So it's like a family – it's all of us working together to help them. So when something get hard, if I can't help him with it and don't understand it he goes to Grandma and his dad, and all of us stay here.

*HV1: All of you guys live here?

*PAR: Yeah.

*HV1: Okay.

*PAR: Daddy out there on the patio now, and Grandma, I guess she just went to the room back there.

*HV1: And what are some of the questions that you ask him when you guys talk about books that he reads?

*PAR: How did he like the book? What was the most exciting part of the book? Who was the character in the book? Basically the stuff that they ask you on – in your tests, and so that would be the main things I ask him when he done read it. What did he like? What was the ending part? What did – say if it was a girl, well, what did the girl have to do in the book? You know – same stuff as when we went in school.

*HV1: And what do you do to motivate him to read?

*PAR: I don't have to do nothing. I mean, I can't even _____ I don't have to do nothing. I could just sit in here and say, "Well, I think y'all need to read a book," and he'll just go read a book. It's like – I don't have to hassle him. It's not, "I'm tired of reading books." It's none of that. So I try to keep him that way so it never get boring and tiring to him. So as far as that, nothing.

He love to read. He love to color. He love to play his Wii. So that's just some of the _____ things, and then we don't do nothing too much nothing else. So them are like some of the fun activities being here. So that's what it is.

*HV1: You already mentioned there's dad and the grandma who sometimes help him with reading. Is there any other person that helps him –

*PAR: His brothers or his whole – well, he's got two brothers.

*HV1: Age –

*PAR: 16 and the middle one's gonna be 14.

*HV1: And what do they do to help him – I mean, the brothers and Grandma and –

*PAR: Every –

*HV1: Do you know _____ things they do – I mean, Grandma, Dad, brothers?

*PAR: Well, when his brothers read with him – my oldest son, he read with him more than my middle son. Him and my middle son, they get more in attitudes with each other, so he don't care to read with him. But my oldest son, they'll go back there in the room. They'll lay on the bed, and they just get in their own world of reading, and they just be back there reading. Now, that middle one come in here, and I say, "Y'all go back there and read a book," they be back there arguing because Child J feel like he over-reading over him.

"Oh, I can't hear. You talking louder than me, and we both trying to read at the same time," so they don't click when it's time to read. He makes it more not being fun when it's come down to reading.

*HV1: How do you know when he's done a good job reading a book?

*PAR: Say it again.

*HV1: How do you know whether he has done a good job reading a book?

*PAR: When he come – yeah, when he come in and tell us that – the smiles on his face tell you when he read a good book, or he'll come in, "Ma, I like this book." Like, what's that book _____ brought from – Twilights, wasn't it?

*CHI: No, it was Benjamin Franklin.

*PAR: You liked that, right?

*HV1: Which one?

*PAR: Benjamin Franklin? Benjamin Franklin.

*HV1: It's a book by – it's a story about Benjamin –

*PAR: Benjamin – yeah – and he sat here and read the whole book because he had a test – get your feet off my chair. He had to do a poster and all that. So he was mad that I had made him read most of the whole majority of the book. But in the end, he liked it, because I'm like – you know how Benjamin Franklin – it has a reading part of the book, and then each little section up there at the top it tells what he did in that year. So –

*HV1: _____ -- what's the name of that book?

*PAR: That's Benjamin Franklin – the real Benjamin Franklin.

*HV1: I know, but he – he brought in his _____. I don't know.

*PAR: I don't know what book it was. But it was just – it was his whole life story – how many kids he have, what did he do, what else did he do besides electricity and all that. So he just thought he was just gonna skip through and – this is one of his rest days. He just wanted to read a couple of them, then skip through the _____ pages. And I was like, "Tell me about," and when he get to telling me about it, he won't telling me enough stuff that he need to write on his poster, so I made him go back, and he didn't like that. But once I made him go back – yeah, and he understood it.

**other excerpts from home visit*

*PAR: So it's only like – if he miss what that say – like if he say _____ wrong, I only correct him. You see what I'm saying? He don't care for you to be like try to read that sentence to him. He wants to read it, so he not gonna let you read nothing to him. He wants to read it, and then you just correct him on what he said wrong. So never.

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*HV1: And how often do you take him to the library? Would you say never –

*PAR: I just said every week. It goes – after church they go every week. Grandma takes them to the library.

—

*HV1: Okay. How often do you buy him books? Never, hardly ever, once or twice a year, three or four times per year –

*PAR: Probably once a year like when the school books – because they cheaper when you get it from the school – that thing at school. So I try to at least send him with \$3.00 to \$5.00 so he can buy him a book, so that be about once a year. I'll say once a year.

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