

01_AYS

from open-ended interview

*HV1: Nice. That's fascinating. Well thank you so much for helping answer those survey questions and now I'm just going to ask you some broader questions about some of your literacy practices here at home. The first thing I'd love to get an idea of what Child B's schedule looks like just an average day, typical day from when she wakes up to when she --

*PAR1: She doesn't have to wake up until 8:00 so in school by 9:00. She does school 'til 3:30.

*PAR2: That's when I pick her up, bring her home, depending on what's after school she may have about an hour to relax and then either _____ go to tae kwon do or --

*PAR1: On Thursdays she'll have book club after school 'til 5:00.

*HV1: So some days she stays after school for like a book, work clubs?

*PAR1: Not too often, just once a week. It just ended two weeks ago.

*HV1: Okay. Great and then after tae kwon do usually?

*PAR2: Usually we're home. If there's homework it starts then while we're getting dinner ready. We'll finish up homework after dinner.

*PAR1: But normally she has her homework done before we get home.

*PAR2: [Crosstalk] at school.

*PAR1: That's what I mean, she's super easy. It's very nice.

*HV1: Yeah, I hope mine ends up being like this.

*PAR2: _____ children are different. Our son is the exact opposite.

*HV1: Yeah?

*PAR1: A lot of prodding but he's got some ADD issues too. So they're complete opposites so she normally has it done before she gets home. So she'll read, she'll get on her computer and do lots of games, math games and stuff.

*HV1: What's a typical bedtime would you say?

*PAR1: They don't have to get up 'til 8:00 so it's between 9:00 and 9:45-ish.

*HV1: Okay.

*PAR2: We shoot for 9:00 but it's usually closer to --

*HV1: Oh yeah, I know it's hard to get even an 11-month-old to bed at the time scheduled so I can't imagine what it's --

*PAR1: Well I have friends who are like, "My kids are in bed by 7:00" and then I start to feel bad and I'm like, "Well what time do they get up?" "Well they're up at 6:00." I'm like, "Okay." They don't have to get up -- and really she don't have to get up until 8:15 but still.

*HV1: Yeah.

*PAR2: But she _____ so she can eat breakfast.

*HV1: Yeah. All right, so right now (Home Visitor) is talking with Child B just about some of the books she likes because we're interested in learning more about Child B's interests and her reading interests. So where would you say Child B gets most of her books from? You mentioned this a little bit earlier.

*PAR1: Barnes & Noble. I mean every once in a while we'll find one at Target but those are kind of pricey or not a whole lot of substance.

*PAR2: _____ Barnes & Noble.

*PAR1: Every once in a while we'll do one from Amazon online but --

*HV1: Okay.

*PAR1: And then of course ones that we had our whole life.

*HV1: Wonderful. So what are some things that you do to help Child B become a good reader?

*PAR1: I think it's just genetics but I also think we started learning the alphabet very early. She had these vintage cards all along her wall of her alphabet. And then we had these rubbery sticker things on the shower. So the whole alphabet. I mean I don't know what the answer is but I know she was exposed to the alphabet very, very early and we went to look at preschool -- I think that made all the difference too for many, many reasons. People yea or nay on preschool but I think it helped in terms of socialization and learning the alphabet and starting with words and writing your name and everything.

*HV1: Great.

*PAR2: I mean I can remember when they were one and two and three just sitting in the hallway just looking at books together, just the whole --

*PAR1: That's the key too is having the books in the house, having something in the house that allows them to write and to color and to use their hands and read. It just --

*PAR2: Well I'm saying that I think that is the practice of just sitting there, looking at the book even if they're not grasping it. I mean I know _____ hearing my mom saying when I was -- she

would read the same book to me and then she would change the story around just to hurry up and get through the book, and I would tell her that that's not what the story is.

*HV1: [Crosstalk] skipped part.

*PAR1: Repetition, repetition helps a lot I think.

*HV1: Yeah.

*PAR2: We've worn a couple books out actually. More than a couple.

*HV1: So what if anything do you do when Child B has a hard time with a book?

*PAR2: I should paddle her or something?

*PAR1: I don't know that -- I mean it's hard because we're in a different place. If you'd come when we were three we would have been in a different place, I think. When she was just starting to learn and having difficulties we'd read it with her and then she'd try and repeat it.

*PAR2: That's the biggest problem we have now is just interest. I read lots of different non-fiction and fiction and I've tried getting the Harry Potter out because I know it's a very good progressive book, a series of books to get up _____ more advanced type reading. And she just has not wanted to read those.

*PAR1: And trying to get out of the -- she enjoys these rainbow books but I don't think they're up to her level. So trying to --

*PAR2: She doesn't challenge herself at all.

*PAR1: -- trying to encourage her to challenge herself.

*PAR2: I mean I picked some Tolkien out.

*PAR1: Don't scare the girl.

*PAR2: I know college students that can't get through the book.

*PAR1: That's a tough read.

*HV1: So what are some questions that you ask when you talk about books that Child B's read?

*PAR1: We do not do any of that. When they were little we'd say talk about the beginning, the middle and the end, what were the characters, what's the plot, getting them used to that verbiage.

*PAR2: There were a couple of times that we were making sure that she was actually reading and it was kind of the same thing and actually _____ read the first chapter. She asked _____ what happened in the first chapter, and she told us her happened in the movie.

*PAR1: Yeah.

*HV1: Ah, caught ya!

*PAR1: But now we really don't. I've been looking at some of these surveys that have come home there at school and I was thinking, "Am I supposed to be doing that?" because we don't have to, at least at this point, so I don't know maybe we should but they grasp the book so I'm happy with that.

*PAR2: She hasn't had a problem at all at school with the comprehension.

*HV1: So what, if anything, do you do to motivate your child to read? Again, this might not be as relevant of a question but is there anything that you found really helps motivate her to read?

*PAR1: I think depending on the book. I mean like we were saying with those rainbow books, it's fairies, it's girly, it's fun and that's what she likes to read. So we've had to just let her do with what she wants so we can keep the momentum going and keep her wanting to reading.

*PAR2: [Inaudible] mysteries.

*PAR1: A lot more interested in mysteries.

*PAR2: She's been watching the Poirots on PBS and she's real interested in that.

*PAR1: Figuring it out.

*PAR2: And I think that's going to be the type of book that she's [crosstalk].

*PAR1: That would be a good one [crosstalk].

*PAR2: I think she's going to really start excelling towards those.

*PAR1: And it's tough because you have the Nancy Drews, you have the things that are - I don't think it would keep her interest because she's very much in the now, you know, while she picks up on history, that's not her thing. So those are a little dated.

*PAR2: _____ 1969?

*PAR1: No. So it'd have to have to be something of the now, of something modern that was a mystery that involved technology or whatever.

*HV1: Kind of the contemporary age? Okay.

*PAR2: She doesn't mind putting it on and watching but I think she'd have a hard time reading it. Agatha Christie might be a little too much.

*PAR1: That's too much. Plus it's got all kinds of little things going on, so I don't think that's for her age but a mystery.

*HV1: Yeah. Wonderful. Are you guys done? Okay. Wonderful. Thank you guys so much for letting me talk with you. Hopefully we'll get her some really good books over the summer. Excited? Yeah, we've been amazed at these recorders they gave us.

other excerpts from home visit

*HV1: Fascinating. So about how many children's books would you say she has?

*PAR1: Hundreds.

*PAR2: Well some of them she inherited from our books. But yeah, ones that we specifically bought for her is probably about 30.

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*PAR2: And sometimes I'll ask her what she read, what was it about.

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*HV1: So often do you buy Child B books? Would you say never, hardly ever, once or twice a year, three or four times per year or at least once per month?

*PAR2: At least --

*PAR1: -- once a month. She asked for a Barnes & Noble gift card for her birthday if that tells you anything.