

01-ALM

open-ended interview

*HV1: The questions that follow are all just open ended. So we're interested in knowing the kinds of things that you and Child J do in your everyday routine. So if you were to think about what a typical day looks like for Child J from the time she wakes up to the time she goes to bed, can you kind of walk me through that?

*PAR: First of all, I have to get them up because they love to stay up late watching TV. I think that's my mistake putting TV in their rooms. I'm really, really thinking about taking them out because I think when I go to bed, when I get off at 12:00, they're asleep. Sometimes they're not asleep. So it's kind of hard.

If I get up in the morning, I get them up about 6:30, time to get up, brush their teeth, get their clothes on, come down and get breakfast and I do their hair and we're running late because they drag and that's because they're up at nights watching TV. And when I pick them up around 3:30, they come home. The first thing they do is they'll do their homework. They'll sit.

When they finish their homework, can they go out and play? I let them go probably 25, 30, 40 minutes. It depends on the kids. If the kids are outside, I let them sit out there for a while. They'll come in. Then they'll take their bath and start getting ready for supper. They'll play, watch TV.

It really all depends. I'm off this week. That's their normal routine when I'm here. When I'm not here, I can't tell you, and I think that's the reason why they're so tired because every night when I come in, I got to make sure their clothes – 'cause they take their clothes out at night. They get their clothes out at night. I go and check to make sure what they took out, if it's ironed or whatever, 'cause they have their stuff set out. Then I go and take my bath and stuff and go to bed but when I get up in the morning, they're just exhausted. I'm like, "What time did y'all go to bed?"

That's another reason why I'm trying to rearrange my schedule from this night shift because I need to be here more with them so I can monitor their schedule and then I was going to take those TVs out. But it's hard every morning 'cause I know they're exhausted. They want to stay up and half the time I've got my sister's baby and he's a handful so they want to stay up and play with him.

*HV1: How old is he?

*PAR: He's 11 months.

*HV1: That's a fun age, and you do, you just want to play with them when they're that cute.

*PAR: And he keeps them up because when he goes to sleep in the evening, it's hard for him to go back to sleep _____ so he wants to stay up until about 8:00, 9:00 playing and they want to stay up and keep him company and it's just overlapping time. I'm really just starting to buckle down on their time and their schedule because it's starting to affect him them in the mornings.

*HV1: Okay. That's a very helpful walk through. Thank you. Next question. We're interested in learning more about what types of books interest Child J and I know that she's showing Miss (Home Visitor) some right now. And my question for you is where has she gotten most of her books from?

*PAR: Oh, wow. We got a lot of them from Wal-Mart. She'll check them out from school. Those are the ones that from school, she'll check those out. She'll take those back. And then there's just passed down books from when I had my daycare. I had an in-home daycare so I had a lot of books then so I just kept them and passed them on to them.

*HV1: I'm sorry to interrupt you. These are books you had bought for your daycare?

*PAR: Mm-hmm.

*HV1: Okay, got it. Continue.

*PAR: And so they have those books and then they have educational books. I would go out and get them phonic books, the ones that's helping them with math, division, comprehension, the reading part, writing. They just have a variety. I don't get them a set of books. Sometimes Child J will like to just sit up and write. She'll read and then she'll write whatever she's reading in her story and then she try to practice on her writing. So it's a lot of different books that she actually engages in. She don't have one set.

*HV1: It sounds like they come from a variety of sources. What are some things that you do to help Child J become a better reader?

*PAR: I sit and I just listen to her read. Even if the word's not right she's saying, I'll tell her to stop and take her time and pronounce it again, just correcting her but letting her correct herself. I just basically sit and listen. She's been reading since she was three.

*HV1: Wow. Okay, great. What, if anything, do you do when you see that she's having a hard time with a book?

*PAR: I don't go to her. I let her come to me because I want her to be able to figure it out on her own because I'm not going to be there all the time to help her with it. If she's struggling with something with her reading, she will come to me. The majority of time, she's reading with her sister and actually she helps her sister out and she's the oldest one in the older grade.

*HV1: So let's say that she did come to you. What would you do then with what she's struggling with?

*PAR: If she come to me, I mostly sit down with her, go over it. We read it together and I try to express to her I mostly tell her to take her time because she's rushing and then I just sit down and explain to her, "Child J, it's not as hard as it seems." She's not focused. She wants to hurry up and do it and then go outside and play. She's got a lot of distractions that are going on. And I just sit and tell her, "Just take your time. It's easy. You're rushing. You're smart. Just take your time. If it's something that you're not understanding, that's what I'm here for. I'm here to help you with that."

But she mostly if she struggling with it, she'll kind of sound it out. "Well, Miss R. tell me to just sound it out or just take my time." And I'm just, "Yeah, she's telling you right." If she has difficulties in something she mostly tries to figure it out on her own and I think that's one of the reasons I'm so impressed with her because she does a lot of the stuff herself. I don't have to help her but I'm there watching her.

*HV1: Yeah, she sounds pretty autonomous. Yeah, okay. What are some questions you ask her when you talk to her about books that she's read?

*PAR: I mostly ask her, "Tell me a little bit about the character." I ask her did she understand what she was reading. Then I basically tell her to go into details and kind of tell me if it relates to a lot of things like her everyday life and why did she pick that book. Just basic, simple questions I would say to her when she's reading. "Did you enjoy it? Would you read it again?" She was like, "Yeah." Most of the time she does.

*HV1: Great. What, if anything, do you do to motivate Child J to read?

*PAR: What I do to motivate Child J, most of the time I pick up a book or I say, "Child J, have you read anything today?" And she'll be like, "No, mom." And I'll be like, "Are you going to read today?" "Yes, mommy." "What are you going to read?" I don't push her to read. It's just something she does on her own, but I do support her when she reads because I always try to tell her, "Reading will take you a long way." I just encourage her.

*HV1: Great. Okay, and you've kind of alluded to this a little bit. Are there other people in the home that help her with reading, and if so, what do they do?

*PAR: Well, her sister sits and reads with her. Sometimes my nephew, he's here. They all just sit and read together or they'll take turns. My oldest daughter, she'll read a story and then they'll listen. It's like they'll take turns reading a story and try to –

*HV1: That's really sweet.

*PAR: It's like a role play they do. I thought it was really nice, too, because my nephew, he's just in kindergarten. He reads excellent and I don't know if it's because he's been reading with them, but he reads high level books, too.

*HV1: Wow. So you said you've got the nephew who's in kindergarten and then your older daughter. How old is she?

*PAR: Child J is 12.

*HV1: So you've got the nephew and the sister. Anybody else?

*PAR: Oh, my oldest daughter and she's 17. She helps them out when she can if she's not so busy or on the phone or whatever. She helps them out with their homework and stuff, making sure they're doing everything 'cause she's mostly here when I'm at work, her and my husband. So my husband will come down and ask them have they done their homework or whatever and then she'll help them out. She's very helpful with them with their homework and helping them reading and stuff. She participates a lot.

*HV1: Great. How do you know if Child J has done a good job of reading a book? What's an indicator for you?

*PAR: Oh, she's excited. "Mommy, I read the whole book." And she'll just come in and she'll start – I don't have to ask her – she'll come in and she'll talk about it.

*HV1: Great. In your opinion, what makes a good third-grade reader? What should they be able to do?

*PAR: What makes a good third-grade reader? With my daughter, I'm just gonna talk about my daughter. I can't talk about the other children. What makes her a good third-grade reader is the fact that she takes the time to read. She wants to read. She understands what she's reading. She can talk about what she read. For her, she's very advanced in reading to me and she comprehends really good.

*HV1: And this question kind of relates to what you just said. You might have already answered it. How would you describe her reading skills?

*PAR: Oh, I describe her reading skills as very good. She's a very good reader. It's something she really enjoys. It's like a passion to her, to me.

*HV1: And final question, what goals do you have for her reading this summer?

*PAR: I want her to be able to read on the level of she's going to next and be comfortable. I want her to just keep advancing and be comfortable with her reading.

*HV1: Be ready for fourth grade reading. Got it.

*PAR: Yes, ma'am.

*HV1: Well, those are all of my questions for you. You have been so helpful.

*PAR: Thank you.

other excerpts from home visit

PAR: That's the one she always gets and she just take her time and read each story and she'll tell about the story and I'll be in that area. She really is. I'm really proud of her.