

Parent interview: for parents of children attending DIGITAL MEDIA AND LEARNING SITES

X = focal child

Introduction to us

- **Who we are and what we are interested in (explain project briefly)**
- **Reassure - there's no right or wrong answers...**
- **Conditions: maybe another visit if possible, take between 1-2 hours, recording, photographs, confidential, anonymous, sign consent, voucher, publications**

Understanding landscape of home/family

(Goal: understand who lives there, how the home is organized, the place of digital tech in relations to the families' activities, who uses what, what activities are shared and what are individual)

- **Tell us about your home – who lives here? How long have you been here?**
 - **What's it like bringing a child up in this neighbourhood?**
 - **Where did you grow up?**
 - **What languages do you speak at home?**
- **Tell us about X, what are they interested in? How do they spend their leisure time?**
 - **What are they good at?**
 - **Where does X usually hang out at home?**
 - **Does X also spend a lot of time in another parent/relative's house?**
- **What's a perfect day for you? What's a bad day?**
 - **How do you think X would answer this question?**
- **What kinds of things do you do together as a family (eating? TV?)?**
 - **What kinds of activities do you do on your own? Or does X do on her/his own?**
 - **Do you have any time to yourself, and what do you usually do in that time?**
 - **What would you say a typical weekend day looks like in your house? Prompts for digital media use – checking email, games etc.**

Parental mediation & technology use

(Goal: understand how parents view kids' tech use, how much they are part of kids' tech use, whether there are rules or positive guidance)

- **What kinds of digital technologies do you have in your home? (media tour?) What does X use? What do you use? For work or fun? Do you share those with X?**
 - **Who helps who with technology? Is there anyone else you ask for help?**
 - **Is there anything that X does with digital technology that surprises or impresses you?**
 - **Where do you think he/she learned to do that?**
 - **Is there anything that X does with digital technology that worries you?**
 - **What do you think might happen?**
 - **Do you feel more or less concerned about X's tech use in comparison to other worries you might have?**
 - **Have you read/seen anything about digital media that made you feel more or less excited or concerned? E.g. from a friend, the news, X's school**
- **What, if anything, do you do to encourage or manage X's technology use?**
 - **Examples – suggesting sites or apps, setting rules/limits, talking about what they do, playing/viewing together, parental control software, being friends on Facebook**
 - **Do you ever monitor what X does online/gaming/social media?**
 - **Does X know you do this (won't tell them you said this)? Do you think you and your partner approach this in the same way?**

- How have you talked with X about your views on his/her digital media use? E.g. what's worthwhile, what's problematic?
 - Is X aware of your values? Does s/he follow the rules? Does this ever cause conflict?
- Are there other things you also have conflict about in the family? More or less?
- Are there ever times you use digital media as a reward? Give me an example?
- In what ways does how you talk to X about digital media reflect your parenting values?
 - How does what you do with X in terms of digital technology compare with his/her siblings if he/she has them? Differences based on age/ability?

Connected learning

(Goal: understand how parent relates to child's non-formal learning site & to their school, what their understanding is of what they do when they are not at home and how their participation at WAC/school relate to their activities at home)

- I'd like to talk about X's time at DML SITE now
- How did X get interested in/involved with DML SITE
 - What interested you about sending X to DML SITE? What were you hoping for? (job opps, communication, inclusion)
 - Was there anything that worried you about X getting involved at DML SITE?
 - How often does he/she go?
 - What do you think they do when they are there?
 - What do you think they are learning?
 - Have they shown you anything they've been working on? What did you think?
 - Has X going to DML SITE changed anything at home?
 - What do you normally do while X is at DML SITE?
- How do you think going to DML SITE compares with the rest of X's day at school?
 - How much do you know about what happens at school?
 - Where and how do you think X learns best? What kind of a learner is X?
- Does X usually use digital technology for school?
 - What do you like/not like about using digital technology for school?
 - How does the school contact you? What do you think X's school wants from you?
 - Has digital media changed anything about your relationship with X's school?
 - Do you think it could change things for the better? What would be required?

Thoughts about parenting

(Goal: understand what they think is challenging about being a parent in 2015, if they spontaneously raise media/tech we can follow up to get a sense of their main concerns. Also sense of what makes for good/bad parenting)

- What's it like being a parent in 2015?
 - What are the high points for you as a parent?
 - What do you find frustrating?
- How would you describe your parenting style?
 - What kind of relationship do you try to have with your kids?
 - What do you think makes a 'good' parent? Or a 'bad' parent?
 - Could you share any examples of when you think you did some good/bad parenting?
 - What kinds of support do you get or who do you talk to about parenting?
Church/blogs/official policy docs/friends/family/pop culture
- Right now, what do you think is your biggest concern for your kid/s?

Future/past

(Goal: reflections on own childhood and start to move towards discussion of the 'future' by drawing on concrete examples from own past)

- How do you think your experience as a parent compares with your parents' experience raising you?
 - Do you think your 'style' as a parent is similar? (i.e. punishment)
 - What about compared with your grandparents' experience of parenting?
 - Are the challenges of parenting more or less the same?
- How does having digital technologies at home make your job as a parent easier or harder?
 - What do you think you do differently than your parents did with you when you were X's age?
 - Do you think you have worries that are different from your parents?
- How do you think your parents announced to friends and family that you were born? How did you announce X's birth? How do you think X will announce his/her children's birth if he/she has them?
 - What do you remember getting for birthday presents when you were a child? What about for X? Is there anything X has that you wish you could have had at his/her age? How might you have used this (console, internet etc)
- When you think about X in the future, do you think you feel mostly hopeful or worried?
 - What are your biggest concerns about challenges X will face as an adult?
 - Prompts – isolation, job security, money, global warming, privacy??
 - What excites you when you think about X as an adult?
 - What kinds of opportunities do you think X will have?
 - Sometimes people say that 'children today will grow up to do jobs that haven't been invented yet' – do you think this might be true for X?
 - How do you prepare X for having a job someday? What might this job will be?
- What experiences, knowledge or values do you hope X will learn from you?
 - Is there anything you hope X will do differently from you?
- How much do you think you, as X's parent, are in determining X's future life chances?
 - What role do you think school has? Friends? Places like WAC?
 - What do you think would help you most to have a positive impact on X?

Closing

- Short demographic questionnaire.
- Perhaps short media ownership and use questionnaire.
- Thanks. Have they any questions for us?
- Arrange a follow up meeting if appropriate.
- Leave them with the information sheet with our contacts.