**P1:** Sorry, and then I couldn't remember how to do that. I have done it a hundred times. I don’t understand what's happened that I couldn't just…

**P2:** No worries.

**P1:** Sorry. How are you? Oh, you're back.

**P2:** It's stuck. Yeah, I don’t know why -- let me just disconnect. Hold on. Can you hear me?

**P1:** Yes, yes. I can hear you. Can you hear me?

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Good. Okay, and cool, so I saw you I think it was two weeks ago-ish.

**P2:** Yeah, I can't actually remember. **[laughter]**

**P1:** Yeah. How have they been? I mean, I think and probably since I've seen you, I can't remember if we had already moved down to level three or if that's whatever…

**P2:** I -- I can't remember yeah.

**P1:** But how have things been for you?

**P2:** Um, yeah okay. Uh, yeah, kids are still at home.

**P1:** Yeah -- yeah. Um, is your school thinking about going back any time soon, or?

**P2:** Um, they said -- they said the nursery school in like August, yeah but I don’t know.

**P1:** Yeah. How do you feel about them going back?

**P2:** I think they need to go back **[laughter]**.

**P1:** Yeah. You need them to go back. **[laughter]**

**P2:** I need them to go back. But I think they -- they also like -- they need -- they need their friends. They need to interact with other kids. They need to be with a teacher. Yeah, home-schooling for a mom, is not ideal.

**P1:** Mm-mm. Did they -- um, I mean, they're still quite little, do they have a lot of stuff from the school?

**P2:** They do have -- they do have quite a bit coming through. Um, but it's like hard to do it with them. Like my little one she's almost two, she doesn't -- doesn't really like screen time. Uh, Eldest she like -- I don’t know, she like struggles too. All wins with me, she like doesn't really want to get involved. But some of the homework, she does do, yeah.

**P1:** Okay. Um, and I was -- I mean, I was transcribing our previous interviews, so I've thinking about you, um, and wondering if you've gotten more busy with work. I didn't ever ask you what you do for work.

**P2:** So, I'm in electrical consulting.

**P1:** Okay. What is that? It sounds interesting.

**P2:** Um, so it's like electrical design work for like buildings.

**P1:** Okay.

**P2:** Electricity tariffs, yeah.

**P1:** Right, okay so you must have gotten more busy because I assume people are back to building?

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Okay.

**P2:** I'm busy again. So, I've actually been trying to work not from home. Um, get work done. So, I haven't been with the girls as much. Like they have been at home with my maid.

**P1:** Okay. I was going to say, has your nanny come back?

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** She was away and then she came back.

**P2:** Yes -- yeah.

**P1:** She was never a living nanny from…

**P2:** Now she is. She is a living.

**P1:** Okay -- okay. Okay, so how has that been? How has the transition been?

**P2:** Um, so it's been good. It was a bit difficult for them. Like getting back to mom being out for the whole day. Every day I have had to kind of like explain to them. Um, yeah. So, it has been a bit hard for them. But once I'm out, they're perfectly happy. They have such fun.

**P1:** Yeah. You mean with the maid?

**P2:** Yeah, and they also respond better -- Eldest responds to her better doing school work than when I do it.

**P1:** Yeah. Why do you think that is? **[laughter]** It's like eternal question, I don’t know. **[laughter]** At least I could do that thing. **[laughter]**

**P2:** Like I try. Like I wish I could teach her. I love teaching but with a child, it's just…

**P1:** I mean, do you think it's something between you and her that is happening that you like, I don’t know, butting heads is the right analogy.

**P2:** I think she tries to kind of -- she tries to -- I don’t know what the word is. She kind of wants to be in control and she wants to show me that she's leading. So, as soon as I lead, that's a problem. Um, yeah, but like even with me, once she's doing the school work, not the videos as much -- no, not it's both. Once she's doing it, she enjoys it, but I think getting her to do it is -- getting her -- because it's like my idea, or like me initiating it, that's the problem. She's very -- like Eldest, she's very antiauthority.

**P1:** Okay. Is she like that with the teacher as well or is it just with you?

**P2:** She's quite outspoken. Like because we moved her this year, she was very quiet, but last year, she was always like outspoken like friendly and like I took her to physio and she wasn’t listening to the physio at some point. And I was like, "Yay, Eldest is back." That is how she is.

**P1:** All right. So, she's not quiet. Is she quite assertive in class?

**P2:** She's very assertive, yeah.

**P1:** Okay. Because I may [crosstalk] yeah?

**P2:** Not like in the beginning she's like a bit, um, a bit like shy or like kind of want to hold my hand or hold me, but then once she's like a little bit more comfortable, she's -- she's quite assertive.

**P1:** Okay. So, I remember you saying -- I mean, I remember from our earlier conversation that she's very expressive. So, um, is she a bit more verbally advanced than he peers?

**P2:** Uh, I think so. Yeah. So, she's -- yeah, she did speak early and she's yeah -- she's quite -- she's quite good with that, so…

**P1:** Yeah.

**P2:** Yeah. And now she's learning from her cousin like he kind of has her back. So, when I told her she's in trouble, she'll tell me, "No, Friend can break the house." Or, "Friend can do this." "Friend is going to come take you away."

**P1:** Okay -- okay. What do you think she is trying to communicate to you in that moment?

**P2:** I don’t know. If you know, please tell me. **[laughter]**

**P1:** Was she -- I mean, I'm trying to think like is she afraid of the punishment? What is a typical punishment in your house?

**P2:** The problem is we don’t like normally carry through. We'll often like threaten her and then not do anything.

**P1:** Okay -- okay.

**P2:** Um.

**P1:** Yeah, what do you threaten with?

**P2:** So, it's like no TV or like I'm going to give you a smack. Or, I'm going to take that away, yeah.

**P1:** Yes, okay. And how does she -- okay, so currently if she responds with, um, her own threat of Friend **[laughter]** okay. And before -- before Friend, how would she respond?

**P2:** She wasn't as -- as like -- no she wouldn't really threaten back. Not as much.

**P1:** Yeah, would she get upset?

**P2:** She would get upset, yeah. She would get upset, um, interesting. She'd tell us she's not going to give us presents that was just before Friend. And before that, she would just get upset. Say, "You're making me sad."

**P1:** Oh, okay. Um, it's very -- I mean, I'm sure in the moment it's quite difficult. **[laughter]** Um, yeah. I don’t know I mean, I guess, when she says to you that she's not giving you presents, um, she's angry.

**P2:** Yes.

**P1:** Um, yeah, but then I was wondering if when she says Friend is going to come take you away, if she's afraid of the punishment or trying to make herself bigger than you, fight it?

**P2:** Yeah, it seems like, yeah. Like dominating.

**P1:** Mm-hmm -- mm-hmm. I was thinking about what you said about the homework **[00:10:00]** around like she wants to be the one leading the homework.

**P2:** Mm-hmm.

**P1:** Yeah okay. Is that her? [crosstalk] Sorry.

**P2:** Go on.

**P1:** I was going to say she likes to take the lead? Is that -- is that her? She likes to be in control?

**P2:** I think so, like when she was younger she -- she did. Um, the new school changed her a little bit, um, but yeah before she would take the lead. She would be standing in front of the class while the rest of them were sitting and listening.

**P1:** Okay. Second teacher?

**P2:** Yes, but not like in a bully way. I think that's also another thing. There's -- there's a girl that is a bit of a bully in her class. And I think that has -- I think that has had an impact?

**P1:** Okay. Does she bully **[inaudible 00:10:55]**?

**P2:** So I think she's -- I don’t know exactly. Like my husband pointed it out, because we went to a birthday party and Josh is like -- she doesn’t want to say thank you. And Josh said, just like leave it. Just drop it. And she kind of saw that she was a bit of a bully. And Eldest has come home crying because the other little girl didn't want to play with her who is friends with this bully.

**P1:** Yeah, okay. Okay, shame that's really hard and they're so little as well. She's only three and a bit.

**P2:** She's so little. Yeah.

**P1:** How do they know how to do that at this age? Um, okay. All right, okay so she's assertive but she's not mean, is what you're saying.

**P2:** Not at all. She's very sensitive. Extremely sensitive.

**P1:** Yeah. Um and very expressive with her friends?

**P2:** Yes.

**P1:** Um, okay. There was something else that I wanted to ask you. Sorry, I was just talking about -- oh, what I wanted to ask you is how do -- so how do you respond when she says, "Friend is going to come take you away or going to bush this house down, or." **[laughter]**

**P2:** I just **[inaudible 00:12:13].** I just repeat like what I'm saying. I don’t actually acknowledge that.

**P1:** Yeah -- yeah -- yeah. I wonder -- I was wondering what she is wanting or needing in that moment, um, from you or hoping to get I wonder.

**P2:** Okay. You're saying that's why she's saying something like that?

**P1:** No, I was saying I wonder. I wonder what she's wanting to get from you in that moment, yeah. I don’t know. I mean, I wonder what she wants your reaction to be if she wants you…

**P2:** She did tell me today to say sorry. **[laughter]** So for the first time -- okay, so I took her to get a helmet, and she said to me, "I really want to come to you. I want to come choose it."

I said, "Okay." So, I went to fetch her after work. We went to Rosebank. She had to put on her mask. And those are really difficult difficult for a child. It's a horrible environment for a child. Um, so now I was trying to get her just to like participate because it was just like turning out to be quite difficult for me also. So, she just was like wasn't listening. Touching everything. Not listening. She ended up shoplifting. **[laughter]**

**P1:** Oh, no what happened? **[laughter]**

**P2:** Um, now, uh, I had forgotten -- I didn't have a credit -- no, I had lost my credit card. I cancelled it I had no credit card. So, I found the credit card my car. I forgot to ask my husband to give me his. So, I found two cards in the car, but I didn't have the password. So I tried both in the shop couldn't get through.

**P1:** Oh, no.

**P2:** I had to go and withdraw cash and realised she had shoplifted. **[laughter]** Went to withdraw the cash just like disastrous and she was touching everything and like I was getting like so uptight about her touching. And just like running around. So I eventually said, "You know I've asked you to not touch. I've asked you to not behave. And you're just not behaving. You're not listening to anything." So I thought I am going to punish her. I'm not going to give her the helmet. And I told her that. She didn't really react to that like, "No, I want the helmet."

Anyway, we walked out. Started walking out the shopping centre, and then I was like, "What am I doing? I need the helmet. I need to go to get this helmet." So I said, to her, "I am going to get the helmet but it doesn't belong to you." Anyway this didn't work out. So eventually I was like, okay we're just going home. And then she said to me that I made her sad because we didn't get it. She told me she was going to tell Friend and then she told me to apologise. And I was like, "No." So yeah.

**P1:** Oh, my goodness it sounds like such a disastrous shopping trip.

**P2:** Disastrous.

**P1:** And you didn't even get the helmet. At the end you left without the helmet.

**P2:** We left without the helmet. I dropped her at home. And she was hysterical because now I was leaving. And then I went back to get the helmet for her. But I told her that she has to behave and then I'll give it to her. So I just wanted to get it, but she was like -- I think that's also difficult for her. After I punish her, she wants to know that she's still loved. So, the fact that I left her home, she was, yeah.

**P1:** Could you…

**P2:** Yeah, so like often after I punish her, or after like we shout at her, I'll come to her and give her a kiss, but yeah, I think it is hard for her.

**P1:** Does that help when you give her a kiss?

**P2:** Say again.

**P1:** Sorry does that help when you go and give her the kiss after the punishment?

**P2:** It does. It does because like she'll say to me, "Why aren’t you talking?" So she gets worried that after she's been punished, I'm like going to leave or I'm cross with her. I don’t know.

**P1:** Yeah -- yeah -- yeah. Um, do you ever say to her like, "Um, I still love you or even though I'm punishing you I still love you or I'm angry with you but I love you?"

**P2:** I don’t think so and I -- I think I probably should. After now speaking to you.

**P1:** Yeah, I wonder -- because you -- yeah, I was just wondering, because you're aware of how much she is feeling in the moment and you're obviously trying to do something to make her feel more settled. That's why you give her the kiss.

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Um, yeah and it might be something about verbalising, you know, what she is thinking.

**P2:** Yes.

**P1:** Because she -- yeah, I mean, she's obviously got that ability. It's amazing how, um, yeah, verbally apt she is, you know, but I think it makes your job a lot harder. **[laughter]**

**P2:** Yeah, is it -- she's almost four. She'll be four in another three months

**P1:** Yeah, no, I don’t know. So I don’t assess three-year-olds, but I think it's quite amazing. I think it's really quiet is that she obviously can speak -- she can speak above her years but she's still has the emotions of a three-year-old.

**P2:** Exactly.

**P1:** Or a four-year-old.

**P2:** And that's actually what her teacher would say. Like she's quite mature but she's still little.

**P1:** Yeah, she sounds older and maybe they even easily make the mistake of treating her older. You know, as if she's five or six or whatever, because that's what she sounds like.

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** How were you feeling during the shopping trip? Was that today? Sorry, was that yesterday?

**P2:** No, it was today.

**P1:** Okay. **[laughter]**

**P2:** Um, so it was all good. Like I always find like a second -- a second plan, uh, like a backup. Um, I just -- so I didn't -- I didn't lose my cool at all. I just thought now going to get okay because when we were on the shop, she also wanted other things. And I understand -- you see I don’t actually understand, but she's my first child. So I don’t know. So I'm just trying but like she asks for a fortune of things, and I'm kind of trying to show her -- like I said to her this morning, "I have to go to work to make the money so I can buy you the helmet. If I don’t go to work, I don’t make money, I can't buy you a helmet." I'm trying to kind of show her that I can't buy everything. So in the shop she wanted a whole load of other things which is like it's a child it's normal. But like I don’t know what's normal. I don’t know what's not normal.

**P1:** Sure. I think it's hard, and all the things are there, and they're so interesting and…

**P2:** Yeah, it's like back and forth. What?

**P1:** What shop was it?

**P2:** It was Sportsman Warehouse I think or one of those sporty.

**P1:** Yeah.

**P2:** And she's a kid so I'm like back and forth with, she's a kid she hasn't been to the shop in ages. She's like so excited to see things touch things. But then there's like COVID she's seeing like she's like touching everything. So, it's not an environment for a child.

**P1:** No. Um, and it's so hard for you because it's the rules that are hard to explain that don’t necessarily make sense to her.

**P2:** Yeah. **[00:20:00]**

**P1:** And so because I was wondering about when you were describing that you like, "We're not getting the helmet," and then you leave, and then you think, "What am I doing? I need the helmet." Um, **[laughter]** and I wondered if you had felt like you had painted yourself into a corner kind of and you were like…

**P2:** I don't. **[laughter]**

**P1:** …what do I do now? Because you don’t want -- don’t want to give in to your child, but you also need the helmet.

**P2:** Yeah, it was like is it the right thing to punish her with because it's actually for her safety? Is it a treat? Yeah, no idea.

**P1:** It's tricky. Um and what do you think she wanted you to apologise for when you got home?

**P2:** For not getting her the helmet. Uh, I think so. She gets hurt very easily. She's extremely sensitive. So I don’t think it's the actual helmet. I think it's the -- the action.

**P1:** Yeah. I mean, and I was just wondering I'm trying to imagine what the experience, the shopping experience was like for her?

**P2:** Tired, like understand I take big steps. She takes tiny steps. She doesn't look where she walks. She falls every like 10 steps. It's tiring for her, I understand that. It's just also it's like it's a horrible environment for children. It's a horrible environment for adults.

**P1:** I am wondering if you also want to get out of there, get in, get the helmet, get it done, get out.

**P2:** Yeah, so it was also rushed, yeah. I had this mask on because my other one broke and it was like…

**P1:** Yeah, the thing with the mask, I also find is that like my peripheral vision is out. So especially if I'm with children, I don’t know if feel like I can't -- I got to directly look at them to see them. Like I can't -- and I don’t know how that makes it much harder but it does. It just like extra effort.

**P2:** For sure. So, maybe time again, the fact that it was rushed made it difficult for me and difficult for her. But I didn't like lose my cool. I just needed her to like listen to one thing.

**P1:** Did you feel overwhelmed?

**P2:** Not very. Like a little bit but not very, no. Like this credit card thing happens to me often. **[laughter]**.

**P1:** It was just Tuesday **[laughter]**. Yeah, okay.

**P2:** I just -- I just felt like I need her to listen and she needs to kind of learn to behave a little bit something.

**P1:** Um, I was thinking about you and time a lot and I was wondering if -- I was wondering if you had gotten busier and I wondered if you had still found time to do the things that you had wanted to do before like take time with your kids and listen, think, that type of thing.

**P2:** So, definitely after work I try doing it in the beginning, the first few days like before work. And disastrous. Like I need to get to work. I need to get through like a certain amount of things with them. Disastrous. Time is a big factor. So I realised if I go to work, I'll come back and I'll be able to give them more time than when I need than if I do it before. So, I'll say bye to them -- I'll sit with them a few minutes, say bye and then go to work. And then spend time with them when I get home.

**P1:** Yeah, and are you finding that you are able to bring some of their time that you wanted home? Are you able to use that after work?

**P2:** Yeah -- yeah. I think so.

**P1:** Okay.

**P2:** I think it's more conscious now that I just need a turn off and just be with them.

**P1:** Okay. I was looking back at our transcript, one of the questions I had, which I think is kind of a hard question, but in wanting more time and in having more time what is it that time actually gives you? Does that make sense? Um, what are you doing with the time? I think that's another way to phrase it…

**P2:** I think that I have more patience when I have more time. And I think they need that.

**P1:** Okay. They need that from you?

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Because how are you different if you're…

**P2:** I'm not. I think I'm able to let them do what they need to do. To let them take their time and just like be, instead of me rushing a process.

**P1:** Okay. Yeah,

**P2:** And they're still learning what they need, so everything for them I guess, is learning, whereas for me that's not all. I guess, I miss that.

**P1:** Yeah, that's -- okay, so are you talking about like practically everything is learning? Like so I'm trying to think of a good example. But like putting on shoes is learning.

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Um, where you're like, "Come on," like, "We need to get shoes so we can get into the car and go to school?"

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** For them it's a learning…

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Yeah.

**P2:** Also they don't want the shoes, so they actually need time to get to that step.

**P1:** Yeah. That's very true. Um, it's interesting but as I was thinking emotionally as well, I was thinking that, um, I try to get my words right, but I guess they don’t know what that feelingng is or the thing that they're feelingng what it's called and they need the time to process -- sorry the cat is just determined. I forgot the heat on so he's like, **[inaudible 00:27:03].** **[laughter]** Yeah, they need the time to figure that out and to process it with and like put a name to it.

**P2:** Yeah, and that's Eldest. That's exactly it.

**P1:** Okay.

**P2:** Um, and someone actually said to me that I think this age is the age of, um, emotional maturity. So, they are getting to know their feelings and testing. So that was that car -- that car seat that whole -- that whole thing. So, yeah.

**P1:** Because I was thinking about you and the car seat story and I was wondering because you had said in the transcript, like, "I wish I had time." And I was wondering what would you have done if you had had more time? Would you have just sat in the car? Would you have -- yeah what would you have done?

**P2:** Probably just sat in the car. Probably -- yeah probably sat in the car or allowed her to have her tantrum outside the car instead of pushing her to sit in the car and go home. So, just -- just letting her go through her emotions with me just being there.

**P1:** Yeah. Because, I guess, I was thinking while you're talking that's the other thing about having time and patience is that, um, you can just focus on that one thing at a time. Um, and then you can fully be in the emotion, you know, or trying to check e-mails or I don’t know anything about like that.

**P2:** Yeah. That's exactly it.

**P1:** Which I guess, helps them figure out a bit.

**P2:** Yeah, I have kind of learned that she needs to just be supported while she goes through it. She has these big emotions and she needs to express them and work through them and she just needs me to be…

**P1:** Yes, yeah.

**P2:** …and to love her. I guess, that, "I still love you."

**P1:** Yes, yeah. I mean it's so interesting that you said this, because this brings up something that I was really thinking about a lot during the last interview. Well, I mean, afterwards while I was transcribing it. Um, so I hope you don’t mind me to sort of asking you a little bit about your mom because that all came up in the end and you were saying how strict she was. And I was also wondering, um, I mean, were there times where she was affectionate? Was she an affectionate mom as well or not so much?

**P2:** She was but not -- I think maybe not as often as I would have needed.

**P1:** Okay. Yeah.

**P2:** Um, and also exactly Eldest like there are a lot of **[00:30:00]** similarities between us, um, and I think not when I was being punished. Not when like it was in question, and I feel like it was in question for me. Like I needed the love when there was sternness.

**P1:** Yes, yeah -- yeah. Um, it's so interesting because I've made a note in the interview. Sorry, I wish I could find where I made the note and what made me thing that. I'm sure it's here somewhere, but, um, I was wondering if sometimes it feels like for you it is hard to have rules and be like the nurturing parent at the same time. Like can you be those two things or is it either you're the rule parent or you're the loving parent?

**P2:** Yeah -- yeah for sure. But I think I'm kind of aware of -- I'm aware of kind of the things I needed from my mom that I didn’t get. And I'm trying quite hard to not repeat it with Eldest. And I see that she is as sensitive as I am. So, yeah. But yeah, that's -- that's a good point. She's also -- is like, "Do you still love me now when you're disciplining me?"

**P1:** Yeah. Sorry I brought the interview up and I realised what it was that had made me wonder that. Um, you were telling me about the -- I don't even know if you can remember now because it's probably like a minor incident. But she had been at her gran the whole day and she came home and she was very tired and it was bed time. And was fighting you to go to bed and she wanted you to read a second book. Um, and you had said that you tried and she -- you couldn't agree on the book and she wanted a long book, and um, you had said -- what you said was you wanted to go back in and you wanted to give in to her. Um, and you just decided to hold your ground because she was overtired. And I was wondering to myself, I wonder what you would have done if you had gone in and given in to her in that moment. What would that look like?

**P2:** Um, so, I probably would have read it to her.

**P1:** Okay.

**P2:** The two -- the two things are -- I don’t know if I would have been patient through the process. I was ready to move on. Um, second thing, so these are the things that concern me and push me towards not going in. Um, second thing is she pushes boundaries, Eldest, every single boundary. So, I thought, "Let me not," because if I do it, there's always something else.

**P1:** Yeah. Then it's water or something. Yeah.

**P2:** Yeah, but I don’t know.

**P1:** And no not I mean, sorry I don’t know if it sounds like I'm suggesting you should have. I just…

**P2:** No -- no -- no, you just -- I'm just thinking. Maybe I should have. I'm just thinking.

**P1:** No. I think it's -- I was just -- I was really aware in that sentence of the balance in you I think to like give into her feelings and then on the other hand to play around and what a battle that is.

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Yeah, um, I had wondered would it be different if you had given in not to read a story but to like give a hug, for example? I don’t know is that something…

**P2:** Just quite. I could have. Like sometimes she wants what she wants but she does -- like I could have. I said to her, "Tomorrow I will read you a second book."

**P1:** Yeah -- yeah.

**P2:** Um, yeah.

**P1:** Uh, it's so hard, isn't it?

**P2:** She does need love, like.

**P1:** Yeah, but I can just hear -- I mean in that, I can just hear the battle in you around what is the right thing to do and it feels like she needs something from you and you're trying to give it but you're trying to give the right thing and…

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Yeah, um, yeah and that made me think about -- and your mom obviously from what you're saying wasn't -- very similarly, like she was strict mom or then she was loving mom but not necessarily the two together.

**P2:** Yeah, I don’t think to the two together.

**P1:** Yeah. Um, it must have been quite difficult I think.

**P2:** Yeah. You definitely need both.

**P1:** Yeah.

**P2:** Um, yeah.

**P1:** And I wonder -- I wonder about what is happening for you when you're being strict mom? Because I know you said you -- you don’t always like that. You don’t like that about yourself sometimes.

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Um, I don’t know what do you think?

**P2:** Um, yeah I don’t always like it, and I always question whether I'm too strict. Um, it has -- it has become a bit easier. But I still feel like right, there.

**P1:** Okay. You froze but you're back.

**P2:** Sorry, yeah, like I still question it.

**P1:** Mm-hmm.

**P2:** Yeah, I don’t know. I don’t know. I don’t know if I'm doing this right.

**P1:** No, of course and I…

**P2:** …winging it.

**P1:** Yeah, winging it there isn't even a right. I mean, it's just like moment to moment, making a decision.

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** Um, the other thing I was thinking about you were saying that you had started out quite sensitive, and that you had, what did you say? Because I made the note here, but I can't see here the note comes from. Did you say something like you had to become quite hard as a parent?

**P2:** That's very possible. **[laughter]** Not as a parent. I think as a result of like the outside -- not the outside world, but more like people that were close to me that hurt me. So, yeah, so I've had to become…

**P1:** Okay. And the -- the comment that I wrote here, was what was it that you had to sacrifice in order to sacrifice to do that? I mean, what was it in yourself that you had to change or put a wall up to…?

**P2:** Um, so, definitely in the beginning. What was it? It was I don’t even know. I'm still working through it. Um, trusting people. Still being kind to people even though they might not be kind back and they probably will end up hurting or disappointing. Um, but yeah, I think it's something that like I'm aware of and I don’t want to lose my sensitivity. So, just like trying to keep that and not punish the whole world because of some people.

**P1:** Yeah. I mean it must be interesting to see a lot of your own self in Eldest because obviously you guys are so similar.

**P2:** Yeah, but she's so much more outspoken and unless I started like that and I can't remember.

**P1:** Or maybe you allow it more now and she's able to develop that more.

**P2:** Yeah -- yeah.

**P1:** Um, yeah because it does feel like you want her to have space to say no or to have her feelings.

**P2:** For sure. For sure. I want her to be strong. Like sensitive but strong.

**P1:** Do you feel sensitive but strong?

**P2:** Um, now that I'm older. But I've had to get to that point.

**P1:** Yeah.

**P2:** So, I kind of want to give her the space to develop like that not to have to become like that at a later stage.

**P1:** Mm-hmm. Yeah. And then your little one is just quite different. **[laughter]**

**P2:** Youngest, yeah. She's different.

**P1:** Um, okay.

**P2:** She's also a lot younger, so she's -- her basic need is just hold me, love me.

**P1:** Yes.

**P2:** Don’t -- it's like don’t push me away. I can push you away. That's her father.

**P1:** Okay -- okay.

**P2:** Um, yeah. But like she's quite simple in the fact like let her be and she'll let you be.

**P1:** Okay. It's very sweet. Okay. That's I guess, challenging in its own moment when she's pushes you away, um, and but sounds like expects you to not respond to that.

**P2:** Yes, for sure. **[00:40:00]** I think -- I think it might be a bit easier for me to deal with because I chose my husband. I chose the person I let in, and I am aware of it. Whereas Eldest is me and I didn't choose that.

**P1:** **[laughter]**It's funny. But that also makes me wonder if maybe I mean, maybe it is harder seeing yourself in Eldest because it brings up all of your history that you have.

**P2:** Yes.

**P1:** …not necessarily fighting with, but you know…

**P2:** But relieving for sure.

**P1:** Relieving yeah. Um, whereas Youngest is just different.

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** And then I guess the other thing that I had wondered is, um, sometimes when you guys are clashing, do you become your mom and she becomes you?

**P2:** Um, probably. But that's what I'm trying to kind of prevent. Yeah. Like I don’t want to become that. And I don’t want her to become me.

**P1:** Okay. So maybe that's the fear. Maybe it doesn't actually happen. It's just the fear of it happening that you…

**P2:** Yes, for sure. For sure. But I think it did -- it did happen. I think I actively have to try in every situation to make sure it doesn’t happen. So, allowing her to say, "Friend is going to come bash the house." And, um, allowing her to say, "Say sorry."

**P1:** Yeah, so allowing her to be angry with you.

**P2:** Yes.

**P1:** And -- and then showing her that it's okay that she's angry.

**P2:** For sure.

**P1:** Yeah. Yeah, it's hard. It's a hard thing to do. Um, yeah.

**P2:** I do see that I empower her by allowing some boundaries to be crossed which is not even a boundary, like…

**P1:** Yes. Yeah. Um…

**P2:** I guess what could have been a boundary for my mom.

**P1:** Yes yeah. Absolutely. I mean, are you -- does your mom help with childcare quite bit now?

**P2:** She does. She does, um…

**P1:** Is she quite different as a -- what do you call her? I don’t know if your kids call her granny or?

**P2:** Safta yeah. Safta. Um, yeah so -- sorry go on.

**P1:** Is she quite different with them?

**P2:** She's very different with them. Every now and again when I tell her like what happened, like when I told her today what happened with Eldest, she kind of -- what's the word reverts back to her being a mom, and then I'm like -- I kind of try not to allow her to -- like she's not disciplining. But other than that, she's -- she's a very different grand to how she was a mom. She's a very kind like yeah, she's very warm with them. There's no discipline. She doesn't have to discipline them until she decides she does have to a then that's yeah.

**P1:** Okay. **[laughter]** So, I imagine on one hand that's really nice for you to see. Um, is there anything difficult about it?

**P2:** No. Um, only when she tries to discipline them or -- but otherwise no. It's quite -- it's quite refreshing to see.

**P1:** Yeah.

**P2:** Um, I think like in the anger, I have towards her or like resentment of how she did things it's kind of forgiven when I see her doing differently with them. Whether it's a different relationship yeah.

**P1:** Yeah, yeah. Um, I mean, I am sorry, I should have started here, but I wanted to ask you if there was anything from the last interview that was sitting with you or was going around in your mind that you had thoughts afterwards?

**P2:** Not really.

**P1:** Okay.

**P2:** Um, yeah not really.

**P1:** And how, um, how is today's interview?

**P2:** Uh, yeah. I quite like -- I feel like when you talk through things I also learn stuff. Like repeating the situation makes me more aware of the happening.

**P1:** Okay. That's good. I mean, I'm aware today because I had read over our last interview, I had a bit more specific questions and maybe some of them were tougher. Um…

**P2:** No, I don’t mind.

**P1:** Okay. I mean, it is really interesting today and in some ways I am really happy that you had this, um, incident today so that you can… **[laughter]**

**P2:** I called my husband, I said, "If we get arrested it's because she shoplifted."

**P1:** Oh, did she just pick something up and then walk out in it.

**P2:** Put it in her pocket and then showed it to me afterwards. **[laughter]**

**P1:** What did you say?

**P2:** I was like, "Eldest that is stealing. You can't do that." The funny thing is my husband had money on his table like two days ago, and she was playing with his stuff, and she knows she's not allowed to, but she still does obviously. And she -- he said he remembered having two notes. And she had dropped the one and she run. So, he thought she had taken the one. So he was like, "Don’t take my money. You're not allowed to touch my money." Shouting at her, "Give it back." She did not give her back. Like pretended she doesn't know what he's talking about. And then I was like, "Josh, are you sure she took it? You're now teaching the child what stealing is in accusing her of theft." And like, "You just taught her a whole lot of things." **[laughter]** And then she eventually said "No, I dropped it -- I took it downstairs.'

And josh was like, "You didn't even go downstairs." And then later on at night, when she was sleeping we found it down stairs.

**P1:** Oh, my goodness. Oh, my goodness.

**P2:** So, yeah, I think maybe we encourage her to steal by teaching her a way of stealing.

**P1:** Laid the foundation. **[laughter]**.

**P2:** Anyway, yeah.

**P1:** Um, and is there anything else that you want to ask me?

**P2:** Mm-mm, not so much.

**P1:** Okay. I just want to read through my notes quickly and just check if there's anything else that I haven't asked you that I was like dying to ask you. Um, no I think a lot of this we already talked about. Yeah. Okay, yeah, I guess that's it. Thank you so much. It's been really really interesting. So, I really appreciate it.

**P2:** Thank you. Good luck with the rest. Is it just on COVID or what is your research on?

**P1:** No, I mean, it's already been happening for a year. Um, a year in already so COVID just happened at that time of data collection which was unfortunate because I would have liked to, you know, seen you in person, for example.

**P2:** Fine, okay.

**P1:** But I think I have to write a paper about parenting in COVID because I just can't not. Because it will be a major theme. It would be crazy not to.

**P2:** Yeah.

**P1:** But it's about moms and coping, so it will be published. I'm happy to send you a copy if want it.

**P2:** Yeah, that would be great.

**P1:** Technical but yeah, **[inaudible 00:47:56]** way through it, yeah. **[laughter]**

**P2:** When are you -- how far are you?

**P1:** I'm a year in so, uh, don’t hold your breath, it may be another six years but we'll see **[laughter]** how we it will go.

**P2:** Okay. So the fact that you're doing it is incredible.

**P1:** Thank you.

**P2:** Amazing.

**P1:** Your children will be in high school when this paper will arrive and you'll be like...

**P2:** It doesn't matter. It will be so nice.

**P1:** … someday, so yeah I will definitely do that.

**P2:** Amazing.

**P1:** Awesome.

**P2:** Okay cool.

**P1:** Thank you, good night.

**P2:** Thank you.

**P1:** And farewell and look after yourselves, and yeah all the best.

**P2:** You too. Have a good night.

**P1:** You too.