**[Start of transcript]**

**Interviewer**: Great we’re recording! I’ll be asking you questions about your perspective about your child’s transition to adulthood in relation to his sensory sensitivities.

**Interviewee**: Ok.

**Interviewer**: We’ll be doing something called a semi-structured interview, which means I have a set of planned questions, which are part of my script, but I’ll be adapting them to follow our conversation and to make sure they actually make sense for you and for Gavin.

**Interviewee**: Ok.

**Interviewer**: Do you have any questions before we begin?

**Interviewee**: No.

**Interviewer**: Ok awesome and if there are any questions that you don’t want to answer because they make you feel uncomfortable or you don’t know then that’s ok. I want to make this a very positive experience.

**Interviewee**: Ok.

**Interviewer**: So could you start off by telling me about Gavin’s sensory sensitivities and sensory interests?

**Interviewee**: Sure. Right now or when he was little?

**Interviewer**: I’m going to be asking you about the past as well, so whatever makes sense for you in terms of how to answer that.

[0:55]

**Interviewee**: Ok. He’s improved greatly. When he was little he spun objects *all* the time. I mean any toy that had a wheel, spinning … he spun his body sometimes too, [to walk?]. He also, like with squishy balls, he would start gagging if he touched a squishy ball or a water balloon or something like that, and the other thing is [*laughs*] he could even just look at it and start gagging. Same with if a person has cellulite, he would look at that and start gagging. He … let’s see, he did want to touch things that were smooth, like if he saw skin that looked smooth, especially like a young person that had their back showing or whatever, he was very attracted to that, and I can tell now as an adult that he still will look but he doesn’t touch, so I know it’s still something that it’s a little bit of a pull to him, and once in a while he’ll touch my skin, but he doesn’t do it to other people. But like on the beach he will like … and he’s even said to me, you know he’ll look at me and say, “*Don’t touch*,” and I’m like, “*No, you don’t touch anybody*.” As a child he didn’t like to step in the sand. He didn’t like anything messy. He didn’t like anything like if he had a spot on his shirt he had to change it. He didn’t like tags. He didn’t like if it my hair was wet, he wanted me to dry it right away. I mean I think that was probably a sensory thing but it might have been partly just controlling me, I don’t really know. He … what other things … the toilet flushing would send him into a … you know he would hold his ears and start yelling. We got our toilets, we had them modified so that they didn’t make that, it was like a “shhhh,” you know kind of like when you listen to a shell and you hear that little like echoey noise, he didn’t like that and that’s how ours sounded at first. We probably should have just replaced the entire toilet with the efficient ones because they don’t make that noise and now we have those because we remodeled our bathrooms and he’s fine. Fire alarms ­he obsessed about. He wanted to know when there was going to be a fire alarm at school. He talked about it all the time, he stressed out about it. Let’s see … he doesn’t eat fruit that’s certain textures. He’s got so much better now, he still doesn’t eat fruit but he eats vegetables. He doesn’t drink juice or anything with fruit, it’s not a taste I guess that he can tolerate. Although, I took him to Wholefoods when he was two and he had a piece of pineapple and a piece of cantaloupe, and then he never did it again [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: Just once! [*laughs*]

[4:47]

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I was so happy! Maybe he saw how happy I was and decided that was too much! [*laughs*]

**Interviewer**: [*laughs*]

**Interviewee**: Let’s see … now as an adult he picks at his fingernails all the time and his skin – that click, click, click, noise, all the time. I have sensory things with my ears and noises like clicking it just drives me crazy. So I try to tell him, “*Look, can you just stop*.” I mean I can’t make him stop doing it forever because I think it’s something that actually makes him feel a little calmer to do that. But I do notice when he gets very high anxiety that he starts to do that more, picking his toenails, fingernails, and the skin around everything. Let’s see … he liked movement a lot, like airplane rides and physical things like where we would pick him up and swing him around, he loved all that stuff. He even liked amusement rides up until a certain point and then things sort of changed the opposite way for a while, where he would get motion sick very easily and then he avoided things like that. As a little infant certain things were really shocking to me, like at a couple of months old I would get into an elevator and his eyes would get huge and he would start to scream. But now he has a fascination with elevators and he watches them on YouTube. But he’s gone back and forth, sometimes he’s avoided them and wants to take the stairs. I’m not sure what the reasons are, but to him it’s all urgent. Let’s see … he’s only recently been able to … I don’t know if this is sensory or not, but with animals he pets them a little bit now, he used to not want to touch them. Also one time we were in the mall and he saw a child, a baby, eating and you know they had food on their face and he would start gagging [*laughs*] and he didn’t want to be around them. Yeah anything that looks gross or messy he was very … he didn’t want anything to do with it. Of course all the OTs [occupational therapists] wanted to put all the messy stuff around him [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: Yeah.

**Interviewee**: Yeah, but yeah he’s a lot better. I don’t really know … I’m sure there’s things that are still affecting him that he’s just got used to and has accepted that that’s just the way they’re going to be. But he still does avoid things like fruit and I don’t think he would like to be around a baby. He has some younger cousins, the youngest one is seven I think and he’s ok with him. I think he’s past the messy stage [*laughs*].

[8:53]

**Interviewer**: Yeah [*laughs*], seven-year-olds are kind of better at being able to take care of themselves. You talked about sounds, do sounds no longer impact him?

**Interviewee**: He still talks about fire alarms, but I’m not sure if it’s like a PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] thing. He doesn’t seem *as* affected by them. He notices them definitely. If a loud car goes by, he takes notice right away, a motorcycle, any of those types of sounds. You know, I haven’t really seen him around fire alarms for a while. He doesn’t like … he does seem to have a reaction with the books that talk or the toys that talk. He doesn’t like those sounds, the robotic sounds. I don’t even know, I mean he’s pretty freaked out by them. He still talks about certain childhood books that made noises and he wants to make sure they’re not here anymore. I still have one stuffed back in the closet that I hid one day when I came across it and I needed to get it away, but I’m sure he would not like it if he knew it was there.

[10:23]

**Interviewer**: Yeah. So I just want to make sure that I understand fully, so you’re saying that sound stuff he still notices it a lot but it’s not as upsetting to him?

**Interviewee**: Right.

**Interviewer**: And then the messiness, he doesn’t like it but he can kind of tolerate it now?

**Interviewee**: Yes. Tags he’s still … any tag still has to come off, sheets, pillowcases, he doesn’t even like the pillowcases on the pillow actually, he won’t sleep with the pillowcase. But if he finds a tag on our shirts too, I think he thinks everybody feels the same way he does. But yeah, if he notices a tag or especially, you know, I don’t even see them sometimes in his shirt, I try to cut them out or get the shirts that don’t have tags, but there might be one down below that I missed and the next thing I know he’s with the scissors trying to cut it out. He doesn’t like even that little piece that’s left over, like on the seam, so I have to take this little sharp tool and get all the little pieces out. Seams in the shirt bother him too, so certain clothes he just can’t wear.

[11:42]

**Interviewer**: Yeah. Do you know what bothers him about it, is it the texture or the lack of smoothness?

**Interviewee**: Probably the lack of smoothness. But you know what, you just brought up another thing, he doesn’t like me to have a scab or a mole or anything. Even as a baby he would stick his hands up my shirt and feel a mole and try to scratch it off. I ended up getting them removed because it was so painful for him to do that. He still if he sees something on me, his fingernail might try to … he doesn’t do it very often anymore but he points it out a lot of times and I’m like, “*Yeah, leave it alone*.” But yeah, anything extra, his skin has always been sensitive, even haircuts when he was little. We couldn’t take him to get a haircut until he was like fifteen or probably maybe even older, sixteen. My husband had to do it for him because when we tried to do it at Cartoon Cuts he was so upset, you know we were holding him upside down and he ended up throwing up, he was just so upset. I notice that any time the hair touches, the …

**Interviewer**: Touches the seams?

**Interviewee**: Yeah when things touch his skin it puffs up a lot.

**Interviewer**: Really?

**Interviewee**: Yeah. so I think he just has very sensitive skin, so the tags bother him.

[13:17]

**Interviewer**: Yeah, for sure. So you also talked about him picking around his fingers. Is it the sensation of picking that he likes, or the noise of picking, or maybe both?

**Interviewee**: I think it’s the sensation, I think sometimes he even, I mean I’m not quite sure, but when he does make something bleed, he maybe, it almost … I guess … I don’t think that’s really the object of what he’s trying to get to. But I don’t know, sometimes his fingers are really bad, like he’s actually … I can’t figure out what happened to one of his toenails, I’m not sure if he stubbed it and then picked it off or if his picking caused it to get like that. We try to keep his fingernails as short as possible so he can’t do it, but he somehow manages still to do it. I think it’s more the feeling of it, it’s not the sound. The sound bothers *me*, but I think it’s more the feeling. He was at Kennedy Krieger for a while and we tried to give him other things to do with his fingers. They have types of ball with little studs on them that he could play with and we tried handing those to him. He does play do it for a little bit but then the next thing you know he’s got it down and he’s picking at his fingers again.

**Interviewer**: Absolutely.

[15:06]

**Interviewee**: I don’t know.

**Interviewer**: Sometimes you don’t know, but that’s ok.

**Interviewee**: I think it’s more of something to keep him calm. You know, if he’s at school all day I know he’s picking his fingers because he comes home and they look worse than they are when he’s at home. I think it’s a way for him to keep himself in his seat and just blend in like everybody else. He wants to just blend in with his classmates and it’s maybe also just boredom, I don’t really know.

[15:43]

**Interviewer**: Absolutely. You talked about in general how a lot of his sensory interests and sensitivities have improved over time. Do you think any of that change is related to any independence that he’s gained?

**Interviewee**: That’s an interesting question … maybe, I think independence in the sense that he understands a little bit more why things are the way they are and why we do fire drills or why you know we … you know that there is just going to be messes around. I think … yeah, I think in that sense. I don’t know about independence as in doing things independently, but more just understanding things in his own way.

[16:59]

**Interviewer**: Sure, absolutely. So understanding why there have to be things that are perhaps distressing or understanding that, “*Alright, this is kind of life sometimes*.”

**Interviewee**: Right. Yeah and we do talk about stuff like that, but I mean he doesn’t really, he listens to me but he doesn’t add to the conversation [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: [*laughs*] That’s ok. Listening is good.

**Interviewee**: If I say, “*Gavin, we need to talk*,” he’s like staring at me like, “*Ok, what are you going to say*?” But he will listen and hear me out.

[17:29]

**Interviewer**: That’s great. You kind of touched on this already, but how does he cope with, manage, or handle his sensory sensitivities and sensory interests?

**Interviewee**: Well … I would say a lot of the picking. It seems like that only started maybe when he was in middle school, like between probably eighth grade and up was when the picking started, and I think a lot of the other sensory things tended to disappear more. I mean not that they disappeared but I think that’s his way of dealing with any stresses that he has, he picks his fingers and toes.

[18:28]

**Interviewer**: Yeah. You said that he deals with stresses, do you think that these sensory experiences are distressing for him?

**Interviewee**: I don’t think nearly as much. I think … I mean, I can’t tell for sure, but he’s not gagging when he sees things, he’s not … I mean to me it seems like he’s just better and more focused on what he’s doing now versus the distraction of the sensory things. We were at the beach … or at the lake all day yesterday and he never ever seemed concerned about some messy child or the noises. I mean, he talked about the lifeguard whistle a couple of times, but I don’t think it bothered him. He noticed it and maybe it did, but I couldn’t … he wasn’t acting stressed about it, he was just talking about it.

[19:34]

**Interviewer**: You talked about OT [occupational therapy] briefly. Has he received any specific therapies or interventions to help him with his sensory sensitivities?

**Interviewee**: When he was younger we did a lot of textures and we tried to do some different textures to feel and also for his tasting, foodwise. Yeah we did a lot and then, let’s see, from two to maybe seven or eight we would take him to a private OT once a week. She also worked on handwriting skills and we did a lot of floortime and mixed in the OT types of things, you know with the textures and movement and everything. I don’t think sensory … I mean I don’t really know, I guess it’s all tied in, but the vestibular sense it was really … he had a really hard time with his body and space, maneuvering around objects or figuring … he didn’t have any sense of how high he was, he would just step right off of a high [platform?] and that has definitely improved.

[21:17]

**Interviewer**: That’s great. Do you think that any of the OT, or the floortime, or his other therapies helped him?

**Interviewee**: I think so. I think it all helped. I think it would have got better without anything also, but I can’t help but think it helps a lot.

**Interviewer**: Absolutely. Thinking a little about anxiety, do you think his sensory – either past or present – the sensory experiences cause or increase anxiety for him?

**Interviewee**: Oh they definitely … when he was little they definitely caused anxiety. I assume that it has to somehow trigger some sort of anxiety, even if it’s not immediately outward, it may bottle up and come out later. It seems like now when we have a really fun day he comes home and something … kicks him off, so he may have internalized it, but I can’t say for sure though.

[22:24]

**Interviewer**: Totally. Was that always the case for him or do you think that’s changed over time?

**Interviewee**: It seems to have been the case a lot. When he’s had really fabulous times then there was always … and I have even heard that with typical kids, you know you can have a great day at the amusement park and then you come home and there’s fallout.

**Interviewer**: Totally.

**Interviewee**: So it could be sensory overload for a typical kid as well. It may be just holding things in and it has to come out somehow.

**Interviewer**: Yeah. How does he manage or how do you help him manage or handle this anxiety that he experiences, either in the moment or later on?

**Interviewee**: We talk about strategies and what he can do instead of what he’s doing. We do a lot of slow breathing exercises. He has a breathe to relax app and it’s nice, I mean it has calming music and shows you how you can slow down the inhale and the exhale according to how you actually breathe.

**Interviewer**: Awesome.

**Interviewee**: Yeah and we try a few things and if he does end up having something like he did yesterday and you can’t really reason with him during those times, afterwards we just say, “*Tomorrow is another day and you can try strategies if you feel anxious*.” He tells me a lot of times … when he says, “*I did not feel anxious*,” that means he felt anxious. I think because he doesn’t like that feeling of feeling out of control, so he stresses about feeling anxious even. He’s a really anxious person.

[24:26]

**Interviewer**: You mentioned on your form that he takes medication for anxiety. Is that for a more generalized anxiety or specific to his sensory sensitivities?

**Interviewee**: Oh, I didn’t know there was any medication for sensory sensitivities.

**Interviewer**: I don’t think there are, but I was wondering did you seek the medication for that reason or for more generalized anxiety?

**Interviewee**: More generalized anxiety.

**Interviewer**: Got you. Do you think it helps him?

**Interviewee**: It’s hard to say … he still, his moods … I don’t know if the anxiety is what triggers the moods or vice versa … I guess the nighttime … he takes trazodone at night, which I know can make you sleepy also, along with melatonin. Since the COVID-19 I’ve also been giving him mirtazapine at night – that’s the Ativan I guess – and he seems to sleep better.

**Interviewer**: That’s good.

**Interviewee**: I know the anxiety usually will keep him up at night. Right now, actually this has been going on for a year even before COVID-19, but he talks constantly and he wants some sort of response from us either to repeat what he’s said, which we’re not doing anymore, we’ve started giving him a thumbs-up. And it’s nonsensical stuff, I mean you know, like “*Fireman start the motor bubble plane*,” you know something … I don’t know, it’s just words. Then he’ll look at you and you have to either give him a thumbs-up or he keeps on and on and on. So I’ll be doing my work at home and just keep doing this at him … [*laughs*], but then it ends up, a lot of times with those repetitive things, I don’t know, maybe he feels like I’m giving him the wrong answer, I don’t know, but that can sometimes turn into a major anxiety attack. I don’t think that’s the sensory part of it, but yeah.

[27:01]

**Interviewer**: Thank you for sharing that.

**Interviewee**: Sure.

**Interviewer**: Going back to sensory a bit, what goals or hopes do you have for him in regards to his sensory sensitivities and sensory interests?

**Interviewee**: Well, I hope he just keeps continuing to improve. He is no longer fascinated with the spinning objects, which used to take up a big portion of his day when he was young, so I have hope that he … and his … he just seems to tolerate a lot more textures now. Of course there’s the tags, I mean you know if he doesn’t like them then that’s fine, I don’t like them either.

**Interviewer**: A lot of people don’t.

**Interviewee**: I’m not as acute to them as he is but I get it, you know, you want to wear your soft shirt all the time and that’s not going to affect him I think in the long run, and if he doesn’t want to sleep with pillowcases then that’s fine [*laughs*].

[28:10]

**Interviewer**: Exactly [*laughs*].

**Interviewee**: So I guess, right now … because he has trouble communicating, I can only go by what I observe and I think the sensory things that he has right now are not game changers in how he’s going to proceed for the rest of his life. But I do hope that … his tastes are changing and he’s eating way more foods, even in the last six months, I mean things that I never thought he would eat, things like steak. I mean salads have always been, well in the last five years I guess, he wants a salad for every meal [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: That’s awesome! [*laughs*]

**Interviewee**: We’ve played a lot with that, like adding sesame seeds or different textures. I’m just hoping he keeps … you know, he also eats sushi.

**Interviewer**: Wow! That’s great.

**Interviewee**: Yeah, that texture you would think would throw him over the edge but he loves it now. I just hope he keeps trying new things, things that have previously been hard for him to do. I mean he used to also have a hard time being in small, enclosed areas, but he can ride in an airplane, he can do certain things without having major problems.

**Interviewer**: That’s awesome.

[30:12]

**Interviewee**: Yeah. He used to not be able to tolerate having his shoes on. They would come off no matter where he was, in the car, in the bus, at school whatever, but now he wears his shoes. Even the ones that I don’t notice, I’m sure he has them, it’s just … one other thing that he does now, which kind of bothers me because I’m afraid it’s a little more … it could cause physical problems, is he looks into the sun.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, like at the brightness of it?

**Interviewee**: Yeah. He’ll just look and he’ll squint his eyes and look at it. So I’m not sure if he’s getting some sort of visual input with the lights and you know when you squint your eyes it makes if different. Then he’ll look at me and say, “*Don’t look at the sun*.” And I’m like, “*That’s right, you don’t look at the sun*.” So, yeah, that one, especially when I’m not around, I don’t think other people really see him doing that, they just think he’s making a facial expression, but I see him doing it.

[31:28]

**Interviewer**: Yeah, totally. Is it just with the sun or is it with other really intensely bright things as well?

**Interviewee**: Right now I only notice it with the sun. It’s not every day. It used to be more often but now I’ll notice it once in a while and I’ll see him doing it. It’s hard to … he’s doing it not even knowing that I see him. So at first I was like is he doing it because he knows it bothers me, so I try not to act like it really bothers me. But I’ve caught him doing it without him knowing that I’ve caught him. So it must give him some sort of input that he’s craving, because of course if he didn’t like it then he wouldn’t be doing it.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, presumably, awesome. We’re going to shift gears a little bit, unless you have more things you want to talk about in this part?

**Interviewee**: No that’s ok.

**Interviewer**: Ok awesome. You’re also welcome to go back if you remember something, this is a very flexible interview.

[32:33]

**Interviewee**: Yeah. It’s kind of like some of the things trigger other memories when you’re asking me questions.

**Interviewer**: Absolutely. Feel free to jump around, I just wanted you to know that there is no right or wrong time to share something. So as Gavin has grown up and aged a bit, how has your community and his community reacted to his sensory sensitivities and sensory interests?

[32:56]

**Interviewee**: I think in general most people have been pretty supportive.

**Interviewer**: That’s awesome.

**Interviewee**: Yeah. We’ve had, like you know with the skin-touching thing, we’ve told various people about it just to tell, you know … like a teenage girl that used to come here to work with him, we told her that if he does that then to tell him it’s not appropriate and she understands it wasn’t you know … some people would be very uncomfortable and not want to deal with him anymore. I think … I think people are pretty accommodating … I’m trying to think of other things sensory related … you know what, I will jump back. Gavin doesn’t like us to wash the dishes and I’m almost positive it’s the clanging of, like if we’re doing it in the sink, the clanging. He will even come and bang his nose on your shoulder if you’re doing that.

**Interviewer**: Has that been a consistent thing, has he always disliked that noise do you think?

**Interviewee**: He probably has but he probably, well you know what he has been saying that he doesn’t want us to wash the dishes for quite a while. He hasn’t reacted in this way except for the last maybe year, or maybe even just since COVID. But yeah, he has always said he doesn’t want us to wash the dishes and we’ll tell him we have to because this is just part of what we do and bugs will come and still he will say he doesn’t want us to do it and we’ll say, you know, “*Well, do you want to eat off of dirty plates with bugs on them*?” and he’s like, “*No, no bugs*!” Yeah, we tell him that it’s just something that we have to do. Once in a while we’ll wait until he goes to bed and do them. If he’s really just, we can tell, you know, if he can’t handle another thing at the moment then we’ll just wait. We’ve tried different things, like have him load the dishwasher instead of us actually washing dishes in the sink. But with three of us it’s so much easier just to wash them in the sink and put them away and not worry about where the spatula is the next day or whatever. So yeah, that is something, and he would rather me do it than George because I think I’m more careful with not making noise. One of the reasons I think, I mean even, yeah I just do things more quietly than my husband. [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: Yeah [*laughs*]. I understand that.

[36:47]

**Interviewee**: So I’m sorry, back to the …

**Interviewer**: No that’s ok. Thank you for sharing that. It’s totally ok that you went backwards. Don’t worry about it.

**Interviewee**: That is a pretty major thing right now. I don’t know why it’s not even clicking to me right now but I’ve even told my husband that I think it’s the noise that’s bothering him, because he reacts more when you’re doing it.

**Interviewer**: It is a noisy activity though, it’s hard to do it quietly.

**Interviewee**: It is, especially with the plates we have, they’re heavy and real clangy when we put them down on the counter or dry them and stack them. I mean, it’s just very very noisy. And the water is running and, you know, all that stuff. But yeah, I can’t really think of how others accommodated his sensory needs, except for, you know, when I’ve told them. He has touched another neighbor, an adult, when he was … like it was her leg, I remember, and she kind of shivered like that because it seemed kind of, I don’t know, in a way kind of sensual because of the way he was touching it so softly, her leg. I was like, “*Gavin don’t do that*.” She’s like, “*It’s ok*” and you know she hasn’t acted in any certain way towards him because but that. Yeah, I’m not thinking there was anything that anybody else had to accommodate because I mean we were always right there with him to help him. I mean they’ve always tried to include him with everything as much as possible, but that’s not really sensory related.

[38:49]

**Interviewer**: For sure. What about when you go out?

**Interviewee**: I guess when we’ve gone to parties and they’ve had music that’s really loud and everything, I mean Gavin seemed to enjoy it for a little bit but then we’d end up leaving early because we felt he was getting overloaded. But it didn’t … I guess those types of things, where maybe I would say, “*Oh, can we just go ahead and take some food back home*?” or whatever, they’re fine with that. It’s not like we get uninvited from future events because we’ve left early.

**Interviewer**: So people are pretty understanding in a very holistic way?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I think so.

[39:33]

**Interviewer**: That’s good. What about when he was younger, was people’s acceptance or accommodation or the degree to which they were understanding, was it the same, was it different?

**Interviewee**: I think it was … I guess it wasn’t as obvious to people that he had a disability when he was younger and people would tend to … I guess look a little more apprehensive or you know like, “*What’s wrong with this kid*?” sort of thing. But I wouldn’t say neighbors because all of them knew, but like if I was just down at the grocery store or whatever I did have a lot of nice people also say things like, “*I have a grandson who is autistic*,” or something like that, which is fine. I don’t mind and I don’t think Gavin minds. I mean I try to talk to him about it but he doesn’t seem to be that interested when I tell him the reason he’s different, but I hope one day he will be more interested, or act more interested, because I don’t want him to think that he is …. that things should be as easy for him as for everyone else. I want him to know the reasons he is treated differently. But yeah I think in general most people are ok. When he was little I didn’t have a whole lot … but I was always so wrapped up in watching him, I developed a thick skin and I also knew that I could not let it bother me.

[41:40]

**Interviewer**: Yeah, for sure, that makes sense.

**Interviewee**: Or I’d ignore what I didn’t want to see. I definitely know people were looking. Now it’s more obvious, he’s you know, if he’s talking to himself people might take a real brief second look and then go about their own business. Or he’ll walk around the store and do this … I think people, adults, autistic adults are out in the community a lot more and people see things a lot more. Before, people didn’t bring their kids out or their adult children out and it was more unusual and people didn’t, you know, I mean you get scared of what you don’t know. So yeah, I think it’s just more common now.

[42:35]

**Interviewer**: No, absolutely. Were there specific aspects of the community that you have noticed this with? You talked about your neighbors and parties. What about school, were they accommodating and understanding of him?

**Interviewee**: Oh yeah. I mean he’s always been in a special class. He’s been in regular schools in special classes and right now he goes to a school that’s for all kids with … I don’t think they’re all autistic, but I’d say 90 percent of the kids there are autistic. So yeah, I mean I’ve always felt like the schools have been pretty inclusive and understanding and they try to understand a lot. There was a point in Gavin’s life where at the special school – he’s been there since he was six, no not six, since sixth grade – and there was a time when he was having outbursts every day and they were trying all kinds of things, like the weighted vests and different strategies. I mean I think they really tried everything they could and I think now we’re just realizing relaxation techniques are more his style. The weighted vests don’t really seem to do anything for him, I mean I’m sure they do for some kids. He had earphones for a bit, because there was a kid in his class that made the same noise that the toilets made, that hollow sound [*laughs*]. I don’t know how he got to be so good at that noise, but also I think he knew that it could trigger Gavin, so it was like … that was the only kid, and actually he ran into him just two days ago down at the park.

**Interviewer**: Really?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I knew he lived up the street. George said that his mood changed quickly and he was very agitated. So I know they’ve tried to keep those two apart at school as much as possible. But I think they also mix them sometimes just to try and get them to be able to tolerate each other too.

**Interviewer**: Absolutely.

**Interviewee**: Yeah, so I think the schools and even when he was in a regular school with a self-contained class, he did go to lunch with the other kids. I think it was overwhelming for him sometimes and he would go to the bathroom and stay in the bathroom during lunch or recess when he was out with the other kids, he would hide out there. But I think even the kids, they tried to be as accommodating as possible. His cousins, they try in their own way, but I think a lot of kids, because he rejects so much and acts like he doesn’t want to be involved with them, sometimes they stop trying as much, until they see like a glimmer of interest. I mean thinking about … we have a trampoline in the back and recently he’s started jumping – you know it’s kind of dangerous – but he started jumping with my nieces and nephews out there and they like it because he’s so big and he can really bounce. So now they’re like, “*Gavin, do you want to come jump with us*?” But in general … you know if we say, “*Go ask Gavin*,” they’ll do that but they don’t just … you know, automatically try to include him. I mean they did at first, but I think he said “*No*” so many times [*laughs*].

[47:10]

**Interviewer**: Absolutely.

**Interviewee**: But they do know if … they do understand, because if I take Gavin and my two nephews and niece out somewhere, if I have to leave for any reason or go home early, they know not to give me any flack about it or say, “*Oh no, we want to stay*.” If I say, “*Gavin needs to go home*,” they’re like “*Ok*” [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: That’s great, that’s really great.

**Interviewee**: That’s accommodating I guess.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, I mean it’s understanding, for sure. That’s wonderful. So now thinking ahead, do you have hopes or worries about how his community will react in the future as he does get older?

**Interviewee**: Definitely … yes. I am afraid that he won’t go into the community as often. I’m afraid if he has an outburst that the people who work with him won’t … try to … work through that and I’m afraid that the police could be called. Yeah, there’s a lot of things I’m afraid of for him. I’m afraid that he’s vulnerable to somebody else doing something to him, that’s probably even as far as somebody else calling the police. I mean he really doesn’t have outbursts in the public very often. He … maybe a few years ago he gave himself a bloody nose once when we were out – he hit his nose on George’s shoulder – actually I wasn’t there, George was just telling me about it and how then he had to get in an elevator to go back to the car and some woman came in with her little girls and they looked horrified because here was this guy with a bloody face in the elevator with them. But yeah, I mean if something did set him off, yeah I’m really afraid the police could get involved and it could get a lot worse.

[49:45]

**Interviewer**: Yeah, absolutely.

**Interviewee**: I don’t think they understand that confining somebody makes them worse.

**Interviewer**: No, absolutely. That’s very understandable to be worried about that.

**Interviewee**: Yeah. I’m just glad he’s not black right now. I mean, you know … truthfully.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, it’s scary, it’s a reality, and it would be hard to have to imagine that as well.

**Interviewee**: Years ago, you know, I used to talk a lot to my friend who has a son who is autistic. They’re black and I just couldn’t imagine the fear. You know, her kids did a lot, I mean two hundred behaviors a day sort of thing, and would run … and run off, yeah so, yeah I just couldn’t imagine … but yeah I do have those fears with Gavin too because he could be totally misunderstood.

[50:54]

**Interviewer**: Absolutely. We’re going to shift things a little bit, unless you have more things you’d like say about this part?

**Interviewee**: No.

**Interviewer**: Ok, awesome. So we’re going to shift gears now. So in the transition to adulthood, where do you see Gavin?

**Interviewee**: I see him in a group home, not immediately, I’ve already been told that the funding isn’t there – we’re not a family in crisis, we don’t have reams of binders full of hospital stays and police reports – so the push is for adult children to stay with their families until the parents can’t either mentally or physically take care of them anymore. Next year I see him in an adult day program and having a job with a job coach. He … yeah, I mean I probably could tell you more after I … apply for different adult service programs and I actually have you know the one interview at 11, so they would tell me more what he would be doing. But with the other adult program, it sounds like they have some recreational social activities and depending on the adult they do something called “job try” where they can try out different jobs and see if it’s a good fit before doing it. I think most of them are unpaid jobs and he definitely needs somebody – maybe like a 1:3 ratio – he gets distracted *very* easily. You know, if you tell him to do three different things, he might do one. Even it’s like breaking – I’ve heard this with his other jobs – where they had like a … they were asked to break down boxes when they had a delivery at I think one of the hotels and he had to be told for each box [*laughs*]. You know, I mean there’s a room full of boxes, “*Now would you break down this box*” … so he would do one box and then just stand there and not do anything until they said, “*Ok, now here’s the next one*.” They couldn’t get him to just keep going, so he needs somebody there to keep him on task. So yeah, as far as the adult program I mean that’s what I think he’ll … I know he’ll be in an adult day program. I would like for him to be in a residential program because I think he could actually do so much better without me and my husband to always be doing things for him. He definitely takes advantage of us and we’ve … as much as we try to back off it seems like he pushes harder to have us do more for him.

[54:48]

**Interviewer**: Can you give an example?

**Interviewee**: Like even showering, you know we try to just give him verbal prompts and then all of a sudden he’ll just stand there and you know you’re like, “*Gavin, pick up the soap*, *Gavin* …” Then if you tell him to do his arm he just does a little spot and I’m like, “*No, you have to go down the entire length*.” But we’ve seen him do it so much better some days and then other days it’s like, I don’t know, we go back and forth. Like I say, maybe you could just give him a good scrub down once a week and let him just, you know, not do such a good job the rest of the time, but it’s hard for us to back off also and know that he’s not as clean as he should be. So I think he knows that we’ll cave and so he’ll just stand there like he doesn’t know what he’s supposed to do, because it’s easier to have somebody … I mean if somebody would scrub me down … [*laughs*] that would just … [*laughs*]

**Interviewer**: Exactly! [*laughs*]

**Interviewee**: He did that from the time he was little, even walking up the steps. If somebody was behind him, the next thing you know he was leaning back into that person’s arms. I mean he did that until he was really old [*laughs*]. Until I was like, “*Gavin I can’t do this, I’m losing my balance*!” Yeah, I think he could do a lot more without us.

**Interviewer**: Totally.

**Interviewee**: He doesn’t … he knows that he can take advantage of us. I think he’s in a better mood when he’s not with us, and I think, from what I can tell … I’ve … he has some aids that go out with him in the community and sometimes when they bring him home, the way he reacts as soon as he comes home, where the anxiety comes and he’s acting like … he’ll kind of bare his teeth at me like that and the aid will be like, “*What’s going on? He hasn’t been like this with me*!” I don’t know, I guess it’s just teenage rebellion or something. I mean, he’s twenty. But yeah, I mean I really hope that we get to see him in a residential placement versus you know, him being with us and us never getting to see what he can do. I really want to be able to see that. I don’t know, I mean from what I’ve been told he probably won’t get that placement, at least for a while. I think maybe they said that both parents have to be sixty-five before they’ll consider it or … they said it’s not always that way … or we could have a health problem or something like that. It would be nice though, for both my husband and me and for Gavin’s sake.

[58:19]

**Interviewer**: Absolutely. In terms of the specific skills he has, what can he do and what do you think he is capable of doing, either now or in the future with some support?

**Interviewee**: With his self-care he definitely needs at least somebody to watch him or make sure he’s doing things properly. I mean he uses the bathroom on his own. We do help him with wiping sometimes, I think he *can* do that on his own. I mean, we will verbally say, “*Come on, get more toilet paper, you’ve got to do it*.” I want him to be more independent with all this self-care because I also think that will also, I mean, I don’t really know, but some of the staff that help them in the group homes, I mean I couldn’t help but think if he’s more independent that there’s less chance of abuse or things like that, I don’t know. If he can advocate for himself, if he can tell somebody that somebody’s done something to him, that would be great. Let’s see … he brushes his teeth, he can wash his hands. We have to give him some prompts, but I *think* he could do those things independently. I don’t know, it might take another year. He gets better all the time.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, absolutely.

**Interviewee**: It’s just that he’s not consistent. He’s got better over the past six months because he’s been home with us and we work more on it, so we have seen a lot of improvement and I think maybe, maybe in another six months he will be able to do it. I talk to him about it too. I say, you know, “*When mum and dad aren’t here and you have your own apartment, you have to do the shower all by yourself. We can’t stand there and tell you what to do.*” I kind of want to just tell him, “*Ok you do it by yourself, we’ll wait downstairs*.” Then if he doesn’t do it so great then maybe you know, we’ll help out the next day. You know, just sort of …

**Interviewer**: Try.

**Interviewee**: Yeah. He can get dressed on his own. He can eat on his own. He sometimes needs help with cutting foods. We won’t let him use a sharp knife for anything, I don’t think it’s … he’s just too easily distracted. Even with scissors, he’s always looked this way while he’s … [*laughs*] … somehow he did it, I don’t know how, but yeah it just makes me too nervous. He just doesn’t seem to pay attention.

[1:01:38]

**Interviewer**: Can he prepare simple meals, like in a microwave or something?

**Interviewee**: He doesn’t. He doesn’t eat a lot of microwaved food. In the past he … we tell him, you know, “*Press two minutes*” or whatever, but he won’t just prepare himself something to eat. He … on occasion I guess he’s got a snack like popchips or something and we’ll open up a bag. Long ago he used to put things in the toaster without us knowing that he was doing it, but he doesn’t do that anymore. I don’t, I don’t really … I’ve tried to have him fix breakfast for himself. He might do it for a couple of days and then he’ll just say he doesn’t want to do it anymore. It’s hard when an adult says they don’t want to do something, you can’t like corner them and make them do it [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: Yeah, it makes it much physically harder when they’re big! [*laughs*]

**Interviewee**: Yeah. No, unfortunately he doesn’t. Yeah, I have to make a note to myself to try and have him do it again. He can do laundry pretty well. He doesn’t fold the clothes very neatly but he can do the laundry machines – you know the dryer and the washer – he can load and unload. He did do that with a job also so maybe that helped, he helped with the sheets and towels at a hotel. I think they had a board to help him – I should probably get that board to help him fold the clothes more neatly. I think I can order it from Amazon, I should do that. But yeah, he can do certain things. He helps my husband wash the car sometimes. He wipes down the table, if we’re going to eat outside he’ll go down and wipe off the table. He loves to eat outside.

**Interviewer**: That’s great.

[1:04:15]

**Interviewee**: Yeah. My sister comes over on Wednesdays with her kids and brings my mom so we all sit outside, especially with the COVID thing, so he wipes things down for me. He’ll help to make recipes, but he doesn’t … he can’t really stir very well or get the sides of the bowl, it’s hard for him, but you know we do it and we work on it. It seems like most things are still in progress.

**Interviewer**: That’s ok. Progress is ok.

**Interviewee**: Yeah. But I would like to see him be able to do all these things and maybe with some support, I don’t know.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, but you do think he’ll be able to achieve more independence?

**Interviewee**: Oh yeah, I know he can. I know that he gets by with a lot at home. I know that he could do so much more.

[1:05:24]

**Interviewer**: Yeah. So what do you think will help move him into adulthood and move him into these more independent skills?

**Interviewee**: Well, maybe having the day program will help with that. I think, I mean he definitely, when he was younger I think he went through a block of really bad depression and he wouldn’t leave the house at all. So, I mean, really that’s what we were working on because he was just in bed all the time. So we’ve seen so much improvement over the years, just going out with other people, with us, and we were just focusing so much on trying to keep him happy that a lot of things just fell by the wayside or the curbside or whatever and you know we didn’t work on a lot of the other things, it was mainly just his mood. So yeah, I think that even in the next few months we’ll make some significant progress. I’m actually keeping more data because I’ve become one of his technicians, because we were quarantined for a while and the state had agreed to allow parents to be also the technicians for their kids and log hours. So I’m actually logging hours and I have my log notes about how many prompts I’m giving him for each activity that we’re doing, including the self-help, and I have seen a lot of improvement, so that’s why I’m hopeful that it will work out before he gets to a residential.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, it’s exciting. Now kind of putting these two things together – sensory sensitivities and this transition to adulthood – how do they intersect for Gavin?

[1:07:47]

**Interviewee**: How do they intersect … I think just that as he’s got older and he’s got more tolerant of all these different things. I think … if he’s in the group home or even in the day program, he will be able to adapt more easily and be more tolerant of his peers, without focusing so much on the things that bother him. I mean he does have the picking that he can do [*laughs*] when he feels that anxiety building from something. I’m sure it gives him some sort of input and you know I try to not bother him too much about it. I try not to give a lot, I mean at first … yeah, anyway I think … yeah sorry, I’m starting to focus on that again.

**Interviewer**: No, it’s ok, it’s ok.

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I think as far as the intersection, he’s going to be ok with the sensory part. I do think he probably is affected by it and I think somehow the behaviors are related, some of it. I think it’s all a combination of things, but I do see him a lot more tolerant of everything, except tags and seams [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: That’s ok. That’s a pretty manageable thing though.

**Interviewee**: Yeah.

[1:10:03]

**Interviewer**: Would you say his sensitivities are an obstacle, a vehicle, or a bit of both towards his independence, or neither?

**Interviewee**: That’s a tough question … I don’t think that they would be either one.

**Interviewer**: Why don’t you think they’re either one, or why do you think they’re neither, maybe that sounds better?

**Interviewee**: Just because of the improvements he’s made thus far and, at least that I can observe, it seems that he’s not reacting in the same way that he used to with immediate repulsion or impulsiveness, you know to touch something that he shouldn’t … Yeah I think it’s improved so much that I just don’t think he’ll have … it will go either way.

**Interviewer**: No, absolutely, that makes sense, thank you. What do you consider as being challenging for him as he does gain more independence, in regards to his sensitivities?

**Interviewee**: Well, maybe the clanging noises, you know with the dishes. When I thought about that, I was thinking he’s still definitely … I guess it’s a big distraction for him and maybe that’s one reason why when he’s at the job sites he can’t focus. You know all these different noises and things that bother him. I mean … yeah … I think that could lead to the distractedness that he has. I mean he really can’t focus on something for any more than a minute or two without somebody redirecting him.

[1:12:38]

**Interviewer**: That makes sense. What do you think would help him?

**Interviewee**: Well if he would use his headphones more often I think that could help him. He will do it for a period of time, and then he’ll leave one on and put the other one over here. He’s curious also, he wants to hear what’s going on, so I think he has a little bit of both – I mean it bothers him, but he doesn’t want to miss out on anything either.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, totally. Do you think there are particular services or interventions that could be helpful for him?

**Interviewee**: I don’t know, I don’t really know to be honest. I’ve heard some things, but I’ve never really done anything with the hearing. Maybe … I don’t really know … what kind of services could help him with … I mean, I don’t know maybe some more OT sorts of things or I always think cognitive behavior therapy [CBT] would be really good for him, but most therapists won’t work with him with that because they say he’s not conversational enough to do that. So I try to do things with him, I talk about things, and I try to tell him that about how everybody experiences anxiety, he might just have more of it than other people and have to work harder. You know, we constantly talk about stuff and I ask him about different strategies and what could you do instead of this and he’s like, “*Squeeze a pillow, go up to my room. If something is bothering me go sit out on the porch*.” Yeah, I really think that it would be helpful if there were more people that would work with him like with CBT. But like I said, I couldn’t find anybody. I asked around and everybody said if he had more conversation and we could talk about it more, but I think it’s just too time-consuming to go in that direction. So I don’t know, maybe somebody could figure out a way that a couple of hours a week they could slowly work on CBT with kids that have more communication issues.

[1:15:45]

**Interviewer**: Yeah, absolutely. That’s actually a great segue to my next question. My next question is do you think there are gaps in the available service and interventions?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, that definitely. I looked and I asked around about it and I asked different psychiatrists about it and they’re like, “*No, there’s nothing there*.” So I just kind of do my own version of it. I don’t know, sometimes I think it’s helping him. I do think his speech therapist at school, she goes over certain situations and I think that is a form of it too, so I’m very appreciative of that. You know, if this then this, and she always tells me about it and I see some of the things she does and it gives me ideas. But if there were some private types of places we could … I do think that would help, some place where he might be able to figure out how to tell somebody more of what’s going on. You know, if I ask him a “why” question he’ll just say, “*Because I was scared*.” But he can’t tell me why he was scared. “*Well why were you scared*?” “*Because of the noise*.” “*But why did the noise make you scared*?” You know, it’s … “*Gavin did cry*.” You know it’s that kind of thing and we just kind of go around … but yeah, I think if there were more people that understood how to do CBT with nonverbal or little … somebody who doesn’t have conversational …

[1:17:52]

**Interviewer**: Yeah, absolutely. So now for our last question in this section, we’re almost done. How did Gavin’s sensory sensitivities impact your goals, hopes, or expectations for him in terms of navigating adulthood?

**Interviewee**: In terms of navigating adulthood … I don’t think they have.

**Interviewer**: Ok, awesome.

**Interviewee**: I hadn’t really put a lot of thought into it.

**Interviewer**: That’s ok, that’s your perspective. That’s fantastic.

**Interviewee**: I mean maybe I should. I’m just thinking maybe I should think more about that. I mean I’m glad that I’ve talked to you about all this, it puts more questions in my head.

**Interviewer**: That’s great. I’m happy this is helping. No, don’t make that face, it’s perfectly fine [*laughs*]. I mean every parent is different and this is your perspective and that’s perfect. So we’re going to move on to our last chunk of questions – unless you want to reflect on that and think about it?

**Interviewee**: No.

**Interviewer**: Ok, awesome. If something comes to mind just feel free to jump in.

**Interviewee**: Ok.

[1:19:07]

**Interviewer**: So finally, as a caregiver, as a mom, as a parent of someone with ASD and some sensory sensitivities, what does transitioning to adulthood mean to you?

**Interviewee**: Transition to adulthood … in terms of the sensory?

**Interviewer**: Yeah, well I guess like as a parent who experiences both, you know like with a child who has ASD and also sensory sensitivities, what does this transition mean to you kind of holistically?

**Interviewee**: Well, what I hope is that it just … gives Gavin more confidence that he can be his own person and have choices and … you know maybe if he is having sensory issues he can tell somebody, “*I don’t want to do that because blah, blah blah*,” you know. Yeah, I mean I just hope that he is as happy as he can possibly be and feels fulfilled and you know is excited about having more independence and that it’s … I mean I think … right now it’s so hard to even imagine because I think the adults aren’t even going to their day programs right now, I mean everything is online and he’s not doing well with the online thing. He pretty much says he doesn’t want to do it. I try to log on and it doesn’t work out. He says, “*No Zoom today*” [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: It’s hard, it’s really hard to substitute the in-person with Zoom.

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I agree.

[1:21: 24]

**Interviewer**: Has your perspective changed over time?

**Interviewee**: Definitely. I mean I’ve always been more … as far as … I guess more realistic about him … that I wanted him to go to a residential placement sooner rather than later because I want to be a part of that. But that’s more my own reasons … but yeah, I guess it’s changed only because … he changes all the time. We didn’t really think a lot about it when he was really little, but every year I think we just think more about it and my husband and I talk more about it. He seems more on board with residential placement. Before he was like, “*I will give Gavin a bath every day, for the rest of his life*” [*laughs*]. But now I guess he’s more realistic about it and he also thinks ok it’s better to get him somewhere before he loses us as caregivers and has to move somewhere and has a lot of trauma. But yeah, I guess I have more hope that he can be more independent than what I initially thought. You know, when he didn’t talk at all, not the talking, communicate with us, it didn’t feel like he was communicating with us, and when we learnt more how to communicate with him I guess things changed more. I guess initially I was thinking I didn’t know if he would have to be somewhere like an institution or something, but now I see him in a group home definitely. I think he will participate. He enjoys going to his after-school program and they do so much with him, he misses it a lot.

**Interviewer**: I’m sure, I’m sure.

[1:24:20]

**Interviewee**: So that gives me a lot of hope, because when he wasn’t going anywhere and was in the house, but now he enjoys doing these things outside. You know, he’ll be ok as long as he doesn’t get involved with the police or anything like that [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: Yeah, absolutely. What do you see specifically happening in his future?

**Interviewee**: Well, specifically … I think that he’ll enjoy doing some recreational activities, I think he’ll have a job and a job coach definitely there all the time. I think he will be able to prepare simple meals for himself. I think he’ll be able to follow a routine at his group home, he enjoys routines I guess. Yeah, I think … things I don’t see is him getting married or probably not even, I mean it’s possible, but I don’t think he’d have a relationship with someone. I hope that he can have like a friend and maybe … I know that at his aftercare they grouped him, well they would try to pair the kids off I guess with somebody they thought they might be more friendly with and there was a kid that went to his school and went to his aftercare and they paired them off. But he never talked about him with me. I would bring his name up or I would ask him questions like, “*Who is your favorite teacher*?” and he would tell me who it is. Then I would say, “*Who is your favorite student*?” and he would say, “*Gavin*” [*laughs*].

**Interviewer**: [*laughs*] That’s good, it’s good to like yourself!

**Interviewee**: He doesn’t talk about any certain person as being his friend. Yeah, that’s really one of my biggest hopes I guess, that he can have a relationship with a friend. I don’t care what kind of relationship as long as it’s a good one, a healthy one.

[1:27:06]

**Interviewer**: Absolutely, absolutely. Then for the final question, how have his current sensory sensitivities impacted this current perspective?

**Interviewee**: Ok … I guess because they’ve improved so much, you know instead of him disengaging by spinning objects and whatever or you know or just vocalizing – I shouldn’t say just – him vocalizing in the corner, you know he’s more engaged with other people and I guess that’s why I’ve changed my perspective because I think he can … he’s more engaged, he’s more interested in other people. I think he could have a friend, but he just hasn’t found that person yet.

**Interviewer**: Absolutely, that’s great. So that’s all I have for my formal questions. Would you like to add anything else?

**Interviewee**: No.

**Interviewer**: Ok awesome. Well thank you so much. I know this went a little bit longer than we planned.

**Interviewee**: No that’s ok, thank you.

**Interviewer**: I really appreciate your insight, it’s been so wonderful to learn from you.

**Interviewee**: Well thank you, actually you’ve taught me more too with the questions and I still have to think about some of them.

**Interviewer**: Would you like me to send you a copy of the script so you can kind of think about it a little bit more?

**Interviewee**: Sure, yeah.

**Interviewer**: If you don’t want to it’s ok, I was just thinking it might be helpful.

**Interviewee**: Yeah sure that would be great.

**Interviewer**: Ok, I’ll send you a copy. Do you know anyone else who might want to participate in this study? You mentioned your friend?

**Interviewee**: Yeah, I could reach out to them and see.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, if you don’t mind. I mean if you think your friend might not want to do it then that’s ok too, but we’re looking for more Interviewees so we’d love to have more people.

**Interviewee**: Ok, yeah I have a couple of friends and they’re transitioning too so yeah I could reach out to them and see.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, if you don’t mind that would be so wonderful. We’d love to learn from them as well.

**Interviewee**: Ok. Shall I just send them your email?

**Interviewer**: Yeah, so either I can send you some information that you can forward to them. I think you learned about this in a listserv? You could just forward them the listserv if you want and say like email me and give them my email and then we can keep on chatting.

**Interviewee**: Ok, that sounds good.

**Interviewer**: Awesome, great. I will send you a gift card shortly as a thank you for your time. We so appreciate it. Do you have any final questions for me, can I help you with anything?

**Interviewee**: No. I think that’s it.

**Interviewer**: Ok awesome, yeah so I will send you that shortly and I’ll send you a script and hopefully I will hear from your friend if they want to join. Have a nice day and I hope your interview goes well.

**Interviewee**: Ok, thank you, bye.

**Interviewer**: Bye.

**[End of transcript]**