

Excerpt: Male 24 years

Okay so now I am going to ask you to describe your relationship with your mum mm from as far back as you can remember?

D: Yeah like it's always been pretty good. Erm there has been ups and downs as I got older but yeah it's always been pretty good – she was more of the erm, I don't know – like my mum and dad split up when I was about si....about, you know around that sort of time, I am not too sure exactly the same amount of time and I stayed, me and my sister both stayed with my mum mm so it was like erm mum would be doing the school runs and like coming in from school like homework, you need to do this you need to do this, you need ot do this and dad would be like seeing us once a fortnight, let's go bowling, let's go – so that sort of thing – like dad –the erm, dad would do all the fun stuff and mum would take all the crap like if you know what I mean? Mm and then so yeah she used to get a bit stressed out and stuff, but she – yeah she dealt with it well (giggles)

So erm, I want you to choose five words or phrases that describe your relationship with your mum from when you were little and erm I am going to write them down as you say them?

D: Mm? (4) I tell like – just good, we had a good relationship, erm . . . (3) f like fun, she has always been loving, erm she would always think, like she would always think about like – I am trying to think of words to describe it. Erm she would always think about like me and my sister before herself mm she would always put others first and stuff erm? (5) yeah just caring I suppose. How many is that?

Five, I have got good, fun mm loving, she would always think about me and my sister before herself and caring – is that right? Yeah okay.

So now I am going to ask you about each of those words so the first one you said is that your relationship with your mum is good, so I want you to think about a specific occasion when the relationship was good – you know when it was like that and try and think back as far as you can?

D: ..Just like, I dunno cause we never used to do like specific things. We never used to like go, I dunno like if we done something like erm, like a theme park or something like that it would always sort of be with my dad or someone else. Mum was just working – she would drop me and my sister at school and then go to work and then come home, so the last thing she wanted to do was sort of like take us out, so it was a lot harder for her and stuff, but um I don't know I have never really like had any bad sort of times until I started growing up and being my own self, being a little (giggle) rascal but yeah all the time like it was just good, like it was always like routine and stuff do you know what I mean mm like it was good to have like routine.

So when you think about that word good mm you know, what comes to mind when you think about you and your mum?

D: Just, I just love her like – she is just so – she is just a good person actually, goo...like erm there was never any sort of like bad moments from her side to me – like from her to me if that makes sense **yeah, I get that.**

So if you think about good moments, what comes to mind?

D: Well all – I dunno like I am just trying to think of ones, I can't actually think of one specific thing it was just more like – just every day thing, just everyday life she was just good at everyday life sort of thing like just keeping us in routine and stuff and like going to school, coming home, doing your homework so that you can go out and play for a couple of hours or whatever and then you could come back and have dinner and just bed like – there is little things like that so I am trying to think of little things that we done together. Like we used to go to like erm, if we was good at school for like a term or something she – my granddad had a erm, caravan and we would go and stay there for like a week or something like that, so we done like good things like that **mm** but it was sort of like once a year instead of like once a fortnight or something like that **mm** and then yeah, the little good things, the other good things were with my dad basically, like the more –

Okay. So then you said about your relationship with your mum that it was fun mm so again I want you to try and think about a specific occasion when your relationship with your mum was fun erm and try and think back as far as you can?

D: well she would always do like – dunno help out with school, with the school and stuff, fun days and stuff like that, like she – we would always do, like I dunno she would always try and get involved just doing little stalls and things like that which is quite good like erm and yeah like the caravan we used to go there quite often, we went there every year for about seven years which is quite good, so we would do like, something for the adults and then something for the children as well.

So see if you can bring err – a particular time?

D: Oh I'm sorry I'm so crap at this aren't? I 'm rubbish **it's alright don't worry** erm . . . (4) I'm really rubbish, I literally, my mind is blank I can't even think of something like one specific thing its bad – erm **okay** she would kill me if she was sitting here (both giggling)

So erm, so the next one you said was loving mm so erm, so if you can think about a time when your relationship with your mum was loving?

D: Just all the time, like she's – I have always been able to sort of talk to her about things and stuff like – and she has always just sort of – dunno like you can see that certain things that you say to her and stuff like even like when I was younger over the years, like you can see that she sometimes, not doesn't agree but you can see it hurts her or something like she – but she would still sort of just be strong about it, do you know what I mean? She would still sort of – okay right I wish that didn't happen but it has happened, you are my son and I am going to sort of just support you through it, do you know what I mean, erm – but yeah like she's always.

So give me an example then of when that's happened?

D: Oh the only ones – the ones I can think of is sort of - not more recent but not like as a child, child just like – not taking my side but if she would be like – something could happen at say school or something like that and I am like right mum this is what happened – she would get the version from the teacher and then she would get my version and I would be like – mum this is what happened, even though she knows what has happened because the teacher's not going to lie but she still would be like – tell me that's wrong. She would say you shouldn't have done what you done but you are my son and I am not going to – like this is your punishment **mm** but then it's sort of – as long as you do your punishment it's sort of alright – not alright but it was sort of like erm – its she just made me feel better about it, she is like you shouldn't have done that – it's wrong **mm** but she would sort of try and make me feel better about the situation.

So was that something that happened – like more than once or is that a particular time that you were thinking about?

D: Yeah more than once, more than once probably. I used to get into trouble at school erm – and yeah she's just- I dunno she always makes me feel better about it, she give me like a right telling off sort of thing and then sometimes she gets like really stressed about things and stuff but then she would always make sure that I knew like the right from wrong and stuff even though like now – I still know right from wrong now – or I know right from wrong now – she is like – she still has – she feels that she has to tell me it **mm** and then she would make sure that I knew – like know what it is and then she would sort of make me feel better about it – and then try and tell me ways to – yeah get it better I think.

So you said that sometimes she would get really stressed about it – like what, what does that look like – what's?

D: I don't know like you could see – like she is angry, like she is smoking more fags than she normally would or something like that – erm (coughs) and just a bit, don't know – just a bit stressy like, seems a bit stressy a bit snappy and stuff like that but it would never be like something that – it would be something that I have done like – she would never be like that if I didn't sort of do something wrong, and she would be like oh really again – you're seriously going to call me into the head teachers office again or whatever **mm** and then like she used to get annoyed about – more annoyed with teachers than me, like she would get more annoyed that okay – so you are saying he has done this and he is really naughty and stuff, you send – he can't go to school for ten days but you are calling him in for the football team so he can come and play like three or four times a week and play for your competitive matches and stuff like that – and win cups with you and things like that, because I was quite good at football when I was younger, I used to – okay you are not allowed in the school but you can still come and play for the football team **right** and I was like – okay – so that was – in my head I was like I don't need to go to school, I will just go and play football and it's fine and my mum – my step dad – they hate, like they hated it, like how can you – you are tell you're disciplining him, you are trying to punish him by not letting him go to school which he loves he doesn't – he doesn't care about not coming to school and then you say that he can come and train with you twice and week and then come and play football matches Saturday and Sunday and stuff.

So how old would you have been when that was going on then?

D: That was secondary school **right** just turned secondary school – like primary school there wasn't really much that went wrong like I was always in the top five or six like in maths and English – maths I was probably in the top two and then English really five or six, I didn't really like reading and stuff I wanted to play football all the time **mm** um and yeah we used to do like – yeah just like loads of like sports and stuff like that and then secondary school it was more like – the – the twenty the twenty in a class has gone to about thirty, thirty five and then some of – where we were quite, the primary school that I went to there were five or six of us that were quite clever and we was doing like Year six – seven's and year eight's work in year six, so I have gone to up to Year Seven I have done quite a lot of the work and so when I am trying to say okay yeah I will put my hand up – yep, yep yep and they would be like no – let somebody else answer it, let somebody else answer it, and I would be like fuck this I am bored, and they would be like – what do you want a pen, I would throw a pen and then it would be a chair and then it would be a fire extinguisher I would just get bored really easily **right** and then that was just a recipe for disaster really. I would be like okay I have done my work now – and now what, give me something else to do – they would be like hold on a minute I've got – I've got about another thirty people in the class it must have been hard for – I would hate to be a teacher I would because if there is one or two people that have done it, they have still got thirty other people that haven't, they are not going to focus on the two people that have done it, do you know what I mean – they need to get everyone to catch up – **mm** and then we would just get bored and yeah just sit next to somebody who have the same mentality as me that I am going to sit here and bored, let's make some – let's make it a bit more fun and then the more people laugh at it, the more **mm** we done it really.