

## **Fathers of Children with Special Needs Interview Protocol**

### **Warm-up**

- 1 Tell me about your family. Who lives in your home?
  - a Are there other family members you keep in close contact with?
  - b Who works full time/part time in the family?
  - c Who usually takes care of the children?
- 2 What kinds of sites do you go to online?
  - a What kind of things do you like to read online?
  - b Do you post your own comments on any of these sites? What kinds of comments?
  - c Do you share photos and/or video? When do you decide to post photos or videos?
- 3 [If not answered in 3] How do you usually access the Internet? [computer, tablet, phone]
  - a Where are you when you go online?
  - b What about the rest of the family? How do they go online and from where?

### **Special Needs**

- 1 Tell me about your child with special needs.
- 2 [Optional] Walk me through a day in your life and how and when people in your family use technology. Start from when all of you wake up until the time you go to bed.
- 3 When did you first notice the changes in your child's behavior? OR When was your child first diagnosed?
- 4 Tell me about the times of progress your child made?
- 5 What are some of the most rewarding times with your child? (favorite characteristics)
- 6 What kinds of episodes (good or bad) do you experience with your child?
  - a What kinds of fights or arguments do you have related to caring for your child?  
[fights with spouse, other caregivers, special needs child, siblings]
  - b What is hard when it comes to caring for your child with special needs?
- 7 How has your life been impacted since learning of this diagnosis(or since noticing)?
  - a Tell me about when you first learned about the diagnosis. What did you do next?  
Who did you tell first?
  - b Where did you go for more information?
  - c Who did you go to for social support?
- 8 Who do you trust to talk about your child's needs with?
- 9 What are the differences you have observed between raising a child with special needs versus families of children without special needs?

### **Parent's Internet Use**

*This set of questions is about how you use the Internet related to your child's needs.*

- 1 What kinds of sites do you visit related to your child's needs? [get a list of sites]

- a Tell me about [each site]. Can you show me the site? [on their computer, phone, etc, if possible]
  - b [If looking at a site] Can you show me some of the recent things you've done on this site? Any relating to your child's needs?
- 2 [If Facebook user and not already covered above] What kinds of things do you share on Facebook? Do you share stories about your children?
  - a Are there things that you would like to share on Facebook and then you decide not to? Why?
- 3 What kinds of things do you share online about your child with special needs?
- 4 What kinds of things do you decide not to share online about your child with special needs?
- 5 Are there any sites where you participate anonymously or do not use your real name?
- 6 Do you believe the information you find on these sites? Why or why not?
- 10 Are there times you feel you or your family are being judged by other people? [online and offline]
- 11 Are there times you feel you or your family are being supported by other people? [online and offline]
- 12 Are there internet sites where you feel close to or comfortable with other people on the site? If you were in the place they live one day, would you be asking them to babysit your child? Are there sites where if you were asked to babysit a child, you would do it?
- 13 Do you interact with other fathers who have children with special needs online? How did you get in touch with them initially?
- 14 Have you experienced any issues when interacting with service providers at doctors, schools, etc.?
- 15 Do you feel that mothers or fathers are treated similarly or differently with respect to parenting your children?
- 16 What kinds of interactions do you have with those fathers who you are connected with online?

### **Child's Internet Use**

- 1 Walk me through a day in the life of your child. What does he/she like to do during free time? What is easy or hard for him/her?
- 2 What does your child like to do on the Internet?
- 3 Does your child like to use an iPad or cell phone or other mobile device? For what uses?
- 4 Who does your child talk to online?
- 5 Do you think that going online has offered your child any particularly positive benefits?
- 6 Do you have worries about the time your child spends online?
- 7 Do you and your child use the Internet or cell phones to keep in touch with each other?

### **Aspirations**

- 1 What are the hardest things you had to deal with in raising your child?
- 2 What resources do you wish you had access to to deal with it better?
- 3 Can you imagine what these resources might look like if they were online?
- 4 Are there sites or services online that you wish existed?
- 5 Where do you feel like you need or want more support?
- 6 Are there sites or services online that you wish your child could use?
- 7 Do you have any questions for me? [Trying to help parents access support online....accessing it easier..... What contexts are easier to use with between different online sites]
- 8 Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

*Thank you for your time!*