**Appendix: Semi-structured interview schedule**

**Section 1: Defining terms**

1. What words do you and your family/friends use when arranging for your child to meet up with a friend outside of school?

* Briefly, what comes to mind when you think about [term introduced by parent]
* How often have you heard the term used?
* What parent/child factors do you associate with [term]

**Section 2: Evaluations**

1. How do you feel about play dates [or alternative term]?

* What is it about play dates that you enjoy or find challenging?
* Do you feel any differently about play dates at your home versus at another families’ home?
* Have you experienced any barriers that have made arranging them difficult? (e.g. social factors, time, location, child factors)
* Do you feel there is pressure or expectation to have play dates?

1. How important do you consider play dates to be for your child?

* How does your child feel about having play dates?
* How central are they to your child’s social experience?
* What skills in particular might they help your child develop?
* In what ways do you feel they have influenced your child’s friendships?
* Is it important for children to experience play dates before starting school?

1. How important do you think play dates are for parents?

* Have they changed your relationship with your child in any way?
* Have they changed your relationship with other people’s children?
* Have they changed your relationship with other parents?

**Section 3: Describing play dates**

1. Can you describe a typical play date that you have hosted?

* Who initiated/arranged?
* How did you decide who to invite?
* How frequently do they happen?
* How long do they last?
* Who attended?
* Where do they take place?
* What types of play/activities do the children engage in? Structured or unstructured?
* Do you structure the activities in any way?
* How closely do you supervise the children?

1. What do you usually do before and during a play dates?

* Do you prepare or structure activities in any way?
* How much does your child want you involved?
* What do you do if you child argues/falls out with the other child/ren?
* What does the other parent do?

1. How have play dates that your child has experienced away from home

differed from the kind of play dates you provide at home?

* Prompts as above

1. Thinking back to when your child first started having play dates, has anything changed compared to the play dates they have now?

* Frequency
* Range of friends
* Activities
* Supervision
* Approximately when did your child start having play dates?

1. Is there anything else you’d like to add about playdates in general, or about your child’s experiences in particular?