

Transcript Interview with Charlotte Tibollo by Ashley Tibollo

Interviewee: Charlotte Tibollo

Interviewer: Ashley Tibollo

Date: 07/09/2021

Location (Interviewee): between Williamsville and Watkins Glen, New York

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Abstract: Mother interviews 5 year old daughter about life for her during the pandemic.

Ashley Tibollo 00:01

We are recording. My name is Ashley Tibollo. I am here with Charlotte Tibollo, the date is July 9, 2021. The time is 12:55pm. We are driving in our car between Williamsville and Watkins Glen, New York. I understand that this interview will be recorded in digital video and our audio format and may be transcribed. The recordings of possible transcriptions of my interview copies of any supplementary documents or additional photos that I wish to share and the informed consent and deed of gift may be deposited in The Journal of the Plague Year: A COVID-19 Archive and the Indiana University Library System and will be available to both researchers and the general public. I understand that my name and the name of Charlotte, my daughter, and other means of identification will not be confidential. So, I, as Charlotte's mother confirm that I have agreed that the interview will made, be made available immediately upon submission to the archive.

Ashley Tibollo 01:24

Okay, Charlotte, can you say your whole name?

Charlotte Tibollo 01:32

Charlotte Rose Tibollo.

Ashley Tibollo 01:34

You're gonna have to talk nice and loud. Okay? Because of the road noise. And how old are you?

Charlotte Tibollo 01:41

Five.

Ashley Tibollo 01:43

Yeah, what grade are you going into?

Charlotte Tibollo 01:46

Kindergarten.

Ashley Tibollo 01:49

Yeah, do you know what city we live in?

Charlotte Tibollo 01:55

Buffalo.

Ashley Tibollo 01:57

Yeah, and that's in New York State right? Okay, do you remember how old you were when the pandemic started? You were three.

Charlotte Tibollo 02:14

Three.

Ashley Tibollo 02:17

Yeah, in March of 2020, you turned four that June. Hey, what do you remember most about when it started?

Charlotte Tibollo 02:28

That we didn't know how it started.

Ashley Tibollo 02:36

Mhm. What changed about life?

Charlotte Tibollo 02:40

We had to wear masks, we couldn't hug and kiss anyone until [inaudible] COVID was over. It wasn't very fun.

Ashley Tibollo 02:55

No? What did you think about all that?

Charlotte Tibollo 03:00

I, I guess, I wasn't really comfortable because I couldn't hug or kiss anyone.

Ashley Tibollo 03:15

Yeah, do you remember, um, what we did for your birthday? What did we do for your birthday in June of 2020 when you turned four?

Charlotte Tibollo 03:29

We had a George Washington cake.

Ashley Tibollo 03:32

Mhm.

Charlotte Tibollo 03:32

And we had outside in the backyard.

Ashley Tibollo 03:37

We were outside in the backyard. Do you remember anything else about it? We had some friends, right? And how do we do that with COVID? Do we stay apart? Yeah, we socially distanced, right? Do you feel safe when you go into the store? Why do, Why do you feel safe now?

Charlotte Tibollo 04:20

Because of wearing a mask and I know I won't get sick.

Ashley Tibollo 04:25

Yeah. You started school during the pandemic. Right? You did EK? What was school like? With COVID?

Charlotte Tibollo 04:39

It was a little weird not, like not, not wearing masks.

Ashley Tibollo 04:51

Not, not wearing masks? What do you mean?

Charlotte Tibollo 04:55

Like, not wearing a mask in school.

Ashley Tibollo 05:02

Well, you did wear masks in school. What else did you have in school to protect you from COVID?

Charlotte Tibollo 05:22

Dividers.

Ashley Tibollo 05:23

Yeah, you had big dividers. What was your favorite part about school?

Charlotte Tibollo 05:38

Playing with my friends.

Ashley Tibollo 05:41

Did you and your friends ever talk about COVID? No?

Ashley Tibollo 05:47

Were you always in school during COVID or was there sometime that you had to do online learning?

Charlotte Tibollo 05:56

Sometimes I had to do online learning.

Ashley Tibollo 05:58

What was that like?

Charlotte Tibollo 06:01

It was different.

Ashley Tibollo 06:04

What did you have to do? How did you do school? Well, you still had your teacher Mrs. Abbott, but she wasn't at your house, right? How did you see her?

Charlotte Tibollo 06:41

On the iPad.

Ashley Tibollo 06:42

Right, you went on the iPad and could you see your friends too?

Charlotte Tibollo 06:47

Yeah.

Ashley Tibollo 06:47

Yeah. Did you like learning from home on the iPad?

Charlotte Tibollo 06:50

No.

Ashley Tibollo 06:51

No, how come?

Charlotte Tibollo 06:52

Because I didn't get to see Mrs. Abbott on the playground [inaudible] everyone.

Ashley Tibollo 07:00

Yeah, did anybody help you while you're at home trying to learn?

Charlotte Tibollo 07:05

Sometimes Daddy.

Ashley Tibollo 07:09

Yeah. What was Daddy doing while you were in school?

Charlotte Tibollo 07:14

He was working.

Ashley Tibollo 07:15

Yeah, he was working too. What was mommy doing?

Charlotte Tibollo 07:24

Working.

Ashley Tibollo 07:25

Also working, right? That was hard sometimes, huh? Do you think you learned as much when you were at home as you did when you were in school?

Charlotte Tibollo 07:38

I don't know.

Ashley Tibollo 07:40

You don't know? How do you feel about the COVID vaccine?

Charlotte Tibollo 07:51

I feel better that it's coming.

Ashley Tibollo 07:58

Coming, yeah. Are you gonna get one? Do you want to get one? You have to say it out loud.

Charlotte Tibollo 08:08

Yeah.

Ashley Tibollo 08:10

How come?

Charlotte Tibollo 08:12

Because I don't want to have to wear a mask all the time anymore.

Ashley Tibollo 08:17

Do you do any sports?

Charlotte Tibollo 08:21

I do basketball and gymnastics.

Ashley Tibollo 08:27

And what else?

Charlotte Tibollo 08:28

Taekwondo.

Ashley Tibollo 08:29

Yeah, did you do any of those during the pandemic?

Charlotte Tibollo 08:35

I did Taekwondo.

Ashley Tibollo 08:37

Yeah, what was that like during the pandemic?

Charlotte Tibollo 08:40

It was like, it was just like, it's a little weird that some people are wearing masks in Taekwondo.

Ashley Tibollo 08:52

That they aren't anymore? Yeah.

Charlotte Tibollo 08:54

Yeah.

Ashley Tibollo 08:58

Do you remember doing it from home?

Charlotte Tibollo 09:04

No.

Ashley Tibollo 09:04

On the iPad or on the TV? Yeah. Did you like doing that?

Charlotte Tibollo 09:09

No.

Ashley Tibollo 09:11

No? How come?

Charlotte Tibollo 09:14

Because I like to see my friends for real.

Ashley Tibollo 09:18

Mhm. So, what is the first thing you want to do after you get your vaccines?

Charlotte Tibollo 09:18

I don't know.

Ashley Tibollo 09:43

Go to Disney World?

Charlotte Tibollo 09:44

Yeah!

Ashley Tibollo 09:45

[laughs] And, so, there are going to be adults in the future listening to this, right? They want to hear what you have to say. So, what would you tell them? What do you want people to know about the pandemic in the future?

Ashley Tibollo 10:11

Is there anything they should know? Like to help kids?

Charlotte Tibollo 10:24

I don't know.

Ashley Tibollo 10:25

Would you want anything to have happen differently? What would you want it to, for the record, Charlotte is nodding her head yes. What would you want them to have done differently?

Charlotte Tibollo 10:41

Not eat meats.

Ashley Tibollo 10:48

And why should they not eat meats?

Charlotte Tibollo 10:51

Because then we wouldn't have COVID and we wouldn't have to wear masks and we wouldn't have to get the vaccine.

Ashley Tibollo 11:01

Well, do, do all diseases come from animals and animal markets?

Charlotte Tibollo 11:07

No.

Ashley Tibollo 11:08

No, but this one you think did? Yeah. Okay. Thank you, Charlotte, for your interview today. Bye bye.