**My unique family**

In Sweden, every household is different, some families have a mom, a dad and two siblings, some have a mom and no siblings, some have two dads, two moms and five siblings, ultimately there is no right way to live. I live with an extremely supporting and loving family of four, we help each other at our lowest and celebrate each other at our highest. If anyone in my family disappears it would feel like a puzzle piece is missing, it simply would not work.

Since I grew up with my family’s behavior, it is hard to describe it to someone else. Seeing my friends interacting with their family has made me realize that my family is unique in some ways. We are very honest with each other about our feelings, and we try not to shame anyone for their feelings. I would also say that we are very loving toward each other, and hugs are always welcome at any time.

In my family we value quality time in our every day lives, of course I see my mom, dad, and sibling every single day, but this also goes for some parts of my extended family. I grew up on visiting my grandma every single Friday up until corona hit, I see my cousin at least twice a month and my aunt almost every week. My other grandma calls me frequently and asks about my life while grandpa is listening behind her and saying hello at the end of the call and every year for my birthday, they all show up with a present and eat dinner with me to celebrate another year.

If I had to say an important “happening” in our family, the answer would have to be birthdays, I have never ever celebrated a Christmas in the same place as the year prior, Midsummer can be celebrated at home or at our summerhouse, Easter is usually filled with sports and Halloween is for celebration with your friends. However, the one thing we always prioritizes is birthdays, you dress up in something nice, eat a nice meal (usually at their house) and let the one we are celebrating be the center of attention for the night.

As I mentioned earlier, every Swedish household is different and mine is no exception. I know loads of my friends who share big family happenings with loads of extended family, but that´s where my family is different. My mom and dad only hang out with certain parts of our extended family, the ones that they have something in common with and that they hang out with frequently. So instead of having a big and unknown family, I have a smaller and more loving family who I can frequently spend time with.

In conclusion, is really my family so unique? Probably not. We spend time together, love each other and care for each other, and that is nothing you cannot find in other families. However, I am satisfied with the way we have it, I can be myself and not care about my family judging me and I know that they will always have my back. To have your own family traditions and celebrate holidays together is great, but do not forget, no family is supposed to be a certain way and all that matters is that you are happy with your family. The one you have or the one you find.