

Family Matters

I love my family very much, both immediate and extended. We all have a strong bond and share most happenings in our lives with each other through our family group chat. After learning about the different kinds of families and relationships, I realize how good I've had it. Although not perfect, my family is great and I wouldn't trade any of them for anything.

I am part of a household made up of a married, double-income couple, three young adult kids, and two pets. My immediate family consists of my dad Peter, my mom Lori, my younger brother Noah, my younger sister Olivia, my dog Tater, and my cat Olive. I am the oldest child, and my siblings and I are all two years apart (I'm 22, Noah is 20, and Olivia will be 18 in late December). Both of my pets Tater (12) and Olive (16) are old now. Dad is a chemical engineer. He's definitely the breadwinner of our family. Mom is a preschool teacher. My siblings both work at Culver's, though in different locations since Noah moved to Dekalb permanently last year. And I will (hopefully) soon be starting a new job in my career area of interest.

My relationships with my immediate family are strong and healthy. My parents are highly supportive of my endeavors in both writing and music. They share my poems and attend all of my band concerts. When I am struggling, they are there to listen. My mom always posts such nice things about me on Facebook for all our friends and family to see and has helped me with all of my school projects. My dad has helped me with my math and science homework and shares music, video games, YouTube videos, and movies/tv shows with me. Both of my parents enjoy spending quality time with me, whether we go out to eat, buy coffee and tea, play video games, attend an event, shop, or do something else. Above all, I can confide in them about most things in my life.

As for my siblings, all three of us are also very close. Although he doesn't live at home anymore, my brother and I still talk almost every day about music, games, movies, and more. He also buys me super thoughtful Christmas and birthday gifts every year. We've always been great siblings, even when he was born. If I'm remembering right, my mom told me I poked him and said "Noah" when I first met him. My sister and I talk every day too about games, fandoms, music, and more. She rants to me a lot, but I don't mind. We send each other so many memes and artwork and videos. She also gets me great Christmas and birthday gifts. All in all, my siblings and I get along really well and I love them dearly.

Growing up in my family, immediate and extended, was really fun. We have all sorts of traditions that we keep around holidays and our family vacations have always been a blast. My parents were sort of strict, but as my siblings and I have gotten older, we have much more freedom to go wherever we want and do whatever we want, especially now that we all have money from our jobs. We visit our extended family often, except for my mom's brother's family since they live out in New Hampshire. We also invite our friends over all the time to hang out.

Our household has changed a lot over the years, both physically and otherwise. We have done a lot of remodeling: our large basement has my mom's playdough business (Simply Play) set up down there, my brother's old bedroom is now mine and my sister's room is now her own instead of sharing with me, and the kitchen and bathrooms have been redone. As for the nonphysical components, new technology definitely changed our household. We've always had several consoles: the Wii, Nintendo DSs, and PS4. Now, we have the Nintendo Switch, the Wii U, phones, and PCs. We don't play with toys very much anymore. We've also been starting to branch out more and go our separate ways.

Our parents raised us well. We are all very smart and talented, so we received top grades every year. We also participated in a number of extracurriculars. On top of that, our whole family, immediate and extended, is very Christian, so we have a certain set of morals that reflected how my parents raised Noah, Olivia, and me. We were taught to be kind and respectful and honest. We were encouraged to spend time with friends. We also spent most Sunday mornings at church. Our parents were sort of strict, but more in the protective sense. Nowadays, we have much more freedom, but they always check in on us through our family group chat.

All in all, I've grown up in a really loving and faithful family. My siblings and I are all adults now, so we're starting to venture off to new horizons, but we still spend time together as a family over holidays and weekends. Nothing can shake our bonds. Being a part of my family has taught me a lot about how to be a good person and how to love. I can only hope that we continue to share our special love for each other even as we grow older.