

That's a Family!

Girl: This is my family. My mom, my dad, my sister Megan and me.

Girl: And in my family there is my mom, my dad and my two sisters, Monica and Lauren.

Girl: [*Esta es mi familia. Vivimos juntos*]. (Spanish)

Girl: Um, this is my mom, Susan and I was adopted by here.

Boy: This is my family. My parents are divorced.

Boy: My two moms are Marilyn and Adrienne. My two dads are Michael and, uh, Barry.

Boy: There's all different kinds of families. There are families with one parent, two parents.

Girl: Some relatives.

Boy: A foster parent.

Girl: Kids who are raised from their aunt or their uncle or their grandma or just one mom, or two moms.

Girl: My family is special because we love each other.

Girl: They are always here for me when I need them. They are always caring for me.

Girl: My dad is in a wheelchair, but it doesn't really matter 'cause he still loves me and my family still loves me and that's what a family is all about.

Girl: To have a good family, everyone needs to take care of each other.

Girl: And to feel comfortable with each other.

Girl: You could feel trust and friendliness.

Boy: loving to be inside the family.

Boy: Having someone to talk to when you are down.

Girl: And spend holidays together.

Girl: People who love each other. Who have happiness together and who have arguments every now and then. That's a family.

Girl: My family is special because of all the different skin colors.

Girl: Our family is a mix of two different races. One is African-American, the other one is white.

Girl: My dad is half Chinese and my mom is half Filipino.

Father: I am African-American and Jewish and Steve is Japanese American and Ari is Cambodian.

Girl: And the parts of me are Jewish, Mexican....

Boy: Black and white.

Girl: And um, Indian.

Boy: I have two different religions.

Mother: I'm Jewish and Bassam is Muslim.

Father: And Julia is half and half, so she gets the best of both worlds.

Girl: My family speaks English, Spanish and sign language.

Girl: My mom is from Hong Kong and my dad is from China and we speak Cantonese and English at home.

Emily: My name is Emily Fong. I'm in third grade. This is my sister, Sarah and this is my sister, Katy. This is my mom, Carolyn and this is my dad, Bart. In our family we have, we have a lot of love, we have a lot of happiness. We have a lot of jokes that make us crack up and fall on the floor laughing. Um, and we have approximately at least uh, one fight a day.

Emily: Okay, pull.

[Background noise and voices, "That's mine." "Mine." "You're pulling the wrong direction."].

Emily: My family is a mixed race family. My dad's Chinese American and my mom is German American and that's why I think my family is special 'cause, you know, we're not just plain Chinese, just plain German, just plain this, just plain that. We're mixed.

Mother: Sugar, eggs, vanilla, buttermilk, eggs. Okay. Cool.

Emily: My mom's side of the family has been here for a long time. My mom's mom came from England and my mom's dad came from Germany.

Add egg yolks.

Mother: And remember how to separate them through... Now let it slide between your fingers.

Emily: Eeeew.

Mother: Jiggle your fingers. Okay, put the yolk in there.

Emily: I really like German Chocolate cake and it's pretty hard to make, so... It takes a while.

Mother: Isn't it funny that German Chocolate cake isn't really German?

Emily: Yeah, that's pretty weird.

Mother: Well, but you know the pfeffernüsse that we make Grandpa every year, that's really German.

Emily: Okay.

Mother: And that is my great grandmother's recipe. It is an old German tradition.

Emily: My mom is special because she is a really good cook and, when I grow up, I am going to be just like her. Because I've been cooking with her since I was five.

Emily: On my mom's side of the family we celebrate Christmas, and from my dad's side we celebrate Chinese New Year.

Emily: Whoa.

Girl: Here they come with the lanterns.

Emily: Every year, for Chinese New Year, the whole family comes together at my house and we have a lot of fun. I know a few words

of Chinese, like when you say Gung Hay Fat Choy, it means, um, Happy Chinese New Year.

Sometimes, you know, kids ask questions like, "Why does your dad have black hair and your mom have blonde hair?" I just say that my parents aren't the same race but they still be married because they like each other. It doesn't mean you have to be a rat to marry a rat. You can be a rat and marry a mouse.

[Noise, music and voices.]

Girl: Hi, guys. Hi.

Emily: There are a lot of kids like me in the world who have mixed families and they don't all have to be the same. There are a lot of different ones.

Boy: This is my mom, Terry and this is my dad, Brian and I've been adopted.

Sofia: James and I were both adopted.

Boy: Me and my sister were both adopted and we go to a good school.

Boy: Then we decided to adopt a little brother, and we adopted Ivan.

Boy: What?

Girl: I was born in Moscow, Russia and, um, I was put in an orphanage when I was a baby. And I was adopted when I was five and a half.

Boy: We have lots of pets.

Girl: And we live together in a quiet little home.

Girl: When somebody is hurt in our family, we pray that they get better.

Father: We could not have a child of our own, so we adopted Daniel and he is our pride and joy.

Susan: My family is special because me and Sam are adopted and we do a lot of cool things together.

Male Voice: A flea, a bug, uh, uh tick, uh termite!

Susan: Oh, oh no good.

Male Voice: Uhhhh.

Sam: We get to go again.

Sam: My parents couldn't have a child and they really wanted one more than anything and so they considered something called adoption.

Susan: Some people think adoption is, um, like when your, when your birth mom just dumps you on the street and someone comes to pick you up. But like...that's not true.

Father: Okay. Ready?

Susan: Yeah.

Sam: What is true is kids get adopted because birth parents aren't ready to take care of children.

Sam: The birth mom is the mom that gave birth to you.

Susan: Also, sometimes parents die or get very sick and then their kids need to get adopted and they look for another person that can take

care of you and treats you well. And that person who can treat, who treats you well, adopts you.

Father: Anybody want a piece?

Sam: When you are adopted, your parents keep your their whole entire life. They don't rent you. They keep you. And they love you and they take care of you until you're really big, and really old.

Susan: The only thing different about an adopted family is that the kids and the adults sometimes look a ton different. And that's the only thing different.

Sofia: Some families that are adopted are the same color and some look, look different. And we are, my family looks a lot different than each other.

Sofia: Here.

Sofia: My family is different races. My brother is African-American. I'm Latina and my parents are white.

Father: Hey, two to one. It's no fair.

- Sofia: When I talk about different races it means, like, people that are different skin colors. Sometimes different races can come from different countries or places around the world.
- Father: Whoa, that's a goal!
- Sofia: My birth parents, um, are Guatemalan, and so when I was born in Central America, my mom came to pick me up at the hospital. And then a year and a half later, my brother was born and my brother was only three days old when we got him.
- James: And...
- Sofia: I look exactly like that. Look, look at me.
- Mother: Very...
- Sofia: She look...and look at him. We looked exactly alike when we were babies. But then he turned darker.
- Mother: Yes, he did.
- Sofia: I have a picture of my birth mom and sometime when I'm older I really want to go and find her and see her.

Mother: So, who is this, right here?

James: Uh, my birth dad.

Mother: See how much you guys look alike?

Sofia: Kids who are adopted, some know their birth moms and birth dads, but some might not.

Susan: Well a ton of other kids, like, wonder about, um, that, um, adoption. And they ask me, like, "who is your real mom?" But I, I know that my real mom is ...the one who takes care of me.

Sam: Now my friends, you know, totally know and it's okay. But they used to think that I was living with these complete strangers. And they are my parents. They're not strangers at all.

Susan: Forty-four.

Susan: I explain to kids in my class that I'm adopted and I like to be different in the world because I know everybody is different.

Lots of kids all over the world get adopted just like me and Sam.

Boy: My name is Isaiah Baxter and this is my grandmother, Carmen Leon.

Girl: My name is Alisha Jackson and this is my grandmother, Gloria Toolsie.

Girl: This is my granny, and my papa and my little sister. We live in the same house.

Boy: The reason why I live with my grandparents is because my mom and dad were on drugs for quite a long time.

Boy: I moved out here 'cause my real mom was having problems.

Girl: She's been raising me since I was two months because it was hard for my mother to take care of me.

Boy: I like living with her because she gives me a lot of toys.

Boy: My grandpa always plays frisbee with me and my grandma always makes my lunch for me.

Boy: She pays me 50 cents for doing chores and she takes me to a lot of fun places.

Girl: I feel very lucky to live with my grandma. She takes really good care of me and I love her.

Brittany: My name is Brittany. This is my sister, Ebony. My brother is Gerald and my grandmother Stella.

Children's voices: Wendy, wendy weather. We all jump in together.

Brittany: Ice cream please with a cherry on top.

Brittany: At my house we do a lot of fun things. Ebony, she likes to play a lot of games and Gerald always tries to get people in trouble. When I come home from school and get on the phone, me and my friends we talk about when we grow up and what we are going to name our kids and what college we going to go to and what high school.

Grandmother: You got your things out? Get the stuff so I can do your braids.

Brittany: My grandma, she gives us a lot of love and kisses and hugs.

Grandmother: Gerald, did you brush your hair?

Gerald: No.

Grandmother: Well go get it.

Gerald: On Sundays we go to church and we pray, do prayer meeting and then we listen to the pastor.

Grandmother: Brittany, what time is it?

Gerald: Grandma cook our dinner and she cook chicken and macaroni and cheese.

Ebony: And some string beans, with some corn and or else we eat some spaghetti.

Grandmother: Now go get your plates.

Brittany: My grandma is my guardian. That means the person who is not my real parent but is taking care of me. Someone might live with a guardian because their parents are dead or can't take care of them because they don't have food or money.

Grandmother: Ebony.

Brittany: Sometimes people ask me where's my mom. And I'll tell them she's at home or something. I make up something. Because I, sometimes I don't feel like telling them the story.

Brittany: When I was five years old and Ebony, she was a baby. And my mom started doing drugs and she got sleepy, stressed and didn't want to cook dinner.

Ebony: When I lived with my mom, my mom don't feed me or put my clothes on. She don't get me dressed for school, my, oh, my sister do have to.

Brittany: My grandma, she saw what we was going through and came and got us. When we moved with my grandmother, everything got better.

Grandmother: Get the washing tub.

Brittany: We started eating dinner every night. Taking baths, getting our clothes on. She took care of us and she took us to get some new shoes and clothes.

Grandmother: Now put it all the way around.

Ebony: My grandma, she take us places and my grandma she get up and, uh, make sure we had everything um so we can go to school. She make sure we do our homework every day.

Grandmother: [Singing] Everything is going to be all right. Everything is going to be all right.

Ebony: And sometimes we be hiding from our grandma, and then we hide behind the couch and behind the TV and my grandma come back in the living room, we pop up. She jumps up and she says, y'all scared me.

Grandmother: [Singing] Every thing is going to be all right.

Gerald: You got a Q?

Grandmother: Go fish. Seven. Ah, hey, look at this.

Brittany: Sometimes I worry about if my grandma die, who we going to live with.

Gerald: Is that so?

Brittany: It makes me mad when I came there for my mom and I miss her sometimes. But it's better for me to live with my grandmother instead of my mom.

Grandmother: Quit looking at my hand, Gerald.

Gerald: You got a two?

Grandmother: You finished? Ah, you beat me.

Brittany: My family is not the only ones living with their grandparents. There is a lot of kids like me, Ebony and Gerald living with their grandparents, their aunties and their uncles instead of their parents.

Girl: My name is Abby and I am nine years old and this is my mom, her name is Betty and this is my other mom, her name is Kim.

Girl: These are my two brothers, Tokumbo and Ivan and these are my two parents behind me, Glenn and MacArthur.

Girl: Sometimes people ask me where's my mother and I tell them I have a birth mother and I have two dads that adopted me.

Boy: My name is Daniel and these are my two dads, Dusty and Jason.

Boy: These are my moms, Julia and Angela.

Mother: We've been together for about ten years now and and this is our baby, Maya.

Boy: It's really cool to have two gay dads because they brought us into a home and they adopted us and they love us.

Josh: My name is Josh. This is my sister, Mara and these are my two moms, Joan and Stacey.

Girl: My dads are gay and gay means where two men or two women love each other. It's sort of just like having a mom and dad who love each other, but it's a man and a man or a woman and a woman.

Girl: Our moms, Angie and Lee are lesbians. That means they only like men for friends and they want to be in a relationship with other women.

Josh: You can actually use the word gay for two women that love each other or two men that love each other, but, uh, people only use the word lesbian for two women that love each other.

Mother: So, you ready to do homework?

Josh: I like the attention that my two moms give me and I think it is nice to have two moms. Like sometimes I have homework that's in Spanish and my mom, Stacey, she knows a lot of Spanish, so she helps me.

Mother: [*Como se encuentra esta?*] (Spanish)

Josh: Um, and then my mom, Joan, she's more active and I think it's nice to have a mom that is a little bit more serious and a mom that's more playful.

All: One, two, three.

Mara: I got it.

Josh: My mom, Joan, got pregnant so they went to the hospital and I got born.

Mara: I got it, I got it, I got it.

Mother: [Unintelligible.]

Mother: Each of you get half.

Josh: Sometimes kids ask me, “well isn't your mom Joan, your real mom?” That means if she had you then that would mean that she is your real mom, but I tell them, my mom Stacey adopted me and that would mean she was my real mom, too.

Voices: One, two, three.

Josh: I think Joan and Stacey are the main thing inside each others' hearts except for me and Mara. And I hope it stays that way.

[Children's voices, unintelligible.]

Josh: The only hard thing about having two moms is that sometimes kids use mean words for gays and lesbians and that hurts my feelings. Like last year there was this, this kid at my school and he uses bad words for gays and lesbians a lot. I wish he knew that it was all right to have two dads or two moms or just anything. I wish he knew that it was okay to be different.

Dominique: I'm Dominique and this is my sister, Taquisha and my other sister, Alma and I have two mothers Lee and Angie.

Dominique: Sometimes it is hard to tell other people that our two mothers are lesbians because sometimes they don't understand. They think, well

how do you have two mothers? What happened to this, what happened to that?

The way we became a family is our two mothers were friends and they decided they wanted to be more than friends. So they got into a relationship with each other and they started to fall in love. After that, they asked a man to be the father of their baby, so Lee had me and Angie had Taquisha and Alma and we grew up together as sisters.

Alma: People at my school they know that my mom is gay and they know that they love me a lot and they know that we have fun with each other. There is lots of kids who have gay parents but they just don't want no one to know because they think someone is going to make fun of them. Some people might but some people won't.

Breauna: My name is Breauna and this is my dad David and this is my other dad, Gregg.

Father: C'mon out.

Breauna: When I was a little kid, David met Gregg and then we decided that we were going to live in Gregg's house as a family.

Father: So I want to show you guys where Owen did a whole bunch of digging and replanted grass and everything...

Breauna: We have a plot in the community garden and you can grow water melons and tulips and carrots.

Father: Let's see how strong you are.

Breauna: Right now we have lots of weeds and um one melon that is sort of growing.

Father: Try to pull through that.

Breauna: Eew, eew, eew, eew, Gross.

Father: Oh, he's great.

Breauna: Daddy, look at that.

Father: Open the worm.

Father: Oh, how super.

Child's Voice: It's humongous

Father: That is not an earthworm, [honey] that a snail.

Breauna: Eew, there is another one.

Father: There is two.

Breauna: Well it was my 10th birthday and mostly kids from my class came and it was a really fun birthday party.

Woman: If we laugh then we have to be the puddy tat.

Father: Okay.

Breauna: Meow.

Father: Poor, poor puddy tat.

Breauna: Some of my friends have gay parents, too. I have friends that have all different kinds of families.

Breauna: Some people think that you're going to be gay when you grow up because you have gay parents, but I don't think that's true because you could be, but not everybody is gay when they grow up just because you have gay parents.

Father: Okay, all together.

Many voices: [Singing.] Happy birthday to you. Cha, cha, cha. Happy birthday to you. Cha, cha, cha. Happy birthday dear Breana. Cha, cha, cha. Happy birthday to you.

Breana: I wish more people understood about being gay and weren't afraid of gay people, then they wouldn't say mean things about them. If you knew my dads, you would know how cool they are. They're the best dads ever.

Girl: My name is Nicole and this is my mom, this is my sister, Alexandra, this is my other sister, Jessica and this is my step-dad, Doug.

Boy: When I was young, my parents got divorced.

Girl: My parents got divorced when I was around two and, um, they each went in different houses and, uh, a few years later my mom got married to Doug.

Boy: Then when I was seven, my step-father married my mother.

Girl: My dad lives about four hours away and I see him twice a month.

Girl: We stay at our mom's house on the week days and my dad's house on the weekend.

Boy: I live with my mom and my mom's boyfriend, Anthony. On the weekends I visit my father.

Montana: My name is Montana, I'm in the third grade and my parents are divorced. Divorce is when your parents aren't married anymore and they don't...and they move to a different house. Some kids think it's their fault but don't think that because it is not. It's, they just don't want to be with each other anymore but it is not your fault.

Mother: Time to wake up, Montana. Good morning.

Montana: Well I think they were fighting, like going blah, blah, blah, like saying bad words to each other. And I would always worry in bed that they were like really fighting and hurting each other.

Montana: I pour the sugar on.

Mother: Okay, just a little bit. One spoon is plenty.

Montana: When I first heard that my parents were getting divorced, I was really sad, I was like, well, I'm probably not going to see my mom again or my dad. And I was worried that it would be like terrible. But then I realized that that wasn't going to happen and that it would just be the same except my mom and my dad wouldn't be together.

Mother: Did you wash your face yet? Then we'll pack your lunch, then we'll go to school.

Montana: They feel happier now because they are not seeing each other any more and they are like, now we won't have to fight any more. And I am actually glad that they are not fighting anymore. I am with my dad two days of the week and then every other weekend and I am with my mom the rest of the time.

Mother: So are you doing anything with your dad this weekend? Are you going to hear him play music?

Montana: At first it was hard because I'd have to remember where I was supposed to be. Like after school. Is my mom picking me up or my dad. But now I am more used to it.

Mother: I love you. I'll see you in two days, okay?

Montana: I feel like I have one family but in two houses.

Father: Hey, pookie.

Montana: And my dad picks me up, I go home and I have dinner and I spend the rest of my time with my dad.

Father: Do you want to go bike riding tomorrow?

Montana: Yeah.

Father: We're home.

Montana: Grandma, we're home.

The hard part is when I'm with my dad I always want to be with my mom. And when I am with my mom, I always want to be with my dad. And the easy part is that I know that I'll see my mom like the next day or the day after that. And if I really miss them I can just call my mom or my dad on the telephone.

Montana: Hi mommy.

Montana: My mom has a new relationship with somebody now. His name is Robin. When my mom and Robin get married, Robin's going to turn into my stepdad.

So when are you and Robin going to bring all his stuff down?
He's not going to be like my dad but he is just going to be there.
Like, like a dad but not a dad.

When I see other kids being with their mom and their dad, I'm like well, they 're like that and the difference about my family is that I don't get to see my mom or my dad whenever I want.

Father: Do you know how to get on or do you want a little help?

Montana: But then I realize that they always love me, no matter what.

Montana: There's a lot of families like me that have divorced parents.

Girl: My name is Alicia Lundgren and this is my mom, Susan. And I live with her and we live by ourselves so she is a single parent.

Girl: This is my family, uh, my dad, Kurt, and my sister, Cleo.

Girl: In my family there is the two of us. My dad is away.

Girl: My name is Misha and this is my mom.

Boy: I live with my Mom because my dad lives in Israel.

Girl: When my mom adopted me, she was single and she still wanted to take care of a child.

Girl: My mom died and so that's why I only live with my dad.

Boy: Most of the people think that a family has to have a mom, a dad and a kid. And that 's not always true.

Boy: My mom is really great and she understands when I talk to her.

Boy: We usually just like to hang out and stay with each other and have a good time.

Girl: She picks us up and swings us around, just like a father would.

Boy: We like to wrestle with her, but most of the time she wins.

Girl: And our dad takes really good care of us.

Fernando: My name is Fernando. In my family I only live with one parent and that's my mom. My mom is a single parent.

Mother: You have more garbage, Fernando?

Fernando: Yeah.

When you just have one parent, if you get in trouble, only one person gets mad at you and only one person nags at you. So I think I'm pretty lucky.

Mother: Okay, maybe if you step on it.

Mother: Easy, easy.

Fernando: Sometimes, when I meet new people, they assume I have a dad and a mom, but when I tell them, they're like, "really?" And I tell them, really. It's not that weird because it is really the same thing, nothing different. Except just one.

My mom is really, really nice. We go places together, like shopping or to a candy store.

Male Voice: That okay?

Fernando: Hmmm.

Mother: [Laughter.]

Fernando: I like the gummy bears and the mega warheads. I like sour stuff.

Fernando: When ever I am in a bad mood or something is wrong. She knows. She gives me a hug and a kiss and asks me, "What's the matter?" I tell her and then every thing just gets better.

Fernando: Let's get bananas.

Mother: Bananas huh?

Fernando: Then I can have a snack.

Fernando: Since my mom is the only parent she has to work really hard to earn money to pay for every thing we need like food and clothes.

Womens Voice: [*Como estas senora?*] (Spanish)

Mother: [*Bien, ___?_____*] (Spanish)

Fernando: If you have two parents, then both parents work so they both, you know, share the money.

Female Voice: [Gracias.] (Spanish)

Mother: [Gracias.] (Spanish)

Fernando: On father's day, I just really just sit around and do nothing. Because there's really nothing to do 'cause I don't have a dad.

Fernando: Well, of course I have a dad, just not with me and I don't know where he is but I know he is out there. Sometimes I feel curious about my dad, 'cause I don't know much about him. Except the fact I know his name and I know what he did for a living and he liked to play ping pong. I guess he and my mom just didn't want to be in a family together. Like they still liked each other and all, but they just weren't ready to live with each other.

Mother: Okay. Now where were we?

Fernando: Harry moved the tip of his eagle feather quill down the page.

Other kids, like me, only have one parent, maybe because their parents were on drugs, one of them. Or maybe because another died

or another is in jail or something Or sometimes the other parent just left. And sometimes people like my mom just decide to have a baby even though they aren't living with the other parent.

Fernando: There are a lot of kids just like me who are growing up with just a mom or a dad.

Fernando: There are so many different ways to be a family. It doesn't matter who's in the family, but it matters that you love each other and take care of each other. That's a family.