

## Relatively Normal

I don't think I have had that much of a different childhood than other kids. Quite a few people think that children need a mum and dad but I think I have shown them different. I have had the same kinds of experiences as everyone else, have friends and get on with people just like anyone else. The reason people may think I am different is because I have two mums. I was adopted in February 2006. I was the first child to be adopted by gay parents in East Riding. I first realised it was a bit different when I was in the woods with one of them and said to her "You're my mummy and my other mummy is at work".

Then I started school. At first from what I have heard, I found it very hard to leave my mums, but over time I got used to it. No one at school ever commented or comments now about me having gay parents. It was and still is normal to everyone else. Which is nice as it used and makes me feel like I fitted in and still do, which I think is one of the reasons I think I actually decided that school really wasn't too bad after all. Now I am in secondary and still there is nothing different. Quite a few people in my year now have stepparents or single parents. Also people don't notice I have two mums unless I tell them. One of my friends didn't realise for a year and a half until I told him.

The only place where it's been questioned is at our local church. I was at 'Seven Up' club where one of the vicars asked who would be picking me up and one of my mums said my other mum would be picking me up. Now this confused him because he was used to people having a mum and dad. So the mum who dropped me off had to explain that I have two mums. He was surprised and commented that must have been a complicated birth, so then my mum had to explain they had not been at the birth and they had adopted me. Now slowly the vicars and local church is getting used to it and calling my mums by the names I use which is good as I enjoy going to church.

There are a couple of good bits and one amazing thing about having two mums. One way is the way my friends identify my mums. They call them by their hair colour not by name so it is quite funny to hear them call them the black haired one or the white/grey haired mum. The second thing that is connected to my adoption is a second birthday, where we have a family day out with cake and I get a few pressies. We do this on the 7th of August as this was the day my adoption was made official.

The amazing thing that happened to me was when I was 10. We went to this alternative parent show at Southbank down in London. Now I thought I would just hear some authors speaking about the books. But in the end I got filmed and shown in a clip someone made. I also got featured on Channel 4 news and said anyone can be a family if they love each other.

The one thing in the world I wish could be changed is the parental consent forms at school which always ask for mothers contact details and fathers contact details. Now

this annoys me as I have to cross out the father bit and write mother each time. I wish they would say parent and parent or guardian and guardian as not everybody these days have a mother and father. I think overall I am not really that different at all. I have the same experiences as other people. I think in some ways it is better as it makes me more aware of the world and all the inequality there is and we should have more equality. Also I can feel more comfortable around the house like leaving the bathroom door open without worrying. I think I am lucky to have two mums and I would not want in any other way.