



Education and Culture

**Socrates**  
Comenius

**COMENIUS III**

European Educative Partnership Project

**LIVE -  
LIFE VEST -  
YOUNG'S GUIDE FOR  
SURVIVING IN EUROPE**



Osnovna  
šola  
Koseze  
Ljubljana

**PRIMARY SCHOOL KOSEZE  
LEDARSKA 23  
1000 LJUBLJANA**

Classes: 7.a, 8.a, 9.a

**ARE WE TYPICAL SLOVENIAN  
FAMILY?**

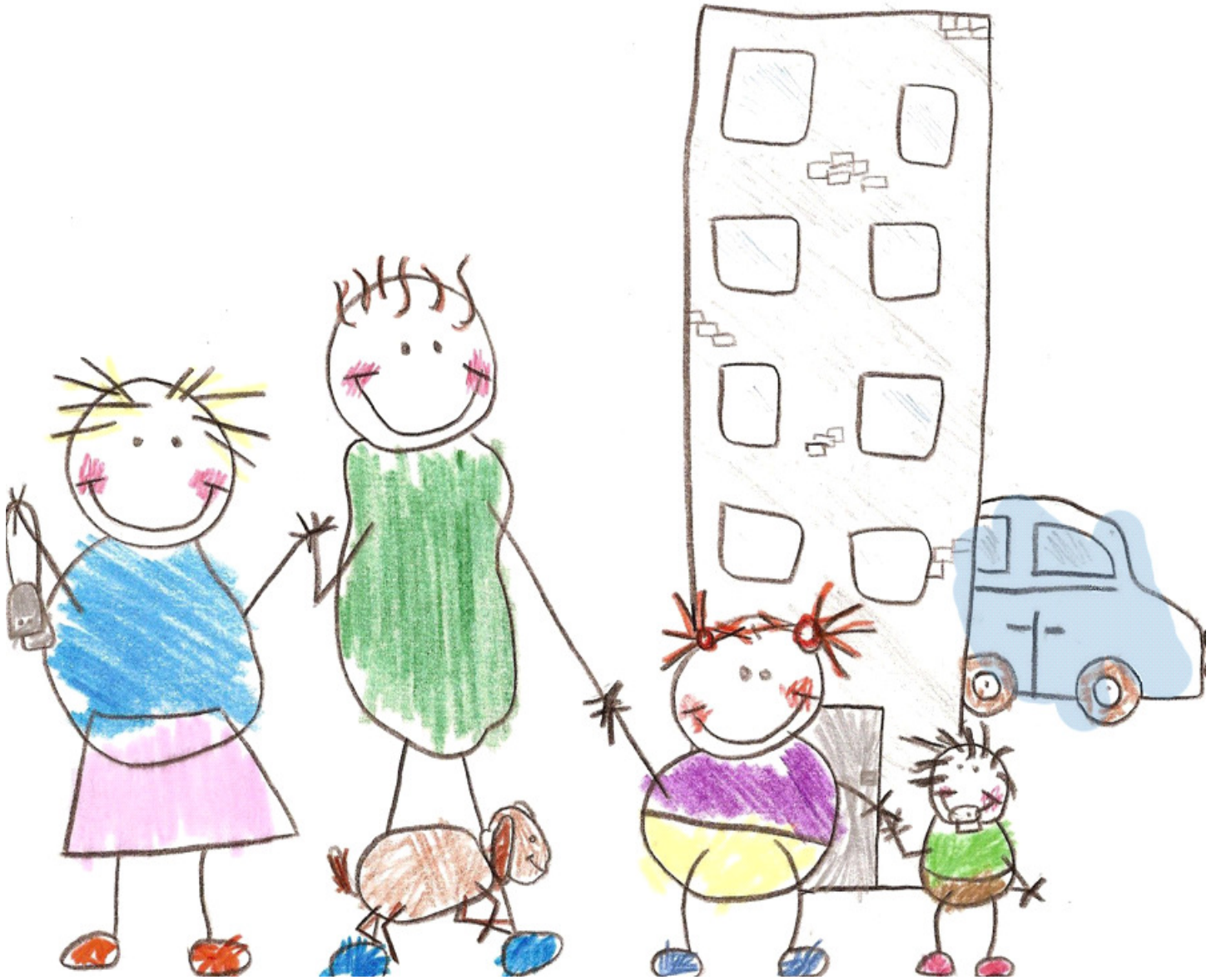
**PROJECT WORK FOR FIRST MEETING IN CAMPO MAIOR**

**4. -11- MARCH 2007**

WHAT IS FAMILY  
(DEFINITION)

ARE WE TYPICAL  
SLOVENIAN FAMILY

WHAT IS FAMILY FOR US: OUR DEFINITION  
OF FAMILY OUR EVERYDAY, OUR RULES  
HOW WE CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS



## **SOMETHING ABOUT TYPICAL SLOVENIAN FAMILY**

Slovenian statistic says that typical Slovenian family includes:

- ✗ parents
- ✗ 1.4 children
- ✗ and a pet
- ✗ They live in a block of flats
- ✗ and have two cars
- ✗ and usually parents are divorced → almost every fifth marriage is divorced.

One of our famous singer - songwriter and poet Adi Smolar has written a song about Slovenian family. Recording on that - typical slovenian family is like that:

*GOD! PLEASE, DON'T LET THE TV CRASH!*  
*Slovenian family*

*Song by ADI SMOLAR*

*Whenever our family is together  
We all sit around the TV.  
There's five of us  
Watching the program, we got nothing to say.*

*Nobody looks at nobody,  
And we don't argue at all.  
We are all in our own world,  
It's nice, we are far far away.*

*So what? Nothing, it's OK,  
In front of TV we are happy family.  
Good! Please, don't let the TV crash!*

*My older sister no one looks,  
Lucky her, cause she is so pale.  
Her belly is growing bigger  
Cause she is pregnat with her boss.*

*Smaller sister is hidden behind sofa  
She has just smoked a joint.  
She is all in drugs  
Doesn't go to school, she is completely lost.*

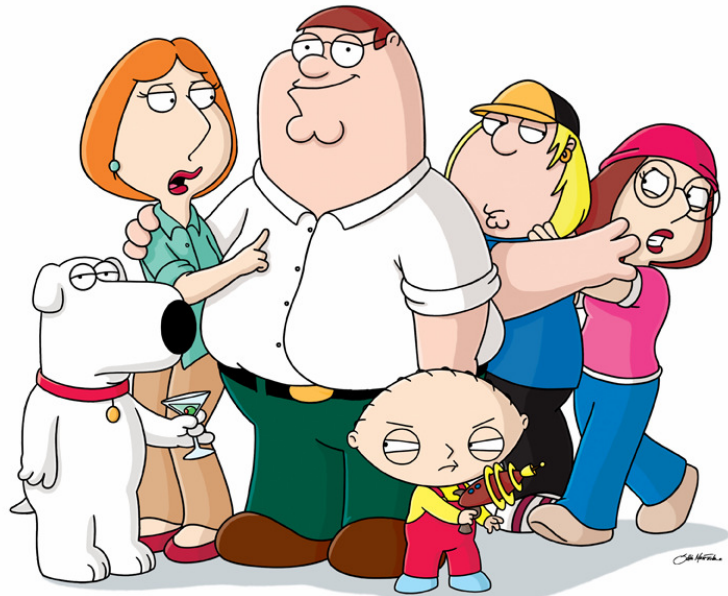
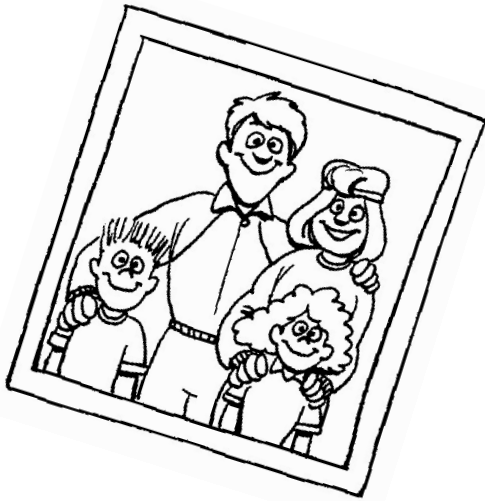
*Father will loose his job,  
Mother doesn't say a word  
But she is no more happy  
She's bored in her mariagge.*

*If they would be completely honest,  
They would get divorced immediately.  
And me, I'm quite happy with the situation  
Cause in colledge I completely screwed up.*

*So what? Nothing, it's OK,  
In front of TV we are happy family.  
Good! Please, don't let the TV crash!*

We all think we live in a typical slovenian family.

With our work in the project we wanted to prove Adi was wrong about typical Slovenian family because we live quite different.



## **DEFINITION - FAMILY**

Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says: "The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to be protected by society and the State".

So the family is the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children.

It consists of a domestic group of people, typically affiliated by birth or marriage, or by analogous or comparable relationships – including domestic partnership, cohabitation, adoption, surname and ownership (as occurred in the Roman Empire).

### **For us - family is much more than that**

We all agree family is a basic group of family. But it is also much more than that. No matter if we live with both of our parents or just with one; family is for us trust and respect and place where we feel safe.



***And how we understand family?***

#### **FAMILY IS:**

- when all family members hold together; even in hard times
- members of people, who love each other, hanging together, going on trips together, see each other every day, they talk, they trust each other, live together



- family is people who are living together and they are connected to each other. It's not necessarily that all family members live together but they must be connected
  - members of people who live together and they have common customs
  - members of people who are in a relationship, they are hanging together, help each other and they are living together, they love each other and respect one another. They take care of each other.
  - when family members understand each other well, they love each other and help each other
  - when all members take care of you and stand by your sideparts take care of us since our birth, sisters helps me by my homeworks, grandma and grandpa are very nice to me. It's nice to be part of family
  - when older members transmit their experience on younger members
  - when we are living together and and we have common customs
  - Family is when they are allways there for me and stand by me
- 
- when all family members stick together; even in hard times
  - members of people, who love each other, hanging together, going on trips together, see each other every day, they are talking, they trust each other, live together
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  - when olders transmit their experience on younger members
  - when we are living together and we have common customs



## Family is home

Without difficulty we can say family means everything to us. We can proudly say family is home and the most safe place on earth. We hope that it will always be so.

Here are some of our most beautiful descriptions:

- home is a place where I live and it's in my heart
- home is a place where I'm growing up and where I feel pleasant
- home gives me shelter
- family and home is the same. I feel very comfortable at home
- family and home is the same. Family are not necessarily relatives. Family are people who you like and trust. Wherever you are with family there is your home. For me family is: parents, my two brothers, all our animals and my best friends.



What is family - we can summarize it in these two essays:

### **AN UNUSUAL DAY**

*That Sunday was really something special. It wasn't as any other Sunday. It was different because mom didn't have to go to work and was there for me all day. My brother Luki and dad were also happy.*

*It started as a lasy one just like the weather outside. After breakfast we went to the house fair . We were interested in the roof windows, because we will need new ones soon. We have seen a lot of interesting things. There were some things I didn't understand, although my dad says I am a technical guy. My brother Luka was only interested in food.*

*He was right, so we had lunch soon. That was a real holiday for my mom. We had all the afternoon for ourselves. Luka and mom have spent it in front of the TV, me and my dad have finally set up my chest of drawers in my room. He has been promising to do it for a long time.*

*The day ended quickly. After really long time all the family went to bed together.*

*This was really special day for me. Maybe not everyone will understand.*

*Miha Goljar, 7.*

### **UNFORGETTABLE DAY WITH MY FAMILY**

*I have been thinking for a long time to describe what is a family. At first I wanted to describe one of our family trips to the mountains, but then I decided to write about our bank holiday-cultural day.*

*After my music lessons and a concert I couldn't wait to sit at my computer to fullfil my apetite. But when I came home, there were tickets for the theatre waiting for us. They were from my grandmother. I was fed up with the culture for one day and I was hungry and I wanted to play on my computer and I was very angry at my grandmother. Unfortunatelly my parents persuaded me to go to the theatre. They told me it is worth seeing, especially because it is a comedy. We took some biscuits along and ate them on our way to the theatre.*

*At the theatre I sat in the first row and I laughed my tears out. I was really impressed!(I've really experienced the play.)*

*We all came happy and pleased out of the theatre. I haven't felt so good in a long time. And I was even more happy, because I solved my problem what to write in my essay.*

*Afterwards we drove around to find some open pizza place. Finally we found one and we talked and disgussed about the comedy we have seen. We have all loved it.*

*I found out that this day was really important for me, it was better spent because I have spent it with my family.*

*Bor Vratana, 7.a*

## **LIFE WITHOUT RULES IS IMPOSSIBLE**

Rules are part of our life. They create our life and we can't live without them. If we look on them from our everyday life, they make our life normal. It is really impossible to live a life without them. Through the history people tried to find rules which are fit for all of us. But we know that that is really impossible because we have different ways of lives, we live in different kind of families... Because of that families have different kind of rules which create their lives. But all rules have one intention: to live in a normal family where everyone feels good and enjoys himself/herself.



## Rules in family

Before we start talking about our family rules we would like to say what one of our schollfellows said during our work:

Even if we break rules and get punished we feel comfortable in our families and that is most important

### WHY DO WE HAVE RULES?

It is good to have rules because they keep things in order. Rules make us do something, and put things in order. And it's also right to have them.

We have rules at school but about these we'll talk in our second meeting in Ljubljana and of course we have rules at home. We must not break them, otherwise we get punished.

Our rules are not written down. But we all know them and usually don't abuse them. Some of us don't have certain rules.

Gennerally we don't like them and we try to avoid them. Sometimes we succeed and sometimes not. But if we don't make our duties... it could be very hard...

We have a deal that we respect rules ... anyway we do respect them most of the time. We know what our duty is so we keep in mind that if we break rules we get punished (muahahaha).

### OUR RULES:

- I have to make my bed when I wake up and I have to take my dog for a walk 3 times a week.
- If my room is in a mess, I have to clean it. If I have my room in a mess, my mom makes a rule that I have to clean it twice a month.
- Or if I come home late, next time I must be home 1 hour earlier or even stay home.
- After lunch or any other meal I, my brother or sister have to clean the table.
- I have to study before exams...
- we allways have to keep our promises to each other, except if something important comes along

- if I do something wrong, my parents don't allow me to play computer or playstation
- we talk about problems. Usually when we are angry with each other by the next day we are cool.
- In my family we don't have certain rules. But of course I can't come home drunk, that's obvious. I have to clean my room, my sister has to take care of her toys, mum cleans up the house and dad earns the money we need.
- Yes my parents usually stick to that what they say. But sometimes they abuse them and then I'm very angry.
- In my family we set the rules on the mistakes we do. If I curse too much, then for every dirty word I say I can't go to football.
- If I get home too late, next time I can't go out.
- I have to take the trash out
- clean up the table, wash dishes
- clean some rooms in the house (bathroom, my room,...)
- I have to take care for my pets
- I must not have home parties
- I must do my homeworks first. Then I can play on my computer and be on MSN as long as I want to be. I can watch TV but I must be in bed till midnight
- it's not allowed to curse at home
- I can watch TV only two hours per day
- my 5 rules: be at home at 6 pm during the week and at 8 pm during weekend, do my homework and learn, wash the dishes, play guitar, do the hovering.
- At my home there is no paper with rules written down. We just know what to do and what we must not. That's my family politics of rules.

## ***RULES AT NINTH GRADERS***

Our general meaning is that we don't need rules any more because we are too old for that. But honestly we are old enough that we know what is allowed at home and what not. If we use sociological term or expression in these (14) ages we are to innate all those rules.

We are now at that age when we try to avoid them or accommodate to our way of life.

### **OUR USUAL RULES:**

- clean some parts of our house (bathroom, my room,...)
- take care for my pets
- I must not have home parties

- I must do my homework first. Then I can play on my computer and be on MSN as long as I want to be. I can watch TV but I must be in bed till midnight
- I don't have particular rules. When there is something to do, I do it

The ‘‘most popular’’ rule now is how long can we stay out. We want to be out longer then we can be.

### SO, HOW LONG CAN WE STAY OUT?

- Fridays and Saturdays I can stay out by 10.00 p.m
- Fridays and Saturdays I can stay out till 11.00 p.m; during week I'm at home till 9 p.m
- During the week I have to be at home till 9 p.m, when the weekend comes I must be at home between 10 and 11 p.m
- During the week I usually can't go out; only if I've done my homework; During weekends I can stay out till 10 or 11 p.m

### **WE ARE OLD ENOUGH TO TRY TO AVOID SOME OF OUR DUTIES OR RULES.**

How do we do that?

- if I'm very sad or if I pout then maybe parents let me do that what I otherwise must not do (stay out longer,...)
- if I want something very hard and my parents disagree with that then I'm tripping very hard until they allow me to do what I want. Sometimes I am able to convince them but sometimes my parents are really very strict
- when I know that my parents will come home late I come one or two hours later. And I make parties at home when they aren't home.
- sometimes I tell my brother to do things which I should have to do
- my mum wants me to come home one hour after school. Sometimes when she calls me and asks if I am already at home I tell her that I am at home but actually I am outside with my friends

As you see we usually use little white lies which are harmless.

But our parents know exactly WHEN WE TRY TO AVOID OUR RULES:

- my parents know that I sometimes don't go to birthday parties but they don't care much about that
- I tell my parents I am going to the cinema with my friends but the truth is that we buy alcohol and cigarettes and when I come home drunk again I have house arrest for another month. But I manage to convince my parents to go out at least during weekend
- when my parent's aren't home then I invite my friends home to the party

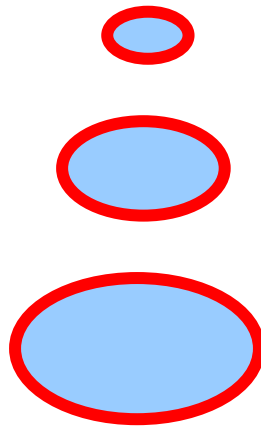
## **Punishments for breaking the rules**

- I musn't watch matches on TV, if I get bad marks I musn't go to a training, I'm not allowed to play on my computer or watch TV
- I musn't play on my computer or watch TV for one day
- I musn't hang out with my friends
- My friends musn't come to me, sometimes I also get a slap in the face or on my backside
- my mum has that "ugly look" all day on her face

But most of time we talk about our mistakes which we have made. Most of us don't have any punishment.

- If we do something wrong then we talk about the problem with parents. Usually we apologize for our behaviour and promise that we won't do that again
- I tell parents that I know I did something wrong and I apologize
- We have a deal that we respect rules ... anyway we do respect them most of the time. We know what our duty is so we keep in mind that if we break rules we get punished (muahahaha).
- we talk about problems. Usually we are angry on each other but next day we are cool
- I don't have any punishment because I never breake rules
- if I don't make my duties, parents just remind me of them
- we have family meetings where we talk about things that have happened; sometimes we get quite loud. Sometimes these meetings are boring.

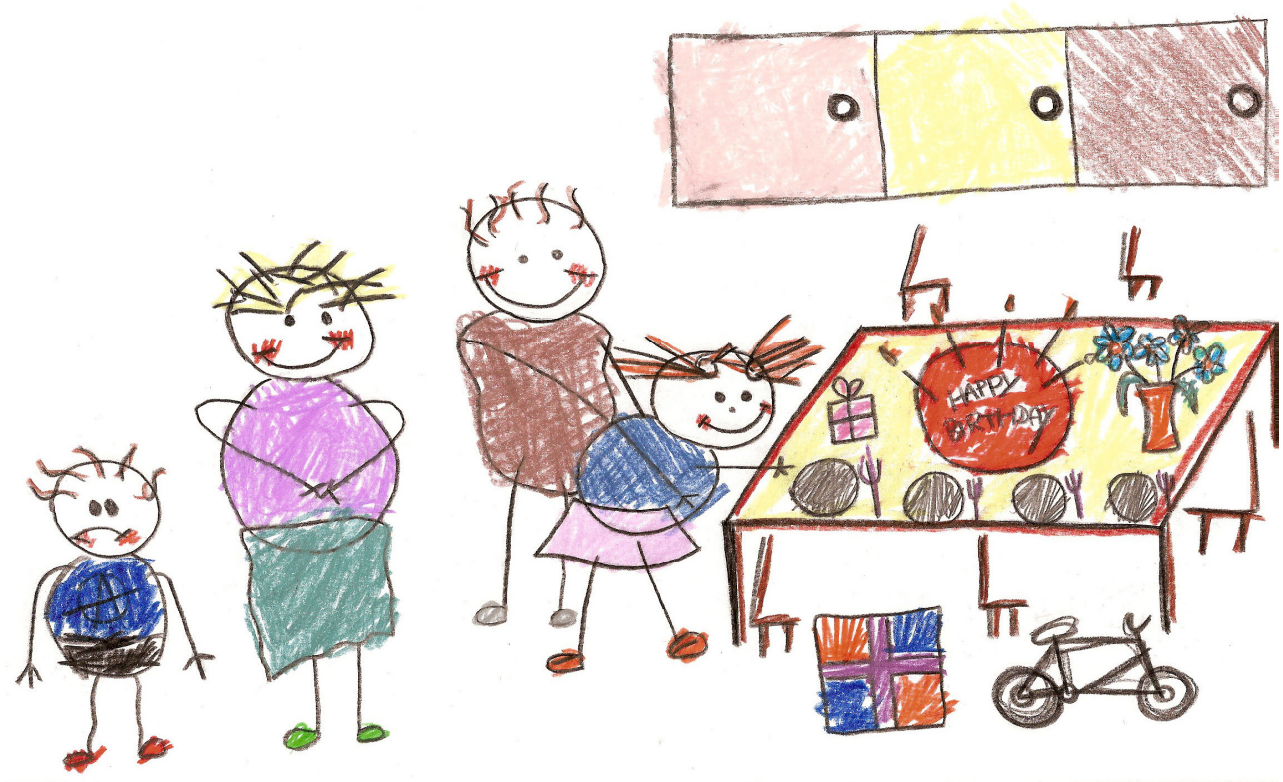




**Sometimes we are doing "bad things" – we'll who doesn't?. But we are just kids who are in the phase of growing up- teenagers. So it's normal that we fight against rules. And anyone who says that isn't like us is very wrong because we are normal children.**



## HOW WE CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS



Holidays like Christmas, Easter,... we celebrate with our families. On those days all family is together. Also for birthdays we are together. But we found something that is quite surprising: most of us don't celebrate that day anymore. We usually get presents from our parents and go out to have dinner or lunch.

But some of us celebrate that day.

And how does it look like?

- My parents congratulate me in the morning, when I wake up and give me my present, and then we have a party with my family and relatives in the afternoon. I usually don't celebrate my birthday with my friends (because I have birthday during summer vacations).
- With parents we celebrate birthday at home. First we wish all well and good luck to the person who is celebrating and we give him or her presents. Then we

always eat "Mihalek" or "Rustika" cake, drink champagne (strawberry flavour) and we sing the birthday song...

- We go to a sport's center with our friends and play football, volleyball, football and sports we have chosen.

- My birthday is on 26th July but I usually celebrate it earlier (before the summer holidays). I celebrate it like this:

Three days before the celebration I make the invitations and bring them to school to my friends.

- Parents congratulate me in the morning. It's really good. But after that I must go to school and everything is ruined☺.

With my family and relatives I celebrate it at home. We eat cake. Then adults talk with each other and I play playstation.

- Now, as I'm older I celebrate my birthday with my friends I also celebrate it at home: we are playing computer, playing in my room,.... I usually celebrate it during the weekend, late in the evening. We start in the afternoon (5 o'clock).

- We celebrate with my family. Then I have birthday party. I celebrate at home with my school friends. We eat pizza and cake and have fun. We celebrate till midnight.

- If I celebrate my birthday with my family we invite friends and relatives to Metlika and then we have dinner and cake and we drink and dance and we have a great party. We have cake around ten or eleven o'clock. If I have party with my friends we have cake, we play football...

## INSTEAD OF THE END

### Are we typical Slovenian family?

About divorces yes... Around  $\frac{1}{4}$  of our schoolfellows come from divorced families but they have normal life.



If we look at Adi's song, then no. As you saw during our presentation we have normal relationships with our families.

It's true that during the week we don't see each other very often, but at weekends, we are together.

We have lunch together and that is when we can talk about all the things we have been doing in school, talk about our problems. Parents listen to us. And that is fine because we know we can trust them.

In 9. class is a bit different. We are older and we are rather with our friends, but we know, that family is always there for us, as well as we are there for our family. And also during the weekends we don't spend much time with our parents because:

- Too much studying
- After school activities
- Parents being on work trips
- Being outside with friends
- Surfing on internet

