

8 HOME ECONOMICS *in English*

- A** Work in pairs. You both give a short presentation comparing how this family and yours manage a household. Give examples of differences or similarities in planning schedules and allocating tasks and the time spent on them, as well as the balance of leisure time with the demands of household tasks, school and work.
- B** After the presentations, discuss the physical, emotional and financial demands of family life, and any differences between large and small families.

Reg and Catherine from Quebec are the proud parents of 10 children: Kristy (17), Sandy (16), Chloë (15), Margo (13), Phil (11), James (9), Rachel (7), Colin (4), Holly (2) and Cynthia (1). Five of the children have home schooling. Reg works in the evenings so he can help around the house during the day. Household jobs are on a rota that changes every week.

WHO DOES WHAT?

Parents

Childcare, cooking, washing, cleaning, home schooling, work outside house.

Children

Setting/clearing the table, loading the dishwasher, cleaning, home schooling, leisure activities.

LEISURE

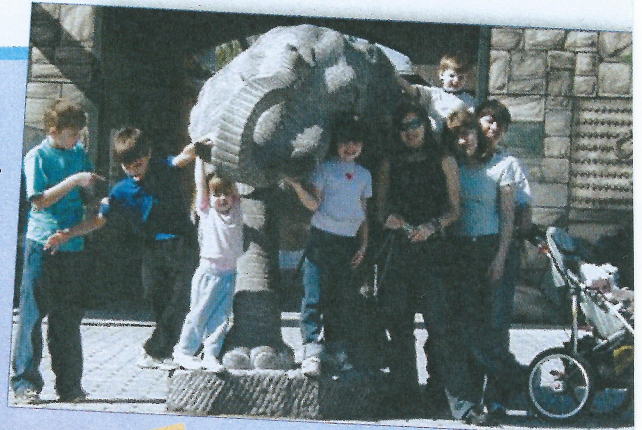
Children have the afternoon and evening free for activities like playing the piano, sewing, drawing, playing basketball or video games. Parents have some free time in the evening.

FOOD

Food is homemade for freshness, flavour and economy.

Pizza for lunch: Ingredients: 1.4 kg flour, yeast, 600 gr cheese, 1 litre homemade tomato sauce, 500 gr pepperoni.

Evening meal: 2 loaves of homemade bread, 2.5 litres of homemade soup.



AN AVERAGE WEEKDAY

Morning

- 6.00 Sandy gets up and goes to school.
 8.30 Reg and Catherine make breakfast – Reg feeds the youngest. The children do jobs like clearing the table.
 9pm Home school starts. Reg and Catherine also look after the younger ones.
 12.30 The family's main meal is at lunchtime. Same jobs as at breakfast.

Afternoon and evening

- 1.30 Reg goes to work.
 4.30 Evening meal. Same jobs as for breakfast. Sandy clears up after the younger ones.
 5pm The family watches a video; some of the older children chat online.
 8.30 Children's bedtime. Catherine runs a chat group for large families on the internet.
 10.40 Reg gets home from work.
 11.30 Parents go to bed.

9 FURTHER DISCUSSION

Discuss in pairs. Use the words and phrases from this unit and **Language Bank 15**, taking turns to develop and justify your ideas and arguments.

- A** Who does the housework in your family? What are your jobs? Have they changed over the years?
- B** What role do grandparents and members of your extended family have in your family?
- C** How hard is it to be a parent today? Should parents be trained in parenting?
- D** In some countries, marriages are arranged by parents. What do you think of this?

10 Your answer: WHAT'S A NORMAL FAMILY?

Is any family ever normal? What makes your family special or unique? What does family mean to you?