

# Lilie DeGruin

Families are like the petals on a flower, they all grow in different directions but all belong to the same roots. My family is one of the most important parts of my life, for the main reason they have always been my backbone.

As a family, we value our time together and have been through all the crazy ups and downs life will throw us. Including, teen pregnancies, surprise dogs (and children), and even the crazy transition to my parent's dream career.

More specifically, my older sister, Madeline, has been my go-to girl. She has helped me cope with not making a dance team, my car accident, and has talked me through many friendships.

Maddie has been the biggest inspiration in life because, just like her, my main hobbies are dance and photography. We have very similar interests and morals, get along like two peas in a pod, with the occasional classic sibling bicker, never lasting more than 30 minutes.

Not only do we share the same interests, but she has to be one of the strongest people I know. She dealt with split parents, a teen pregnancy, 3 miscarriages, and the loss of so many people in her life but still walks with her head held high today.

At school, when my sister was pregnant, she dealt with all the rumors, whispers, and stares while walking down the hallway. While still managing to get a 4.0 GPA.



The reason my sister was able to get through all that is because of the strong support that my whole family provides for each other, and her just being strong from the beginning.

She has helped me form into the human that I am today and will continue to be someone I look up to in hopes of becoming someone as great as her.

Through all the hurdles in life, I am glad that I can rely on my family to make continuous jokes and tease me all the way through it. My family will always be something I hold close to my heart, and I owe it all to them.

