

Dear host family,

My name is Katharina; I am 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old and live in Ketzin, which is a cute, little city situated quite close to Potsdam / Berlin.

So in June this year I will finish my high school diploma and then I would like to spend a year abroad before going to university. In Ketzin, I live together with my parents in a great apartment and our little dog "Balou". We enjoy having an animal around and therefore have had lots of pets in our family like a tortoise and a guinea pig.

My mother's name is Susanne (45), she studied political science and is now working as an archivist. My father Peter (51) is working at a tree nursery and important to tell about him maybe is that he needs glasses due to his very poor sight. My parents are very important to me; of course we have arguments, but that way I got taught to listen, understand and support my opinion. We often discuss recent topics, which can be thought-provoking sometimes, but I would say it stabilizes my mind. They are helpful and supporting me in making the right decisions whenever I need them.

I have an older sister; she is 25 years old and working as a nurse. That she lives only a couple of minutes away makes it a lot easier to obtain an intense relationship. It is amazing that I always been able to

Count on her, she is very helpful, fun and a kind person, I am pleased to have someone as trustworthy as her around me. What I can do for her is taking care of her little daughter, my niece Anna-Katharina. She is 4 years old and a very cute and happy little girl. Through sitting her I learned how to deal with little babies, for example to change diapers or to bottle-feed. She is one of the most important persons in my life and we have more a sisterly relationship.

After six years of primary school in Ketzin, I went to a secondary school in Potsdam. At the beginning it was a big challenge for me, the school has high standards and a tough teaching method; but now as I am getting closer to my high school diploma I feel it was the right choice and I am hopefully going to finish school in the way that I wish. Actually I wanted to study law after school, but now I first would like to take part in a course to improve my English skills and speak it fluently. One of my greatest interests is to travel and getting to know other countries, cultures and people. Because of that I would love to come to South Africa and experience its cultures, with all differences in life-style, food, nature, architecture and people.

Occasionally I have had part-time jobs, for example as a helping hand in an office for power engineering and in a hotel. Through that I think I have learned to be hard working as well as enduring.

Since 2003 I have taken care for Philipp and Leon Fundke. They are two very active boys and therefore need a lot of attention. I help them with their homework, because they both have a hard time in concentrating and sitting on one spot. I like them very much because they are very curious little boys with all kinds of different ideas, thoughts and feelings. I enjoy telling stories or just having fun building something with them. What I intend is helping them in everyday life; supporting them in becoming creative, educated, honest and altogether decent and friendly people. And they complimented on me to make easy illustrations.

In conclusion, you hopefully got a good impression and I would like to thank you very much for taking your time to get to know me better. I am looking forward for having my stay at your home for a whole year, I am very grateful for your hospitality.

yours sincerely,
Katharina