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I Am Lucky

When asked questions like, “Where is your safe place?” or “Who do you feel most safe with?”, most people would answer their home, their parents, or siblings. I am no different, those are my safe places too. Unlike many other kids, however, I am lucky. I also have other havens and people with whom I feel safe. I have cousins I can play with, hang out with, talk to about my feelings with, and just have fun with. They are my second cousins and their names are Taj, Jiya, Diya, and Mira.

My cousins and I have grown up together. We have tried new foods, gone on adventures, and learned new customs while traveling internationally. We have taught each other how to make s’mores on camping trips, stolen candy from the pantry during sleepovers, and have had wrestling matches with each other on playdates. Throughout all of these experiences, I have learned that they always take care of me, they take the time to teach me new things, and they always take the blame with me when we get in trouble. I know that I will always be protected when I am with them.

Taj, Jiya, Diya, and Mira always make me feel proud of myself and are very relatable. They are not judgemental at all. They do not care how I look, how I speak, or anything else that might be embarrassing to me sometimes. They always look me in the eyes whenever I am speaking to them, and they make me feel like I am heard. Whenever I do something super cool, they never try to one-up me. They always praise me, and tell me that I did a really good job. Also, our parents have similar parenting styles, so I can tell them something really annoying that my parents did (like lecture me on things I already know) and they will almost one hundred percent have gone through the same thing and understand how I feel about it. They always support me, understand me, and make me feel good about myself.

I am truly grateful and lucky to have such amazing cousins who are always by my side. It gives me a strong sense of security to know that as I grow up, I have people that I can talk to when times get tough.