## MY EXPERIENCE AT KIDS KAMP by Karina

Hi. My name is Karina and I'm II years old, and all I've ever wanted was to have a normal family with no drama. A happy family. My parents yell all the time. There's always a lot of arguing and fighting and no matter what I do, I can't make it better. I was late to school a whole bunch and I guess my teacher saw that I was just sad one day and she asked me why and I cried. She was so kind to me. I told her, I just don't know what to do.

So I learned from my teacher that StarVista was at my school. They asked me to speak with a counselor about the things that were really bugging me. At first, the counselor just listened. I really like talking to her. She was the one who told me about kids kamp. So, you go and sleep over for a whole week with other kids in the summertime and my dad let me sign up.



My experience at kids kamp was amazing! Kids kamp was super fun! I made friends. It was a lot of swimming, we go swimming three times a day. We went on hikes and walks and went down to a creek and looked for frogs. Its just really fun! Also, there's a lot of fun activities, like the birdhouse one.

OH MY GOODNESS, sleeping outside is so fun, but be prepared because there's a billion stars, and the beautiful big moon. I feel like I could almost touch it. The campfires were probably the best part with the s'mores and you get to be with everyone from all the cabins, all your friends, every night! And the movie night! Wow, the food was really good then! And there's a basketball hoop, and a volleyball net, and it's really really fun. And you get to be with people you can talk to.

I was really sad when I had to go back home because I went right back into the fighting and the arguing, but I feel so much better after meeting with a StarVista counselor and going to kids kamp. And guess what. She told me I could go back next year!

I want to say a BIG "Thank you" to StarVista and my counselor because I feel like I have a new power in me. Everything isn't fixed, but I can take care of myself. I can talk about it and I know someone cares about me. No matter how bad things get at home, I have something to look forward to, kids kamp.

Karina

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