**Girl:** A few minutes ago, that new girl came and stood by me. She was looking at my purse while I was searching for my keys.

**Friend:** What did she say to you?

**Girl:** She didn’t say anything at first, then she said something about my beads.

**Friend:** I heard that is something she really likes to talk about. She collects beads from many different countries.

**Girl:** Maybe that’s what she was looking at.

**Friend:** What did you say to her?

**Girl**: I just ignored her and kept looking for my keys. She made me nervous, so I frowned and she left.”

**Friend**: She probably thought you didn’t like her.

**Girl**: I wish I wouldn’t have been so rude to her. But it was a really bad time to talk to me. I was stressed out about losing my keys.

**Friend**: She was probably trying to be friendly.

**Girl**: I think I’ll talk to her later. This time, I’ll listen and be polite. It might take extra effort to understand each other.

**If you don’t try to understand someone who has communication problems, it can cause:**

* Anxiety
* Inflexible behaviors or rituals
* Not paying attention to others
* Acting rude
* Becoming less interested in people – May prefer things instead
* “Hanging back” and avoiding conversations
* Being unable to identify emotions
* Getting frustrated
* Staying silent