



# Navigating New Friendships

*An EZducate Social Learning Story*

Target Skill: Handling communication in friendships

Reading Level: Teen

Story Type: Social story

Approach: Modeling

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Making new friends can be an exciting experience. Today, I met someone new at school. We had a great conversation, and at the end of the day, we exchanged phone numbers. I was happy because meeting new people is a good way to find friends who share my interests.



## Navigating New Friendships



A child exchanging phone numbers at school



Send message to friend

Making new friends can be an exciting experience. Today, I met someone new at school. We had a great conversation, and at the end of the day, we exchanged phone numbers. I was happy because meeting new people is a good way to find friends who share my interests.



When I got home, I wanted to keep the conversation going. So, I sent a message to my new friend saying, 'It was nice to chat with you today!' I waited for a response because I was eager to see if they felt the same way about our conversation.





Sometimes, people are busy or might not see the message right away. It's important to remember that a delayed response does not mean they don't want to be friends. People have different schedules and commitments. I reminded myself of this as I put my phone down and started on my homework.



While waiting for a reply, I thought about how good it felt to talk with someone new. I hoped they would reply when they had the time. Instead of worrying, I decided to focus on other things I enjoy.

The next morning, I saw a message from my new friend. They apologized for the late reply and said they were working on a school project. They also mentioned they enjoyed talking to me too! This made me feel happy and relieved.

From this experience, I learned that patience and understanding are important when communicating with new friends. If I don't get an immediate response, I can always think of other things to do and trust that my friend will reply when they can.



## Key Social Concepts

patience

understanding

delayed response

friendship

## Social Rules

- People may respond at different times due to personal commitments.
- Patience is important in friendships.
- Understanding others' schedules helps maintain good relationships.



## Social Understanding Questions

### 1. What might a person learn from a delayed response to a message?

- A. A delayed response doesn't mean they don't want to be friends. \*
- B. A delayed response means the person is not interested in you.
- C. A delayed response means you should send another message immediately.
- D. A delayed response means you did something wrong in the conversation.

### 2. How did the narrator feel while waiting for a response from their new friend?

- A. Angry
- B. Worried
- C. Eager and hopeful \*
- D. Indifferent

### 3. Why did the narrator decide to focus on other activities while waiting for a reply?

- A. To distract themselves from feeling anxious \*
- B. Because they forgot about the message
- C. Because they lost interest in their new friend
- D. Because they wanted to send more messages

### 4. What is an important lesson about friendship that the narrator learned from this experience?

- A. Always send multiple messages if you don't get an immediate response.
- B. Be patient and understanding as people have different schedules. \*
- C. Never trust new friends as they might not reply.
- D. Checking your phone constantly is the best way to ensure a reply.

\* Indicates the correct answer



## Social Cues Guide: Handling communication in friendships

### Skill Description

Handling communication in friendships involves understanding and appropriately responding to verbal and non-verbal signals in social interactions.

### Social Cues to Watch For

[object Object]

### Common Misunderstandings

- Thinking a sarcastic comment is meant literally.
- Believing a lack of eye contact means someone is ignoring or disliking them.
- Misinterpreting a neutral face as angry or upset.

### Practice Scenarios

1. Scenario 1: A friend looks unhappy and is quiet during lunch; practice noticing cues and asking if they're okay.
2. Scenario 2: A group of friends are laughing, and a child isn't sure if they are being included; practice asking 'What happened?' or 'Can I join in?'
3. Scenario 3: During a game, a friend starts speaking loudly and using large gestures; recognize they might be upset or excited and respond appropriately.
4. Scenario 4: Two friends are standing close together and talking softly; interpret this as a private conversation and wait for a better time to join.
5. Scenario 5: A friend uses a sarcastic tone when saying 'Great job!' after a mistake; practice recognizing sarcasm and responding by laughing it off or making a light-hearted comment.