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Rules

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Rules

Why say, “Use your words carefully”?
We use laptops and glass items with care.

What does pretty hard mean?
Say a 2 /10 or a 9/ 10 on a scale instead!

What are mixed feelings?
Feelings should be absolute and clean.

Why say, “It’s all right” when it’s not?
It’s wrong and a definite mistake.

I am autistic; I say what I mean.
You use words as two-edged weapons.

Conversation rules are hard, relative, fuzzy.
I will learn to decode them in time, for sure.

–Archana Kadam

Archana Kadam is a Developmental Pediatrician, working with autistic children for the last 16 years in KEM Hospital Pune, India. She is MD.DNB. in Pediatrics from University of Pune, Maharashtra, India and is neurotypical. Her work emphasizes family involvement, early diagnosis and intervention, and advocacy. Her work has helped her understand autism better and has inspired her to write poems, some from the perspective of autistic children.