



MINDSET

Instead of

"They're not motivated to communicate."



Consider:

- **Am I listening? Maybe they are communicating, but not in the way I'm expecting.**
- **Do they have a means of communication that is accessible to them?**
- **Have I modeled or helped them learn the communication modality I'm hoping they'll use?**
- **Am I respecting their communication autonomy? Am I allowing them to communicate when and how they want?**
- **Is the environment or expectations too overwhelming for them?**
- **Is their regulation or energy in a place that makes communication possible?**
- **Am I treating them like an equal partner who has something to say?**
- **Have I underestimated them? Maybe the current context is not challenging or intriguing enough.**
- **Am I expecting communication (topic, frequency, function, etc.) that is unrealistic or unnecessary from their perspective?**
- **Have we or others taught them that their thoughts are less important than those of other people?**
- **Does motor planning make it hard for them to make their communication clear?**
- **Am I considering and respecting their focused interests?**
- **Have we supported them in exploring new things and ideas of interest?**
- **Am I trying to connect with them, or am I treating them as if they need to be "fixed"?**

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