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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