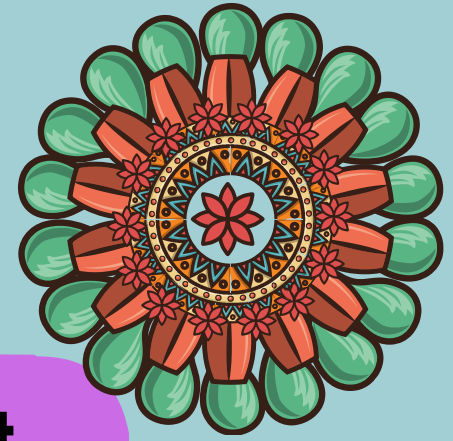


# CONNECTION THROUGH PLAY

A NeuroInclusive  
Story for Parents





**I just can't  
connect with  
her...**

**I don't even  
know if she  
can hear me.**

**Of course  
I hear you.  
I'm right here.**



**You should  
try behavioral  
therapy.**

I'm so concerned that he won't ever talk. How can I connect if he never calls me *mama*?

How can we bond if she will not even look me in the eye?

They will never learn to make friends or be independent!

He's so destructive! This is why we can't have nice things.

We can't even do play dates. She does not even get how to play with toys.

We can fix this with intensive behavior intervention therapy! We will change those bad behaviors!



**David has a vivid imagination. He flies in a paper plane with his mama, a superhero who flies with the help of magical bubble gum.**



**David, what is wrong with you?!  
What were you thinking?!**



**He destroys everything.  
He acts like he can't  
hear me. Behavior  
therapy didn't work!  
Can you help me fix  
his behaviors?!**

**What do you  
mean by  
that?**

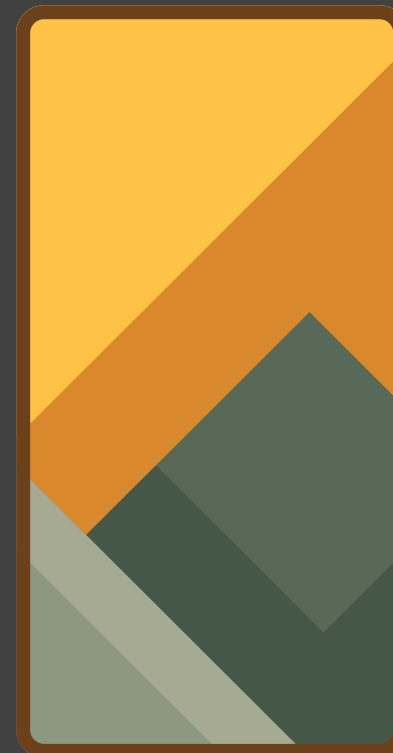


**Don't worry, Jessie. I  
can help. David's  
behaviors don't need  
to be fixed. Our  
perceptions do!**

**I mean that David  
is already trying to  
connect, but you are  
speaking different  
languages.**



**Even if he's nonspeaking, we are going to presume competence and trust he understands you. What he's doing is sensory seeking. The falling pages are lovely! Adults love it, too: think streamers, confetti, ticker tape parades! He's trying to create joy, and you can join him! In occupational therapy, we will work on ways to get enough visual stimulation.**



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Farrah doesn't understand why Zainab loves to watch paper falling, but Farrah was never going to read those books, anyway. Instead of needing an answer, Farrah tries something new.





# UPCYCLE! Idea

Farrah created her own story about a little girl who caught falling stars and used them to build a magical kingdom.

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**Robert, Jr. doesn't speak, but his daddy doesn't mind that. Robert, Sr. teaches his son about the constellations. He knows Junior understands because he always points at the Big Dipper. His smile is communication.**



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**Jose was told his son's repetition of superhero movie quotes was not communication. Jose ignored that and memorized the movie scripts. Together, they fight all that is boring and toneless with passionate intensity.**



**Ivey was worried about Riley's need to spin, but she decided to join Riley to try and understand. Ivey found the spinning was fun and regulating for them both!**



**If we approach our children with curiosity, accept that their differences are not deficiencies, and trust their behaviors are meeting their sensory needs, we can make connections and maybe even learn something about ourselves in the process!**

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