



COMMON GROUND SOCIETY™

It starts with HELLO, ends with BELONGING.™

COLLABORATION TIPS FOR TEAM LANGUAGE SHIFTS:

Don't:

- Focus on the negative or use absolutes
- Rely on your ableism or stereotypes
- Doubt the parents and their lived experiences
- Talk about my child as if they are a problem that needs to be "fixed"
- Word your input in terms of deficits
- Judge or make assumptions about our family or our parenting
- Rely on educational jargon
- Wait or hesitate to address concerns
- Don't back away from a hard conversation because it's uncomfortable

Do:

- Acknowledge the challenges AND joys
- Empathize my family's vulnerability and struggles
- Listen to understand
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Assure one another that we are all on Team "Child"
- Ask for reports or written input ahead of time
- Connect the team to CGS or other resources
- Hold safe space for a wide array of emotions--there may be big emotions--be supportive rather than defensive



CONNECT
WITH US

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