Re-learning to advocate ~~for~~ with your child in adulthood:

Image Credit: Rosenblatt Law firm

Intro: who I am and the focus

- Autistic millennial
- Why focus on autism
- Focused on relationship with adult offspring

Where are we? (Or rather *when*)

- You have been dropped into a wormhole…various points in US History all at the same time.
- Adult System=patchwork mix of new on top of old.
- So now what?

Image credit: Sentinel Mesa Wikipedia

Respectfully connected

- Perspective autistic parent—both worlds
- Facilitate constructive conflict w/each other—figure out feelings
- Parents grappling w/their own feelings too

Image Credit: Parents.com

Burritos and Cherry pie: Parenting adults

- Disabled non-related caregiver perspective
- Burritos and Cherry pie is…
- Facilitate yeses. Parents' role changes—parenting an adult vs parenting a child

Image Credit: Del Taco.com

Something I need to tell my parent’s generation: Learn from us too!

- My father’s generation keeps telling me: that they didn’t have all these genders and feelings when they were kids. And they turned out just fine. I’d like to say:

- No, dad. You did NOT turn out just fine when you father hit you. And now younger generations have the unenviable task of being cycle breakers. So that we don’t do this to *our* kids.

Thorny, complex conversations—start unwrapping 1 issue

- Yes, an unsupportive system **is** brutally stressful for caregivers!
- Knowing we cause you stress makes disabled people vulnerable to
- Daughter me vs adult advocate me

Image Credit: Get the Edge UK

It’s not either or, it’s both and!

"We can acknowledge that caregiving is a skill (and should be valued as such) in ways that don’t frame the person receiving care as a burden." From Cole @SemiSpeaking, on Twitter.

Image Description: Twitter bio illustration of a white-appearing person with short curly brown hair, glasses, and a horseshoe barbell nose ring. He is wearing a horizontal striped top. Image Credit: Twitter user Cole @Semispeaking

Things to keep in mind during conflict

- Conflict is there. Sit with discomfort
- Unequal Power dynamic comes with disability
- Autistic and other marginalized people …unresolved trauma

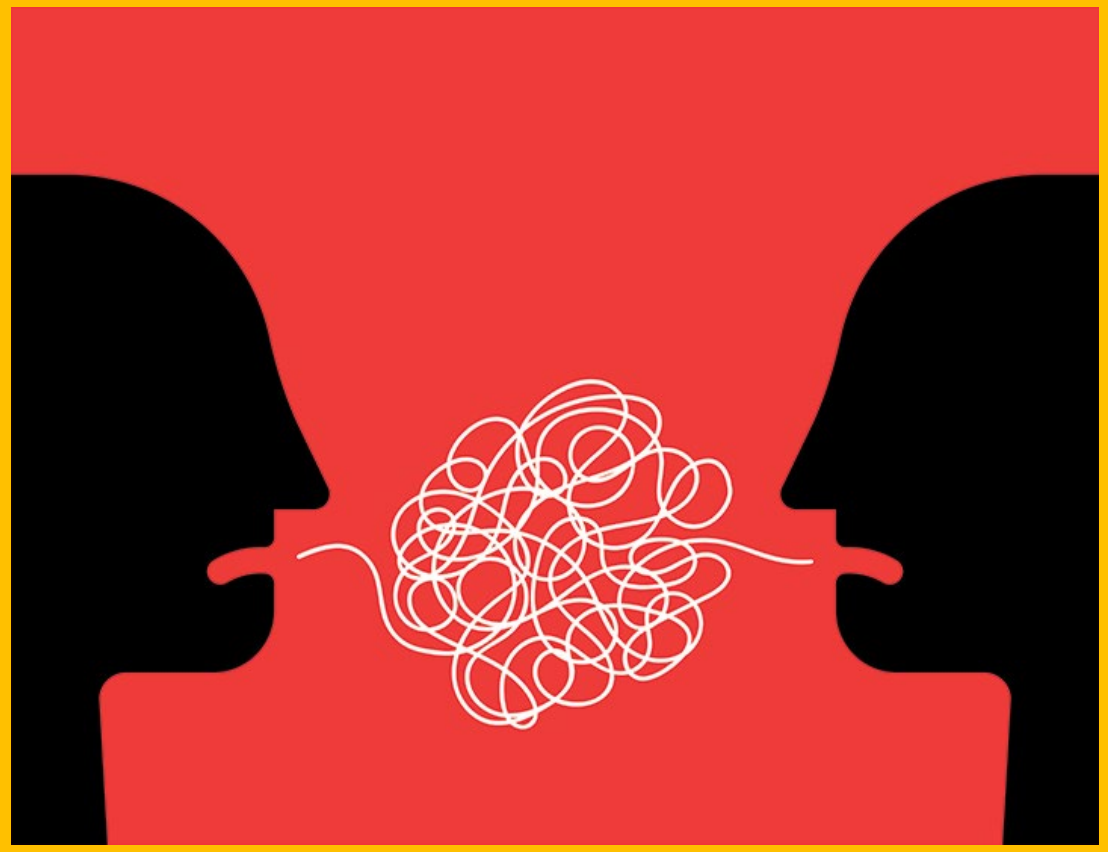

Image Credit: American Nurse Journal

Kids as rhetoric

- Where did all these autistic disabled kids come from?

- Story-telling—ignores previous autistic generations who lived in institutions
- It's holding back building supports for adulthood

Start the journey: just the first step

- Anxiety-producing news
- Not going to be resolved today
- Connect with older autistic adult advocates