Conflict Repair Cue Cards

Printable language tools to bring regulation back to any moment By Christine Walter, LMFT, PCC

CARD 1: Pause + Reset

Purpose: To halt escalation and create a moment of choice.

- **♣** "I'm noticing I'm getting reactive. Can we take a moment to reset before continuing?"
- **♣** "Let's pause for just a minute so we don't keep talking from our stress."

CARD 2: Name the Nervous System

Purpose: Normalize reactions by bringing awareness to the body.

- **♣** "My nervous system is in high alert right now—it's not you, it's how I'm feeling inside."
- ♣ "I care about you, and I want to respond better. My body's in fight/flight, but I want to regulate before we continue."

CARD 3: Signal Safety

Purpose: Repair connection through co-regulation language.

- **●** "I'm here, and I want us to feel safe again."
- ♣ "Even though we're upset, I still care about you. We're on the same team."

CARD 4: Take Space Responsibly

Purpose: To reduce flooding and prevent disconnection.

- ♣ "I need a few minutes to calm my nervous system, but I will come back. We're not done—we're just taking care of ourselves first."
- **♣** "Can we return to this in 20 minutes so we both have space to breathe and come back from love?"

CARD 5: Repair + Reconnect

Purpose: To initiate reconnection after rupture.

- "Can we try again with less defense and more care?"
- **●** "What I meant to say was… I want us to understand each other, not hurt each other."

CARD 6: Reframe the Pattern

Purpose: Shift the cycle from blame to shared growth.

- **●** "I think we both got caught in our defenses. How can we do this differently next time?"
- **●** "Let's talk about what we each needed underneath the reaction."