

## Zen

*Zen is a calm and focused state of mind where you act with ease and awareness instead of stress or overthinking. It means being present, doing one thing at a time, and letting your natural rhythm guide you.*



### What is Caregiver Zen?

Caregiver Zen is about finding **calm** and **balance** in the middle of caregiving stress. With small moments of mindfulness and self-care, you can feel **less anxious** and support your own **well-being**.

### Be Present

Caregivers often focus so much on planning ahead that they **forget to stay present**. Try to set aside a few moments each day for deep breathing, grounding exercises, or simply pausing to say kind word to yourself.

### Let Go of Perfection

There's **no such thing** as a **perfect caregiver**. Release the guilt and let go of **unrealistic expectations** set by you or others. Set **healthy boundaries** to protect your time and energy. You deserve the same compassion and care that you give to your loved one.

### Create Personal Routines

Simple rituals like having a morning cup of tea, listening to calming music, or taking a brief walk can serve as **grounding moments** to **reset** and **recharge**. Start a journal and list the activities you did each day. This can make you feel better on days when you feel less productive, or remind you that it's time to take a break.

### Take Time for YOU

**Self-care is not selfish**. Take five minutes each day for deep breathing, stretching, or stepping outside for fresh air. Listen to your favorite music, or call a friend for a quick chat. **Set aside time each week** for a hobby such as reading, gardening, or crafting. Explore guided meditations or caregiver support apps. These **rituals** can help you feel more **grounded** and make it **easier** to care for your loved one.