



Speech-Language Pathology

Telepractice

# Telepractice Student and SLP



# Telepractice Model

Speech Pathology Telepractice is a paradigm shift of how we provide services to students when local services are not available due to distance or unavailability of staff

- Telepractice is re-allocating professional resources without re-locating those resources
- Telepractice extends services to remote, rural, underserved populations, as well as large caseloads.



# Telepractice Application

- Telepractice in Speech/Language Pathology involves the application of telecommunications technology (computer based video conferencing) to deliver services by linking therapists to clients for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation

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# Transition to Telepractice

- Present shortage of Speech-Language Pathologists nationally
- Need to find an alternative method to provide services
- Started onsite visits to Universities to recruit SLP students



# Technology Considerations

- Evaluate Internet and Network Speed
  - Network Quality can be detrimental to the service
- Computer Placement
- Properly sizing student work area and furniture



# Developing our Telepractice

- Therapist Recruitment
  - Telepractice is not for every SLP
- Finding the right Clients
- What makes a good Telepractice Client
  - High Need
  - Willing to experiment
  - Telepractice requires a team effort



ment Camera

**Cat Castle**

- vegetables
- books
- furniture
- girls' names
- sports equipment
- songs
- candy
- ocean animals
- stores
- move ahead 2 spaces
- transportation
- household items
- meat
- girls' names

The board game features a central yellow banner with the title 'Cat Castle' in a stylized font. The board is divided into a yellow path and a blue background with pink castle towers. Various category cards are scattered across the board, each with an illustration and a label. At the bottom, there are two cartoon cats: one on the left wearing a knight's helmet and holding a sword, and one on the right sitting on a throne with a crown. The game is displayed in a web browser window with a toolbar at the top and a Windows taskbar at the bottom.

Vidyo

The video call window shows a woman with short red hair and glasses, wearing a headset with a microphone. She is looking directly at the camera. The window has a toolbar at the top with various icons for video, audio, and chat. The background behind her is a plain wall.



# Communication

- During a Telepractice session, the SLP is responsible for the instruction of the student
- The SLP is responsible to address parent needs and questions
- Follow up activities are e-mailed to the district site
- Evaluations, IEPs, and progress reports are completed in a timely manner



## Who Determines Who Will Receive These Services?

The student's IEP team will work together to determine if services are appropriate for each student. Parents will be fully informed of the process, and will sign an Informed Consent permission for their child to participate.

- Services are individualized for each student, as well as each school setting.
- Students who are able to sit, attend, and understand independent directions



# Each Child has Due Process Rights

Each child served by Speech-Language Telepractice will have the same Due Process rights as students who receive face to face therapy. This will include referral, assessment, development of the IEP, Periodic Reviews, and other exchange of information as necessary.



# Entering into the Second Year

- Program Growth
  - New sites
  - New uses of Telepractice
    - ELL
    - Sign Language
    - Staff Meetings
    - Professional Development



# What Data is Collected?

- Each therapy session is documented with a lesson plan, results of the intervention, and assigned practice.
- Data will be kept on attendance.
- Data will be kept regarding the number of sessions scheduled and the nature of missed sessions (absence, technology, etc)



# Scheduled Sessions

- At the present time, this service delivery model is providing 96% of the scheduled sessions. The 4% of missed sessions are due to illness, field trip, and technology issues. The technology glitches contribute to 1% of the missed sessions.



# Use of the Telepractice Para

- A paraprofessional working with the Telepractice program performs the following:
- sets up the computer for the therapy session
- provides prompts and cues for the student
- prepares any materials for student practice
- troubleshoots the technology with staff



# Telepractice Code of Ethics

The provider of Speech Pathology Telepractice services is expected to be competent in all areas of service and with the technology used with the service delivery model.

- The provider must be licensed in both the central and remote sites.
- The quality of service delivered with Telepractice must be consistent with the quality of services delivered face to face.

» American Speech-Language Hearing Association 2005





# Telepractice Code of Ethics

- The use of Telepractice does not remove any existing responsibility in delivering services, and requires adherence to the professional Code of Ethics, Scope of Practice, State and Federal Laws, and the ASHA policy on professional practices

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# Successful Telepractice

- Successful Telepractice requires planning and implementation of the vision plan of the SW/WC Service Cooperative.
- It requires stakeholders to commit to a unique challenge in this effective service delivery model.



# Virtual Learning Experience

- The Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development has completed studies that find online interactive learning experiences provide similar benefits as face to face learning experiences.



# Speech Pathology Telepractice

- Speech Pathology Telepractice is supported by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, Minnesota Speech-Language Hearing Association, The Minnesota Department of Education, Superintendents, Special Education Directors, and parents.



# Technology Considerations

- Network based activities at each site will affect available bandwidth
  - Applications such as: Accelerated Reader, NWEA Testing, Online State Testing
  - Causes minor “glitches” in the transmission of signal
  - This can usually be resolved with local technology staff.
- The audio/video conferencing software requires stable bandwidth



# Summary

- Developing a Telepractice in Speech Pathology requires a major shift in practice that requires collaboration, innovation, and a willingness to persevere in finding effective interventions with students.
- Telepractice is developed based on a growing response to student needs.



# Summary

Speech Pathology Telepractice is a challenging venture due to re-thinking long established routines, but has been proven to be as effective as face to face services.

Speech Pathology Telepractice can meet the increased need for long or short term speech intervention services.



# Telepractice Vision

- Telepractice:
  - Fills the gap between the needs of children and resources available to meet those needs
    - Long term leaves
    - Geographic Challenges
    - Staff Shortages
  - Assures comparable quality to face to face services
  - Maximizes student's opportunity for interactive therapy
  - Expands school's ability to serve their student's needs
  - Curriculum enrichment





# Our Vision for Students



Work is an activity, not a location!



# SW/WC Service Cooperative's Program Development Service

SW/WC would be happy to work with your staff to help develop your own Telepractice. Onsite and remote assistance opportunities are available, contact us to discuss rates, services and availability.

Contact:

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# SW/WC Service Coop Telepractice

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