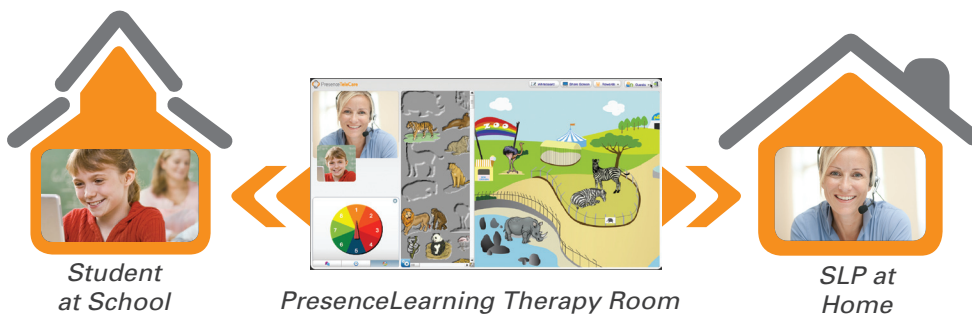


# Solution Brief: Is Telepractice Right for Your School District?

## What is Telepractice?

*Live Online Speech Therapy*

Telepractice is very similar to traditional speech therapy, except that instead of sitting in the same room, speech language pathologists (SLPs) and students interact via live video-conferencing. Telepractice has all the strengths of in-person therapy, plus some distinct advantages. SLPs still work with kids face-to-face in real time, using established, evidence-based therapeutic practices, but without the scheduling and geographic limitations of conventional therapy. Schools can draw on the best SLPs from around the country, anytime and anywhere. SLPs can work from home without having to travel, and they can take advantage of computer tools that make the therapy experience even more engaging while simplifying scheduling, tracking and reporting. Telepractice can relieve schools from much of the overhead of recruiting, managing and retaining SLPs, delivering large cost savings while improving therapeutic outcomes.



## Is Telepractice Effective?

*Validated by Research, Proven in Practice*

Telepractice has been used successfully since the late 1990s in tens of thousands of actual therapy sessions across the United States. Telepractice has been found effective by over 40 published, peer-reviewed studies, starting with a landmark paper by the Mayo Clinic in 1997. In addition, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has recognized telepractice as an appropriate method of service delivery since 2005.

A recent study by Kent State University researchers compared students receiving traditional in-person therapy and those receiving telepractice in public school settings. They found that outcomes for the telepractice group were equal to or better than the in-person group, stating that "Students in both service delivery models made significant improvements ... with students in the [telepractice group] demonstrating greater mastery of their Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals" (International Journal of Telerehabilitation, Spring, 2011)

A recent analysis sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education found that PresenceLearning students make better progress and many complete their IEP goals more rapidly than national norms. In a recent survey, parents reported that they were extremely satisfied with PresenceLearning, awarding it an average approval rating of 90 out of 100.

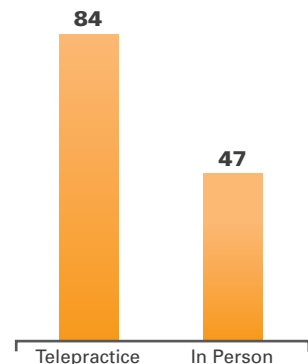


**Telepractice is Recognized  
by Major Organizations and  
Leading SLP Academics  
and Clinicians**



**Telepractice Can Deliver  
Better Outcomes**

**IEP Objectives Mastered  
(total of 126 objectives)**



A Pilot Exploration of Speech Sound Disorder Intervention Delivered by Telehealth to School-Age Children.  
*International Journal of Telerehabilitation, 2011*

## Is Telepractice More Than Just Videoconferencing?

### *Choosing The Best Solution*

Not all telepractice solutions are equal. Here are the things to consider when considering a telepractice provider for your school district:

#### **SLP Network**

- Do they provide access to a large, diverse network of highly qualified SLPs with the proper licenses and/or credentials to practice in your state?
- Do they handle all recruiting, screening, contracting, supervision and professional development of SLPs?
- Do they provide consistent service and continuity in the student-SLP relationship?

#### **Technology and Tools**

- Is the system easy to set up and use? Does it work with standard computers and Internet connections? Does it require any special software or maintenance agreements?
- Can the system handle multi-student sessions (for example, one therapist with several students from different locations at the same time)?
- Does it provide a rich library of developmentally appropriate, high quality therapeutic activities and games that implement evidence-based best practices?
- Does it provide integrated tools for scheduling, progress tracking, communications, reporting and auditing tasks?

#### **Proven Effectiveness**

- Does the provider have a strong track record of use in a variety of school settings?
- Can the vendor cite studies and surveys showing high success and satisfaction rates?
- Does it deliver demonstrable and substantial cost savings and excellent therapeutic outcomes?

#### **Learn More**

PresenceLearning provides all the elements for a successful telepractice program for school districts. Districts and parents express very high levels of satisfaction with the PresenceLearning solution.

Get a complimentary fiscal impact analysis to find out if PresenceLearning can deliver significant cost savings for your district.

Contact us at [schools@presencelearning.com](mailto:schools@presencelearning.com) or **877.410.5418**.



*"I am excited about PresenceLearning's approach to telepractice because it focuses on the most difficult part of our program in the schools: managing schedules. Telepractice allows clinicians to finally spend the time on intervention and assessment that they want to or to make changes in the middle of the year if necessary. In this age of accountability, we need to give clinicians more tools at their disposal. Telepractice is a great approach for all clinicians to use."*

#### **Judy Montgomery, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**

Editor-in-Chief, Communication Disorders Quarterly

Director, Graduate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Chapman University

Board Recognized Specialist in Child Language

**Our SLPs love using PresenceLearning for telepractice because it works!**

*"Telepractice provides so many tools and creative ways to motivate students, involve parents and educators, and improve my overall service delivery."*

**Carey G., M.A., CCC-SLP**

*"I enjoy the ability to provide services in a way that really engages kids. Now, students who haven't been able to receive services can be seen and helped, changing their lives and education."*

**Tami R., M.A., CCC-SLP**

*"I love the one-on-one attention I can give each student and the frequent communication with parents about their students."*

**Cindi F., M.A., CCC-SLP**



**PresenceLearning**

**PresenceLearning**

480 2nd Street, Suite 200

San Francisco, CA 94107

Phone: 877.410.5418

Fax: 415.520.5444