

Solution Brief:

Is Online Speech Therapy Right for Our Students?

13 Keys to Student Success

Telepractice is in many ways identical to traditional speech therapy, except that students and speech language pathologists (SLPs) interact via live videoconferencing. 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 in-person therapy.

Telepractice is ideal for the great majority of students in speech therapy programs, yielding outcomes better than or at least equal to conventional therapy, as documented in a variety of published studies. Students often prefer the live online environment, find it less intimidating than in-person sessions, and get enthusiastically engaged with the computer-based activities.

Telepractice, however, may not be appropriate for all students. Students with significant behavioral or cognitive issues that prevent them from using a computer may be better served by traditional therapy. PresenceLearning has identified 13 key factors for evaluating students' likelihood of success with telepractice.

	High Probability of Success with Telepractice	Good Probability of Success with Telepractice	Better Served By Traditional Therapy
Attention	Can attend to task for >10 minutes	Attends to task for 5-10 minutes	Attends to task <5 minutes
Following Directions	Consistently follows 3+ step directions	Consistently follows 1-2 step directions	Inconsistently follows simple 1 step directions
Literacy Skills	Reads at or above grade level	Beginning reader	Does not read
Cognition	Age appropriate or higher	Moderate skills	Low cognitive skills
Hearing	No hearing issues	Can hear teacher instructions	Limited aided hearing
Visual Ability	Good vision	Adequate vision	No vision
Speech Intelligibility	Age appropriate	Adequate	Poor
Behavior	Few to no behavioral issues	Some behavioral issues, responds to reward system	Poor cooperation, significant behavioral issues
Physical Endurance	No fatigue issues	Occasional fatigue	Fatigues easily
Manual Dexterity	Good motor skills	Adequate motor Skills	Poor motor skills
Comfort with Technology	Very comfortable	Adequate	Poor
Cultural/Linguistic Considerations	Good comprehension	Adequate English comprehension	Limited or no English comprehension
Sensory Issues	No sensory issues	Some sensory issues	Significant sensory issues

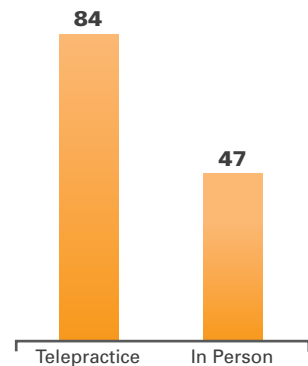


Telepractice is Recognized by Major Organizations and Leading SLP Academics and Clinicians



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*

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