Telepractice: 20 Questions

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Clinical service delivery in schools, outpatient, and private practice settings for 10+ years

2+ years experience with PresenceLearning - providing skilled SLP services online

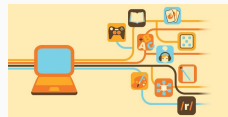Licensed in IN, CA, MI, and MN

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Disclosures

Independent Contractor with PresenceLearning

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What Will I Learn? *Learning Objectives*

Define telepractice as a service delivery modality to provide speech and language services

Identify potential benefits in using telepractice as a service delivery modality

Identify potential challenges in using telepractice as a service delivery modality

Tele-what?

Telehealth

Telemedicine

Telepractice

Teletherapy

Connected health

What Does ASHA Say?

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

The application of telecommunications technology at a distance

Telepractice is defined as "the application of telecommunications technology to the delivery of speech-language pathology and audiology professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client/patient or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation" (ASHA, n.d.)

What is ASHA Special Interest Group 18?

Mission Statement

It is the mission of SIG 18 to provide education, leadership, and advocacy for issues in telepractice, telespeech, and teleaudiology.

Goals

1. To provide resources and education related to telespeech and teleaudiology.
2. To promote excellence in evidence-based clinical practice in telespeech and teleaudiology.
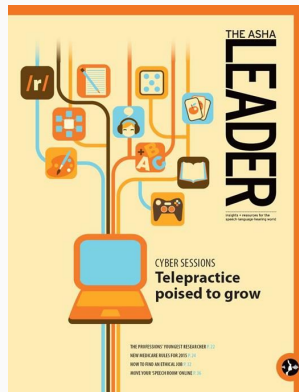3. To promote the development and dissemination of research in telespeech and teleaudiology.

Why the Demand for Service?

Increase in availability of internet services in schools and homes

Social networking has increased interaction with healthcare providers

Ease of video options

Increased efficiency

Is There a Need?

SLP shortages

Rural areas are underserved

Travel time & cost

Supplement to school-based SLPs to assist with high caseloads

What Are the Benefits of Telepractice?

Minimizes barriers to access therapy

Minimizes travel time for patient and/or clinician

Reduces costs

Reduces delay in service time

Same and Different

Same and Different

You Do What?

How many of you have used FaceTime to call someone?

How many of you have used Google Hangout for a work meeting?

Has anyone used an online portal to access medical results?

Requested medication be faxed or sent electronically to a pharmacy?

What Equipment
Do You Need As A Clinician?

Desktop or laptop computer	Printer
Direct line to Internet	Scanner
Webcam	Phone
Headset with microphone	E-mail

What Equipment Does the Client Need?

Desktop or laptop computer	Printer
Direct line to Internet	Scanner (optional)
Webcam	Phone* (important for tech support)
Headset with microphone*	E-mail

Home office
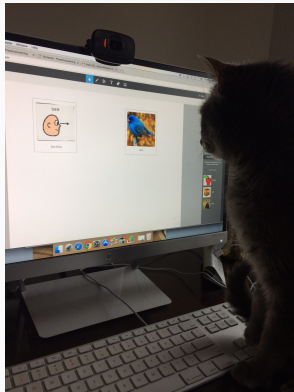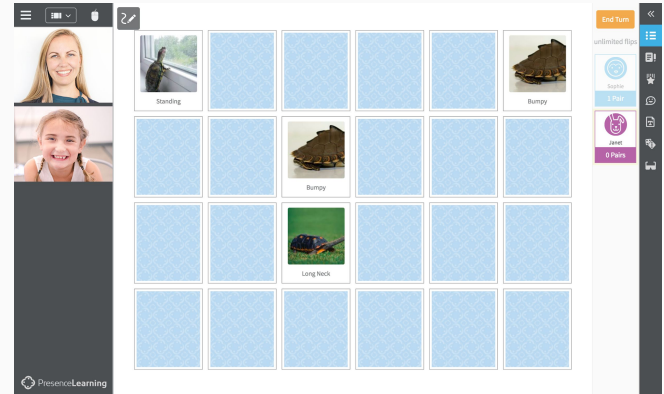

What Skills Do You Need As A Clinician?

Basic computer skills

Troubleshooting skills

Communication skills

Patience

Organization

What Materials Do You Use?

- Cards
- Board games
- Memory
- Videos
- Curriculum-based activities

PL has an extensive digital content library of activities or clinicians can upload their own materials

Example of PL Memory

What About Data?

Grogan-Johnson, S., Schmidt, A., et al. (2013). A Comparison of Speech Sound Intervention Delivered by Telepractice and Side-by-Side Service Delivery Models.

"This study investigated the progress made by school-age children with speech sound impairments in side-by-side intervention compared with telepractice intervention. Fourteen children aged 6 through 10 years with identified speech sound disorders were randomly assigned to intervention delivered in a side-by-side or telepractice service delivery model. Children in both service delivery models made improvement in their speech sound production during the program. There were no significant differences between the two groups. The results of this study support the use of telepractice in the intervention of children's speech sound disorders."

What About Testing?

PresenceLearning clinicians have performed more than 6,000 online evaluations using commonly used assessments including:

GFTA-3, KLPA-3, Arizona-3, CELF-5, CELF-5 Screener, CELF-Metalinguistics, CASL2, CELF 4-Spanish, PPVT-4, EVT-2, SSI-4, EOWPVT, ROWPVT, TAPS-3

Can You Show Us the Data?

Waite, M., Theodoros, D., Russell, T., and Cahill, L. (2010). Internet-Based Telehealth Assessment of Language using the CELF-4.

"No significant difference was found between the online and FTF total raw scores and scaled scores for each subtest. Weighted kappas revealed very good agreement on the individual items, total raw scores, scaled scores, core language score, and severity level. Intra- and interrater reliability were determined for a sample of online ratings, with intraclass correlation analysis revealing very good agreement on all measures."

http://videos.presencelearning.com/watch/GYKMjS71oJNLToEtsQWXEw

Who Helps The Student Log Into Therapy?

1:1 or 1: group primary support person (PSP)

Students who are independent can utilize computer assistance, media room staff, or school volunteers

Virtual students- parents are present as learning coaches

How Do You Participate In IEP Meetings?

Varies by school district

Team members may call into a conference line

Another option is for CCC members to attend in person and for SLP to attend virtually via online therapy room

What About Licensure?

Each state has its own laws (or not) for telepractice

Anyone providing speech-language pathology or audiology services to a resident of Indiana should be licensed by our state and knowledgeable about state guidelines.

*Point of origin and point of receipt of services

Follow the rules of your professional organizations and licensing boards

Can You Tell Us More?

ON-SITE SLP	VIRTUAL SLP
ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency	ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency
State License	State License
Teaching License/Certificate	Teaching License/Certificate
Other credentials as required by school	Other credentials as required by school
*stay on top of rules & regulations	*stay on top of rules & regulations

A student playing a board game during a telepractice session. The clinician and spinner are on the left side of the screen.

What Are The Challenges To Telepractice?

Clients must have secure internet provider and equipment

Quiet environment for provider and student

Parent or support personnel are essential when working with young students

Reluctance from school staff, administrators, parents

Telepractice is not for every client

Are There Challenges as an SLP?

Communication - clear communication is key

Can be isolating compared to working in clinic or school setting

Working from home requires boundaries

What Questions Should I Ask When Interviewing?

What tech support is provided?

What training is provided specific to telepractice? Continuing education opportunities?

What opportunities are available in states where you are licensed?

Will the company provide reimbursement or bonus for additional state licenses?

Is there compensation for indirect therapy time?

What Does the Future Hold for Telepractice?

Telepractice can meet various needs (individual clients, groups, schools, rehab)

Telepractice models will continue to be an option in educational and medical settings

As the shortage of SLPs continues in rural areas, telepractice should be considered as an option

Questions?

What About References?

ASHA Special Interest Group 18

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). *Telepractice.* (Practice Portal). Retrieved from www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Telepractice

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