

Name of Child: _____

Date: _____

Telepractice for Speech-Language Pathology Services: Informed Consent

What is Telepractice

“Telepractice” refers to the use of technology to deliver speech–language pathology services at a distance. Live or real time service may include but is not limited to telephone, or videoconferencing.

Confidentiality and Privacy

Speech-language pathologists are obligated to protect the confidentiality and privacy for all documentation, communication, and transmission of information regarding client personal health information. Our speech-language pathologists will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of information sent and received using the Zoom platform, however because of the risks outlined below, our speech-language pathologist cannot guarantee the security and confidentiality of electronic communication. The following are some of the known risks associated with electronic communication:

- Use of electronic communications to discuss sensitive information can increase the risk of such information being disclosed to third parties
- Despite reasonable efforts to protect the privacy and security of electronic communication, it is not possible to completely secure the information
- Electronic communications can be forwarded, intercepted, circulated, stored or even changed without the acknowledgment or permission of the speech-language pathologist or the patient.
- Even after the sender and recipient have deleted copies of electronic communications, back-up copies may exist on a computer system.

While using our subscription to Zoom, in order to keep your information secure, the **Zoom** settings have been changed to include:

- Disable in-meeting chat
- Disable Cloud recording
- Disable file-sharing
- Disable send image
- Disable send a file

We are using secure passwords for meeting logins. We are also using the WAIT ROOM feature which allows for the SLP to have control over who enters the meeting. **It should be noted that no technological communication can be guaranteed to be fully secure.**



Evidence for Telepractice

There is evidence for the efficacy of using telepractice in the assessment and treatment of a wide range of speech and language disorders, including articulation, autism spectrum disorder, fluency disorders, language, cognitive disorders, neurodevelopmental disabilities, voice disorders, aphasia, dysarthria, dysphagia.

Benefits of the use of telepractice include:

- Improved client access to services in the home community;
- Potential increased frequency of contact;
- Increased access to multiple practitioners or teams when client needs are complex;
- Accessibility to supervising others who may include, but are not limited to, speech-language pathology assistants or behaviour interventionists working in the client's home;
- The ability to complete functional client assessments, including interviews with caregivers and/or communication partners, and the completion of informal probes in addition to some formal assessments;
- The option to observe shy or withdrawn clients when in-person observation may not be possible (e.g. selective mutism); and
- Reduced sense of isolation for service providers and families in remote communities.

Challenges related to the use of telepractice include, but are not limited to:

- Additional time, experience, and support may be required for individuals (both professionals and clients) to build a comfort level with the use of technology and to troubleshoot challenging situations;
- Risk of communication failures at critical points during interactions;
- An increased amount of time may be required to build relationships with clients and community partners (e.g. teachers, other health professionals); and
- Limited access to telepractice equipment.

Expectations for appointments

- Sign-in 5-10 minutes before appointment starts;
- Similar to our clinic visits, for children under 10 years of age, parents are required to attend sessions.
- A caregiver is expected to be nearby to help with technical difficulties or physical support when needed;
- Limit background noise, as much as possible;
- **Please do not record sessions;**
- Prepare your child for telepractice appointments, including possible technical difficulties.
- Have your child sitting on a chair that allows their feet to be on the floor when possible. This allows for more comfortable and focused seating.

Fees

The regular fee schedule applies to all telepractice services. In the event of technical difficulties, efforts will be made to make up the time either by extending the appointment length, preparing notes or instructions and sending them by email, or continuing the appointment on the phone with a caregiver.

Consent for Teletherapy Service

By signing below, you are consenting to participate in speech-language services by teletherapy offered by therapists at Speak Your Mind as outlined above. Informed consent can be withdrawn at any time in writing.



Name of legal guardian*

Name of child*

Signature of legal guardian*

Date*

*Required Fields.

References

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2001). *Telepractices and ASHA: Report of the telepractices team*. Retrieved from <http://www.asha.org>

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada. (2015) *SAC Position Paper on The Use of Telepractice for SAC S-LPs and Audiologists*. Retrieved from <https://www.sac-oac.ca/>