

SERVICE: TELEPRACTICE (DISTANCE LEARNING)

IEP SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

Many students with IEPs, particularly those who have been found eligible under Speech or Language Impairment (SLI), are provided speech therapy services as part of FAPE. These services may continue without disruption during a school site closure via a telepractice model, in which the speech therapist interacts with the student through a HIPAA-compliant videoconferencing platform. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) affirms that telepractice is considered an appropriate model of service delivery for speech-language pathologists, when clinically appropriate. Further, ASHA notes that telepractice may be used to overcome barriers of access to service, such as distance or unavailability of specialists.

As a Nonpublic Agency, Milestones Therapy Group employs qualified therapists who can promptly step in to assist districts in covering caseloads to ensure that student IEPs continue to be implemented as written, whether in-person or by telepractice.

Our therapists deliver comprehensive speech and language therapy services including:

- delivering and documenting therapy minutes as required by the IEP
- progress reporting
- writing IEP goals and holding annual IEP meetings
- providing documentation for LEA Medi-Cal reimbursement

IEP EVALUATIONS (INITIAL/TRIENNIAL)

Speech and language evaluations may be conducted as a standalone evaluation or as part of a multidisciplinary team evaluation. Speech-language pathologists may conduct evaluations via videoconferencing and using digital versions of assessment tools. Our therapists understand the importance of conducting thorough, legally-defensible evaluations and maintaining IEP timelines.

Our therapists deliver comprehensive evaluations including:

- reviewing records and conducting case histories
- interviewing teachers, parents, and other related service providers
- administering formal and informal assessment tools
- interpreting results and writing evaluation reports
- determining eligibility under the category of SLI and making recommendations for services
- presenting results at IEP meetings

SERVICE: CLINICAL FELLOW/SLPA SUPERVISION

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP (CF) MENTORING

The speech-language pathology Clinical Fellowship Year is a mandatory mentored professional experience that is completed during the first year of a speech-language pathologist's employment, following completion of a master's degree. Clinical fellows (CFs) must be supervised according to the guidelines set by the American Speech and Hearing Association:

- Supervisors must hold a current CCC-SLP throughout the CF experience
- Supervisors must provide a minimum of 36 hours of supervision (18 direct and 18 indirect) during the course of the CF year
- Supervisors must meet the 2020 Speech-Language Pathology Certification Standards for professional development

In their role as mentors, our therapists meet or exceed ASHA's guidelines to ensure that their clinical fellow mentees are able to provide quality services during this important clinical training period.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT (SLPA) SUPERVISION

Speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) are trained support personnel who assist licensed speech-language pathologists in serving their caseloads. SLPAs may deliver therapy minutes, following a treatment plan designed by the SLP, while being supervised in accordance with strict guidelines, including:

- supervisors must hold current SLP certification and/or state licensure and have practiced for at least 2 years following certification
- supervisors must have completed at least 10 hours of continuing education credits in the area of supervision
- supervisors must provide supervision for 30% of the SLPA's client contact time during the first 90 work days, with modified requirements thereafter

SERVICE: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAM PLANNING AND CONSULTING

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development is designed to facilitate knowledge and skill acquisition for school personnel. This may include inservice trainings, job coaching, or consultations. Relevant topics at this time may include:

- Implementation of telepractice and distance learning speech and language programs
- Utilization and management of support personnel (SLPAs) to extend speech and language services
- Using the parent coaching model to support students who are unable to participate directly in telepractice services (e.g., early intervention clients, some moderate-severe populations)

PROGRAM PLANNING AND CONSULTING

Program planning and consulting services are provided to assist districts in handling caseload overflow, staff absence, compensatory services, and other unique needs. Our speech-language pathologist consultants can help in determining:

- appropriate division of caseloads among current employees
- opportunities to effectively utilize support personnel (SLPAs)
- appropriateness of a service delivery model (e.g., telepractice, parent coaching model) for a particular student

If you have any questions about speech therapy telepractice, or if you would like to discuss how Milestones Therapy Group can partner with your school district, please contact:

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