



Speech Therapy Telepractice and Technology

Graduate Student Training Program
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

eHelper Competencies*

Name of eHelper _____ Practicum Site: _____

Rating Scale

- 5.0 eHelper consistently performs effectively with a high degree of independence, taking initiative and making changes when appropriate
- 4.0
- 3.0 eHelper performs effectively with general guidance from supervisor
- 2.0
- 1.0 eHelper performs effectively only after specific direction and/or demonstration from supervisor
- 0.0 eHelper fails to perform effectively regardless of the amount of supervision

Technical Skills

- _____ 1. Set up a schedule that provides an optimal and consistent time for patient to offer best responses.
- _____ 2. Troubleshoot basic audio and video difficulties.
- _____ 3. Can access email and Internet to locate the links and online connections for the telepractice session.
- _____ 4. Help patient access web-based therapy tools (e.g., highlighter, pointer text tools).
- _____ 5. Can establish the video and audio connection for the telepractice session on the local computer.
- _____ 6. Provide feedback about the quality of items being displayed and make appropriate adjustments to ensure highest quality.

Instructional Skills

- _____ 1. Establish an adequate therapy environment for the patient including positioning for privacy.
- _____ 2. Utilize email, texting and direct communication with other involved personnel, families and caregivers about any pertinent updates before or after treatment sessions.
- _____ 3. Establish proper seating for the patient, allowing access to the computer and appropriate lighting for adequate video transmission.
- _____ 4. Understand therapeutic strategies and provide timely cueing and strategies to help the patient become independent in responding to the teletherapy therapist.
- _____ 5. Follow directions of the therapist.

- _____ 6. Provide accurate feedback about the patient response to materials, restate the patient's utterance if needed for clarification and provide statements that will aid in completing tasks.
- _____ 7. Attend solely to the patient's needs during teletherapy sessions with no other job requirements.
- _____ 8. Help patient transition from an existing activity to the next activity.
- _____ 9. Provide feedback and restate expectations for behavior to the patient at appropriate times during the session.
- _____ 10. Become aware of the patient's strengths and needs, acquire a basic understanding of the patient's communication needs, and have knowledge of the treatment goals.
- _____ 11. Assure privacy and confidentiality of the patient.

*Adapted 2013 from:

Towey, M. P. (2013). Speech telepractice. In K. Sajeesh & E. Cohn (Eds). Telerehabilitation. New York: Springer.