


# ACCESS TO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

---

SHARI GARRETT, MS CCC SLP, CHTP  
RCHSD, MANAGER SPEECH PATHOLOGY



1



## TELESERVICES – UNEXPECTED SUCCESSSES

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC, BY-SA-NC

2

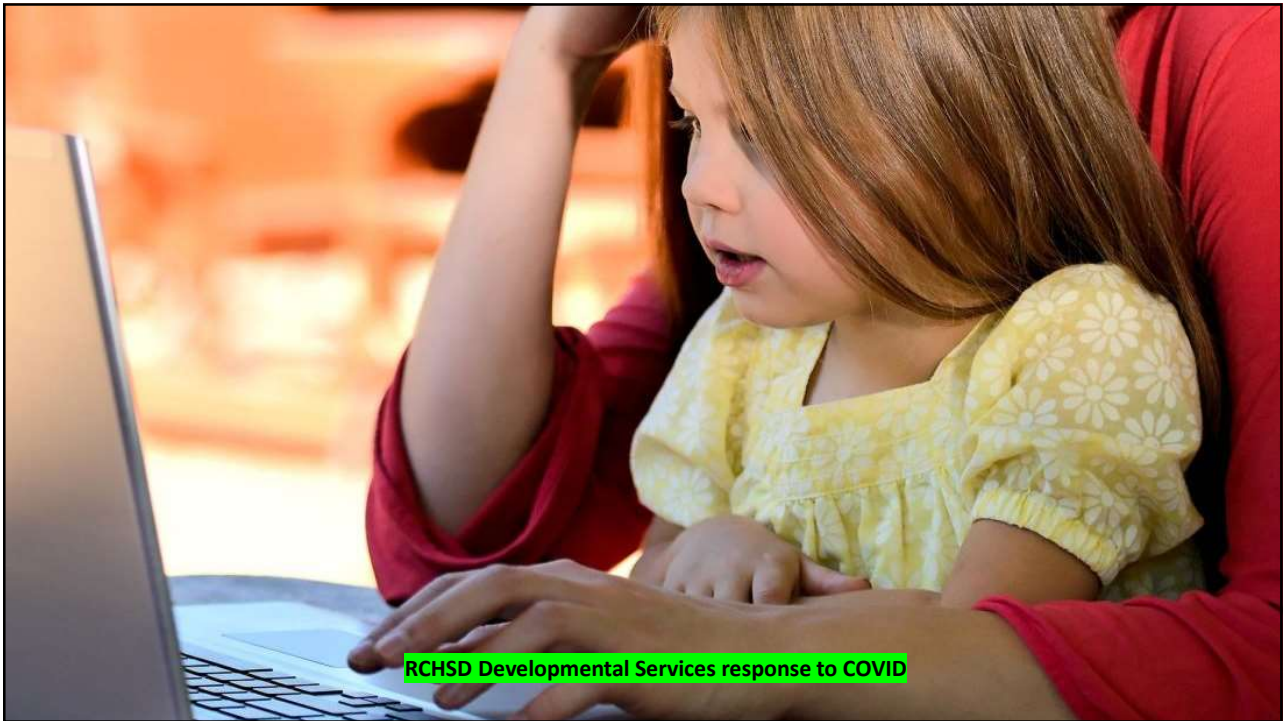
# SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENTS

## SPEECH DIAGNOSIS:

- a. Speech is the gateway to identifying other service and diagnosis (why I am presenting)
- b. Typically identified first by parent and MD
- c. Resulting Behaviors
- d. Incidence



3



RGHSD Developmental Services response to COVID

4

## SAFE ON-SITE CARE

- Determining who needed to be seen in person
- Distancing and space requirements
- Masking/ eye covering/hand washing/sanitization requirements
- Health Screenings
- Inventory issues



5

## TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

- RCHSD response to incorporate ZOOM into EPIC
- How to access sessions in MyCHART and the process
- Speech-leap frogging off what we already had implemented
- Researched validity of Tests
- Trained how to assess via telemed
- Q GLOBAL on-line tests
- Age restrictions
- Group and individual care
- Training all of Dev Serv
- Developing interactive resources and curriculum for groups



6

# WHAT DID WE LEARN?

## Drawbacks

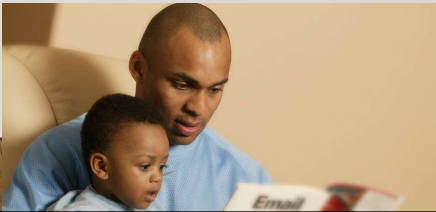
- Technology Challenged
- Internet connections
- Zoom went down nationally!
- Lack of some families' resources
- Restricted opportunities for children to play and interact naturally



7

# POSITIVE OUTCOMES

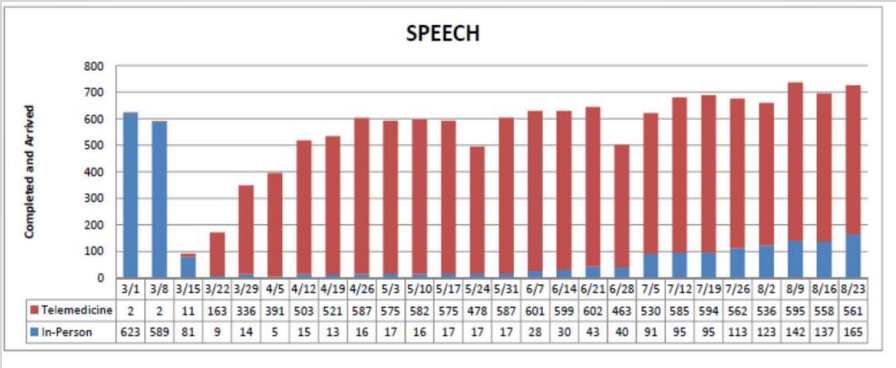
- Parental engagement
- Progress because of parental engagement and ease with strategies
- Therapy on the go
- Bug in the ear
- Problem solving in the moment
- Ease of teaching thinking with your eyes and understanding facial expressions
- How to interact with the screen and make it social vs screen time without interaction
- Created group and preschool experiences
- Parents can attend without travel time issues or exposure to COVID or when siblings ill or no day care



8



# SPEECH TELEMEDICINE AND IN-PERSON VISITS



9

## TELE-SPEECH SESSION - CHRISTINA BLOODWORTH

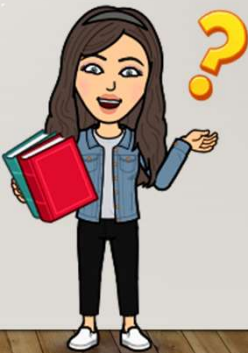
- Virtual classrooms
- Interactive activities and resources
- Model how parents participated
- Model activities, therapy on the go, bug in the ear and how to make screen time language and speech rich
- Promoting literacy and interactions with books

10

# CONDUCTING A TELESPEECH SESSION

---

- Family Centered
- Caregiver Empowerment
- Joint Session Planning
- Adult Learning Theory
- Reflection
- Home Program



11

# ACTIVITIES

---

- Easy to access toys and activities
- ADLs
- Books
- Music
- Interactive PowerPoints
- Websites



12

# VIDEO DEMONSTRATIONS

---

13

# VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS

---

- Early intervention
- Articulation
- Thematic Group Therapy



14



15



16





17



18

RESOURCES

BOOM CARDS

Starfall

ABCya.com

  
Teachers Pay Teachers

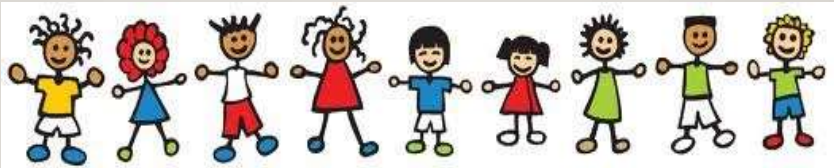


19

IMPACT ON ACCESS TO CARE

➤ At RCHSD therapy

➤ School/El/Regional Center/CA Early Start




20

## NEXT STEPS

---

- Telemedicine could remain for developmental services if 3rd party payors continue to reimburse
- CCS clients will be covered
- SCHOOL ?




21

## REFERENCES

---

- Grogan-Johnson S, Alvares R, Rowan L, Creaghead N. (2010) A pilot study comparing the effectiveness of speech language therapy provided by telemedicine with conventional on-site therapy. J Telemed Telecare. 2010;16(3):134-9. doi: 10.1258/jtt.2009.090608. Epub 2010 Mar 2. PMID: 20197354.
- Grogan-Johnson, S., Schmidt, A. M., Schenker, J., R. A., Rowan, L. E., & Taylor, J. (2013). A Comparison of Speech Sound Intervention Delivered by Telepractice and Side-by-Side Service Delivery Models. SAGE Journals, 34(4), 210-220. doi:https://doi.org/10.1177/1525740113484965
- McCullough, Alison. "Viability and Effectiveness of Teletherapy for Pre-school Children with Special Needs." International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders, vol. 36, no. S1, Apr. 2001, pp. 321-26, doi:https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.3109/13682820109177905.
- Simacek, Jessica, et al. "Communication Intervention for Young Children with Severe Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Via Telehealth." Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, vol. 47, 16 Jan. 2017, pp. 744-67.
- Wales, Danielle, et al. "The Efficacy of Telehealth-Delivered Speech and Language Intervention for Primary School-Age Children: A Systematic Review." International Journal of Telerehabilitation, vol. 9, no. 1, 2017, pp. 55-70.



22