

Advantages of different service models

SETTING

ONLINE VISITS



- Convenience (e.g., eliminates need to travel)
- Home is familiar & comfortable for child

IN-PERSON VISITS*



- Less technology demands
- Clinic may have fewer distractions
- Clinic may have different resources (e.g., toys/ activities)

NATURE OF SERVICES

- Home offers information for goals and therapy
- Child can practice communication in everyday home activities/ routines
- Parents have opportunities to learn how to use home toys/activities to work on child's therapy goals
- Easier to coordinate parent-group therapy

- Clinic reveals what children can do independently and in a different environment
- Clinicians can see and hear child better
- Better hands-on support (e.g., tactile cues, demonstrations)
- Easier to coordinate children-group therapy



INTERPERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Parents may feel more confident that they can help their child because of increased involvement in all therapy tasks (e.g., setting up activities at home for visits)
- Electronic communication can be efficient (e.g., reminders for visits, sharing information about home programming)

- Therapists can support more therapy-related tasks (e.g., setting up the room, managing child's behavior)
- May be easier to establish child-clinician rapport
- Offers opportunities for spontaneous interactions and resource-sharing amongst parents



MIXED VISITS



- Different contexts (home and in clinic) offer different opportunities to support parent and child
- In-person visits can facilitate relationship building between children and therapists before online visits
- Can flexibly adjust to families' needs to encourage attendance (e.g., virtual visits can be provided on a snowday)



*Note: PPE continues to be necessary. This meant that in-person visits must be different from pre-pandemic times (e.g., clinician's mouth will be covered, PPE may be unnatural and overwhelming to child).