


Tele-Intervention in Virginia

Data, Benefits, Challenges,
& Advice from Practitioners

PRESENTED BY
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Today's Presenters



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PART I

- Review findings about tele-intervention from the *VA Provider Implementation Survey*
- Discuss findings from VA respondents on the *Early Intervention Telepractice in the Time of COVID-19 Survey*
- Share insights from respondents about coaching practices, challenges, and hopes
- Share advice from respondents for providing tele-intervention

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Tele-what?



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**Infant & Toddler
Connection of Virginia**

With the exception of initial assessments for service planning, the term **telehealth** includes services delivered by phone (audio) or through videoconferencing (audio-visual) technology.

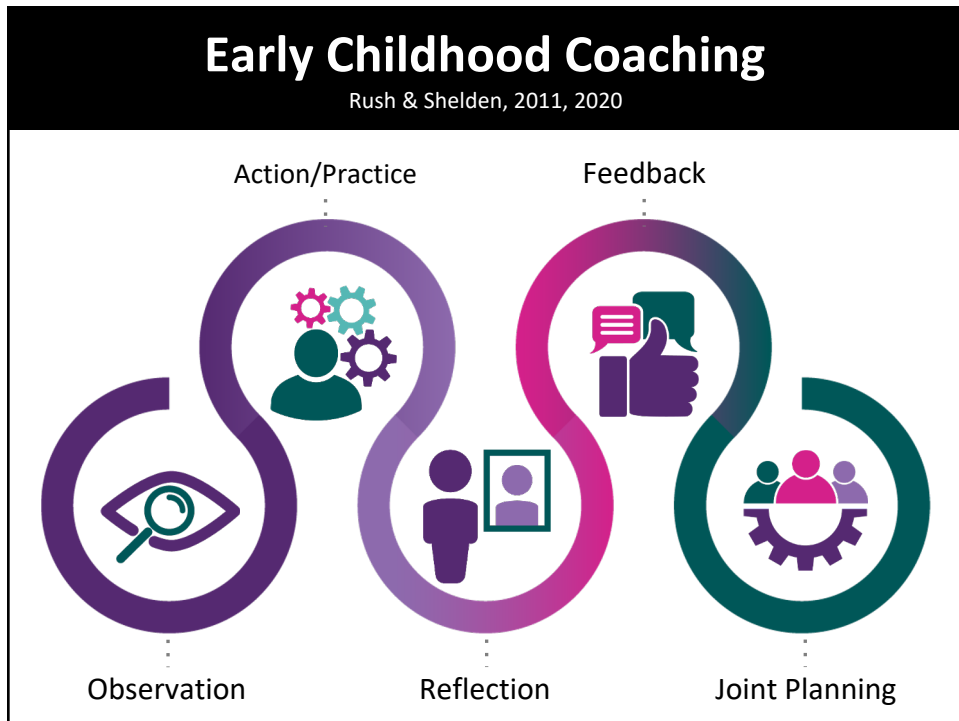
COVID-19 Policies and Procedures for the
Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia

3-13-20

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Coaching during Tele-Intervention



Not a fan...



Whew, it's been
hard but I've
grown as a coach.



I love coaching via
tele-intervention!

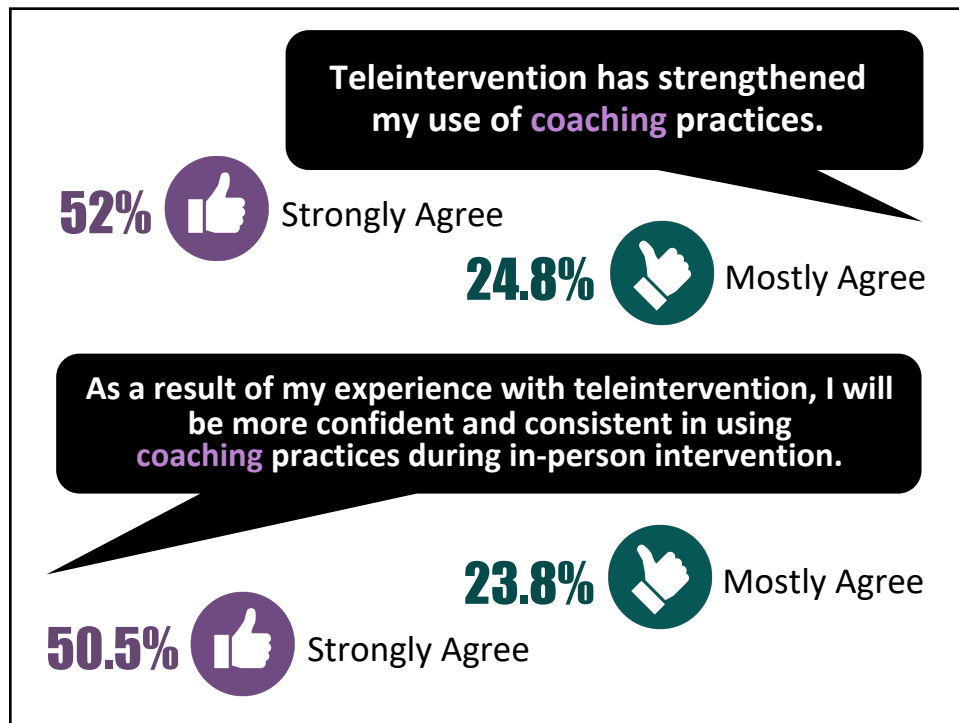
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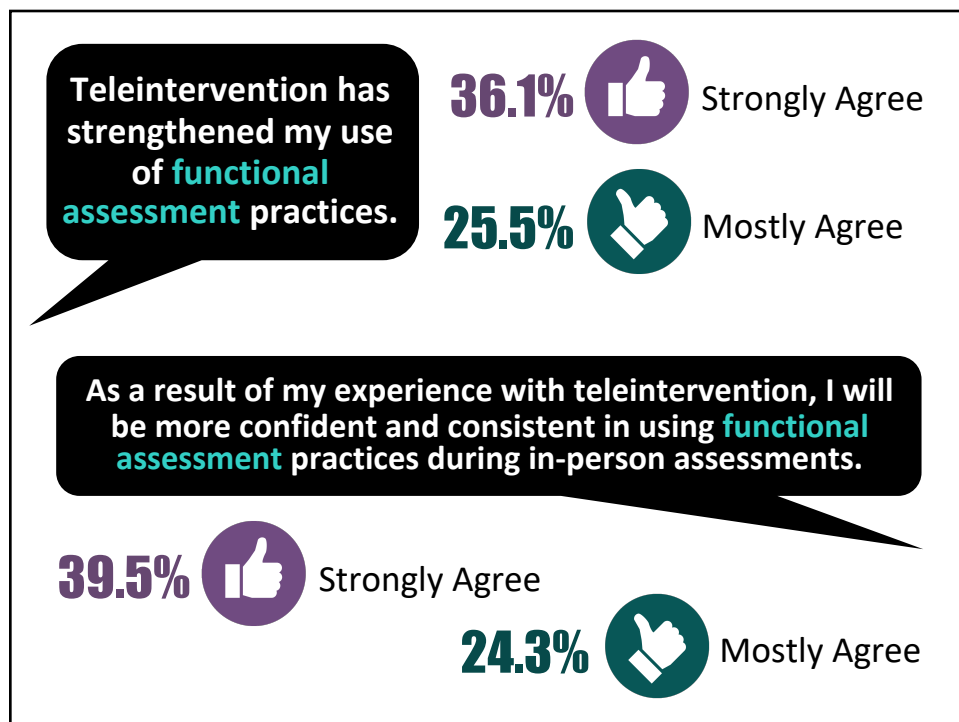
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VA Provider
Implementation
Survey

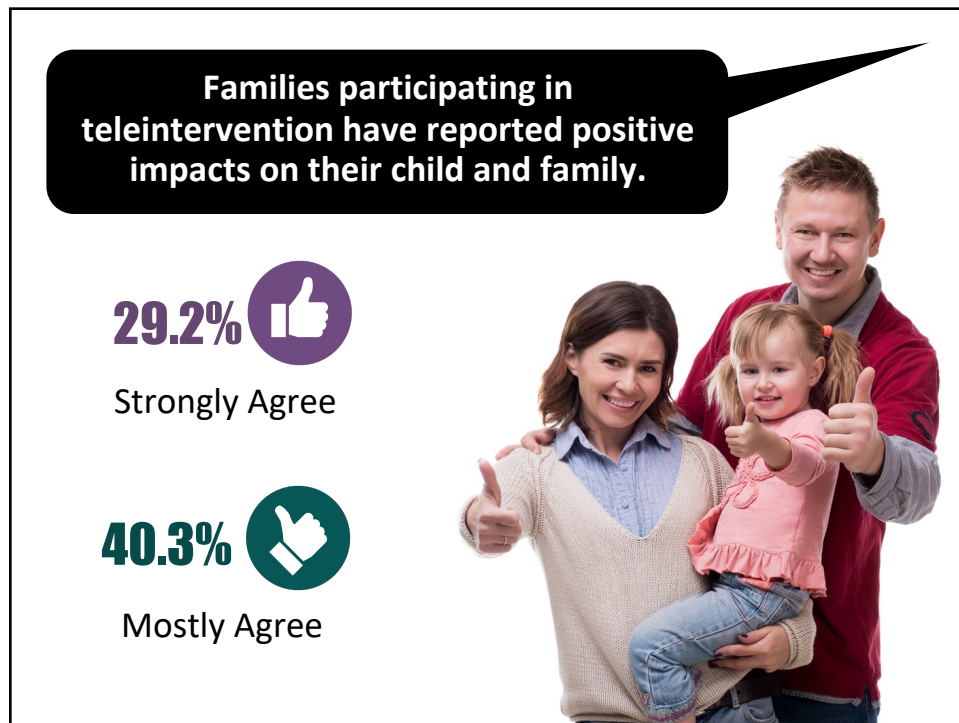
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Are you still providing tele-intervention now?



Make your selection when the poll appears.

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Early Intervention Telepractice in the Time of COVID-19 Survey



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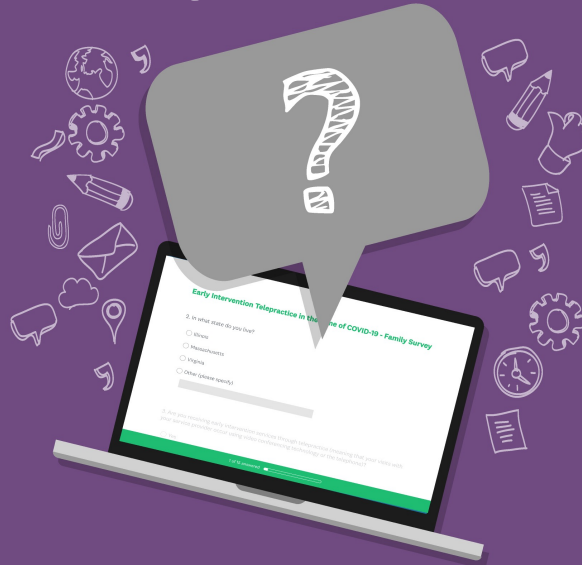
Research Question

How has the abrupt change
to telepractice impacted early
intervention services for
families and providers?

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Provider Survey

- Typical EI visits before and during the pandemic
- Challenges
- Impact on quality of service
- New practices
- Hopes for the future
- Advice



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Total # of respondents across all **26** states:

353

Total # of
respondents
from VA

151

18



THEME #1

Coaching Practices

- Coaching was mentioned frequently when describing what visits look like both before and during the pandemic.
- Previous coaching skills made the transition to telepractice easier.
- Using telepractice resulted in improved coaching skills.

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THEME #2

Increased Family Engagement

“Each [telepractice] session had them more engaged, asking more questions and willing to attempt more strategies. I’ve found my sessions are more successful through telehealth.”

“ [Telepractice] takes the emphasis off me as a professional and puts it back on the parent/child interaction where it belongs.”

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THEME #3

Benefits for Practitioner

- Less travel time = more flexibility
- Improved coaching skills
- More emphasis on parent-child interactions
- Better verbal communication about how and why to use recommended strategies
- Increased resource sharing

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“

I will be using my new, more efficient coaching skills and confidence when I am back in the home, and if I see the same families, they will be used to taking more of a lead in showing me their skills at practicing the strategies. I think I will be a better practitioner because of the telehealth experience.”

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**What have been your biggest challenges
with providing tele-intervention
(or using telepractice)?**




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Challenges

- Families declining telepractice services
- Difficulty supporting parent-child interactions
- Managing EI sessions while also managing the practitioner's own family's needs, virtual schooling, and childcare
- Technology issues – limited access, wireless/data limits for families

THEME #4

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THEME #4

Challenges

Difficulties with:

- Assessing motor development
- Building connections with families
- “Teaching” children without being able to directly model for the parents

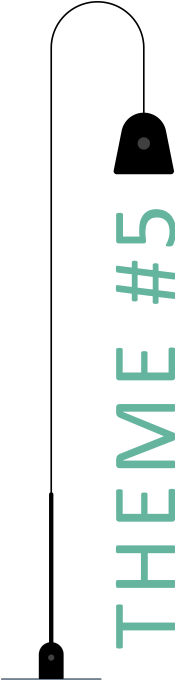
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“

Do it! It has challenges, but also lots of benefits (hot coffee while working, just like “office jobs!” 😊). You have to believe in it to get parental buy in, present it as a really good option and have reasons to back up your claims (do your research on the benefits then share them with families). Be open about the limitations, parents appreciate hearing the realities of the situation. Lean on other providers to share what is working!”

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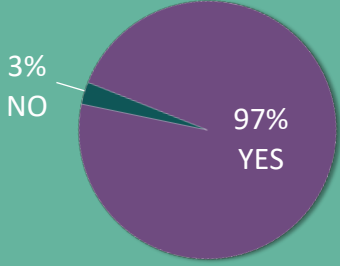
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THEME #5

Interest in Continuing to Offer Telepractice


Telepractice is a valuable service delivery option and most respondents want to continue offering telepractice as an EI service delivery for option post-pandemic.



| Response | Percentage |
|----------|------------|
| YES | 97% |
| NO | 3% |

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What advice do you have for others who are thinking about using telepractice to deliver EI services?



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“

Don't be scared of it. First, focus on the relationship with the parent and have a good conversation getting to know each other instead of expecting to virtually interact with the child. Encourage parents to interact with the child with what is naturally in their home.

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“

“Use an earpiece, give yourself breaks from looking at the screen. Give information to families on how they can make the visit successful ie., placement of camera, wearing ear piece and cordless if able.”

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*“Try it! It will make you a
BETTER therapist!”*

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Survey & Certificate of Completion



NOTE:

Make sure to download and save the certificate to your desktop.
Once you download, save, or print, the date stamp will automatically update.

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Join us on June 1st for Part II!



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