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Conference Abstract

Ollie pilot project: an interactive web tool

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Abstract

Introduction: The partnership between Speech and Language Therapist and parents is one of the most important elements for the successful delivery of community based Speech and Language Therapy (SLT). It is vital that parents are involved in the delivery of therapy programmes outside of individual appointments to ensure timely and effective progress is achieved. Liverpool Community Health SLT service works closely with a wide and diverse population delivering therapy in a variety of settings. Regular contact between Therapist and family is invaluable, however this is something that is not always easy, or does not happen as routinely as some would like. Web based technologies offer us an innovative and modern way of communicating with our families, particularly during consolidation periods. It will facilitate a continuous dialogue between therapist and parent, and enable the progress towards therapy targets to be closely monitored and adapted in a timely manner.

Aims: Alongside colleagues in Lancashire, who are also trialling “Ollie” we aim to:

- i) increase parental and child engagement in Speech and Language Therapy through web based technology
- ii) encourage families to access therapy activities and evaluate their child’s progress online
- iii) evaluate potential efficiency and effectiveness benefits of using an interactive web tool during the therapy process.

Objectives:

- To assess parent and children’s experience using “Ollie” as part of their therapy package of care.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of “Ollie” in supporting successful completion of therapy episode goals.
- To appraise efficiency savings both in terms of time and costing.

Results: The process of data collection towards our objectives is currently on-going. Some tangible results are expected by July 2013. Below is a sample of the feedback we have received so far:

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‘Working in a Language Resource where children attend two schools, Ollie allows me to liaise simultaneously with both setting and parents ensuring a consistent therapy approach” (Therapist)

‘Ollie has helped to encourage my families to maintain contact during consolidation periods. I hope this will provide my families with a positive and cohesive therapy journey.’ (Therapist)

‘X has enjoyed playing on Ollie, in particular the Cbeebies games. Could a timer be added for the games as well as the SLT homework as it can be difficult to re-direct her back to SLT H/W” (Parent, sent via Ollie)

‘X cannot attend his appointment today as he is not well. He has been playing on Ollie and seems to be making progress. Can you add more activities for home practise and we’ll see you again next week.’ (Parent, sent via Ollie)

Conclusion: We will discuss:

- i) patient, child and therapists experience of using “Ollie” as part of their therapy journey.
- ii) web based tools contribution to the successful completion of therapy goals
- iii) efficiency savings.
- iv) further development of “Ollie”, in partnership with colleagues in Lancashire and Merseyside Informatics, based on user feedback and experience.

Keywords:

speech therapy, web-based, remote, efficiency, experience

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