

# In-Person vs. Virtual Settings for Special Education Services

## General pros of virtual services

- Scheduling and transportation are usually easier.
- Families can more easily observe sessions and learn the strategies that therapists are helping the child to learn.
- For certain therapies, it can be easier for the therapist to collect data.

## General cons of virtual services

- Technical difficulties and connectivity issues can interrupt therapy sessions.
- Families must have access to up-to-date devices
- Therapists may find it difficult to develop a good connection with the children they are working with.
- These sessions are often less engaging for children.

## General pros of in-person services

- Therapy sessions can be more hands-on and engaging.
- Therapists can connect more easily with school staff if the therapy sessions are taking place on site at the child's school.
- More intensive therapy can be provided for those children that need it.
- It is generally easier for a therapist to develop a good connection and a trusting relationship with the child in an in-person setting.

## General cons of in-person services

- Scheduling and transportation can be more challenging, especially if therapy happens outside of school.
- Sometimes school buildings do not have ideal physical locations for therapy sessions. They may be lacking necessary equipment or may not have quiet enough spaces for therapy sessions to take place.
- There can be longer wait-times to get in-person services because there are less therapists working in-person. Since the option of virtual services are now possible for many therapies, some service providers are opting to provide only virtual services for their own convenience since they can usually work from their own home.