Virtual Service Delivery Workspace

A well-designed and functional environment for virtual service delivery influences the quality of the experience. Careful arrangement of the workspace will support connections between the professional and family, so that interactions are the focal point.

- Keep phone nearby in case the connection is broken and you need to reach the family.
- Use lights from all angles to reduce shadows.
- An extra monitor is recommended to reference curriculum and other resources.
- Use headphones to minimize background noises.
- Keep materials close by so you are well prepared for service delivery and do not have to leave the screen.
- Rugs or carpet can help diffuse sounds and room echo.
Make sure to take a look at the space behind you.

Avoid having a door in your background so you don’t have unexpected interruptions. You can also place a “do not disturb” sign on the outside of the door so that others know you are delivering services.

Keep your background neat and tidy. Simple, uncluttered items look best.

Notice and remove any religious icons or other representations of your personal values.

Ideally, you want multiple light sources from around the room with a light in front of you to illuminate your face. Avoid bright lights or windows with open curtains or blinds in the space behind you.

The information provided in this document is based on the research and findings of the collaborative initiative between Parents as Teachers National Center and the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work Telehealth Clinic. The virtual service delivery demonstration, conducted by Dorian Traube, PhD, at the University of Southern California and staff from Parents as Teachers National Center, served seven communities in California and Missouri.