Getting Started as a Remote School-Based SLP

1. Set Up for Success: Your Remote Workspace

- Private and Quiet Space: Ensure HIPAA and FERPA compliance by securing a private, quiet space for sessions.
- Reliable Tech: Use a laptop with webcam, quality headset, strong internet, and a second monitor if possible.
- Platform Familiarity: Master your school's chosen video conferencing platform and troubleshoot common tech issues.

2. Know Your Caseload and IEP Requirements

- Review IEPs: Familiarize yourself with each student's IEP goals, service minutes, accommodations, and assistive tech.
- Data Collection Plan: Set up a consistent system to log service dates, progress notes, and data.

3. Plan Engaging, Individualized Sessions

- Use Digital Materials: Boom Cards, Epic!, LessonPix, and more for interactive therapy.
- Visual Supports: Icons, gestures, and visuals aid comprehension.
- Short and Active: Keep segments short and energetic!

4. Build Rapport and Communication

- Start with Check-Ins: Build trust with students.
- Collaborate with Teachers & Families: Regular contact via email or video.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Be mindful of each student's background and environment.

5. Tools Every Remote SLP Should Know

- Boom Learning: Digital flashcards and games
- Google Slides: Custom interactive activities
- Zoom Whiteboard: Drawing, labeling
- Kami or Jamboard: Digital annotation
- Tactus Therapy & Virtual Speech Center: Evidence-based apps

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6. Stay Organized & Compliant

- Weekly Schedule: Shareable calendar for sessions.

- Document Everything: Use digital data sheets.

- FERPA & HIPAA Compliance: Use secure platforms.

7. Practice Self-Care

- Boundaries: Set and maintain work hours.

- Breaks: Avoid screen fatigue.

- Support System: Join SLP online communities.

Bonus: First Week Checklist

- [ ] Tech test run with school platform

- [ ] Review IEPs and student files

- [ ] Contact families with intro email or call

- [ ] Set up therapy materials and folders

- [ ] Create weekly schedule and share with school staff

- [ ] Start with fun rapport-building activities