To all Preschool related service providers:

Please make note of the following:

**A)    TELEHEALTH**

We have been receiving many questions inquiring if telehealth is still an option for preschoolers during the 21/22 school year.

NYSED:  Guidance from NYSED for ESY 2021 encouraged and urged providers to offer in-person programs and services and prioritize in-person instruction to students with disabilities.  The latest guidance from NYSED dated August 12, 2021 *Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year* (see attached) indicates one of the goals for the 21/22 school year is to maximize in-person teaching and learning, but adds schools should be prepared to return to remote instruction as necessary.  NYSED’s position on remote instruction is detailed on page 18 of this guidance and specifies SED “will not require schools” to provide remote instruction and districts may work with families “to offer remote options if it is in the best educational interests of the student.”

NYSDOH: In addition, the September 2, 2021 *Interim NYSDOH Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-2022 Academic School Year* (attached) reads “the State is committed to prioritizing in-person learning . . . .”

When documenting a telehealth session in the portal please make sure you change the location and indicate in your session note who was present with the child, the location of the child and the location of the therapist.

Suffolk County Department of Health supports in-person learning while adhering to all guidance from the CDC, NYSED and NYSDOH.  As the guidance suggests teletherapy is an option when appropriate for center-based students as well as preschoolers receiving Related Services.  Communication with the school district is important and always strongly encouraged.

**B)    HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**

**SEITs and Related Service providers are still expected to complete the *Health Screening Assessment Form* (attached) for all in-person services prior to each in-person session**. This form has been updated from last year (see attached)

While the CDC no longer recommends temperature screenings or screening questionnaires at school, NYSDOH reminds schools that daily health screenings and temperature checks are still an option for all students, faculty, staff, visitors and contractors to increase protections against transmission.

Kelly A. Ralph, LMSW

Assistant Coordinator of Special Education, Preschool

Division of Services for Children with Special Needs

50 Laser Court

Hauppauge, NY 11788

631-853-2293