**Parent / Guardian Documents**

**What is TinyEYE?**

TinyEYE is a resource that gives online access to SLP (Speech and Language Pathologists) as well as OT (Occupational Therapy). This resource is designed to give access to these professionals where conventional methods of SLP and OT treatments may be difficult. This may be due to geography, physical, or financial reasons. TinyEYE uses advanced software which uses video, audio, interactive games and activities to enhance learning.

 **Why am I using TinyEYE?**

TinyEYE is being suggested for use because your child would benefit from having Speech-Language or Occupational Therapy. TinyEYE is an unobtrusive method to deliver these therapies at a cost which is substantially less than face to face therapy.

**Risks that could arise**

Therapy information is by its nature sensitive in nature. Communications outside of the software program (e.g. emails) may go to servers located outside of Canada and may be subject to the privacy laws in those jurisdictions. Even though the Therapist used in the sessions are registered in British Columbia they may not reside in Canada. Information in that case may cross borders.

**What’s ‘personal information’?**

“People have different standards of what they consider ‘personal’ information. Sharing over social media has done a fair bit to reset our expectation. Regardless of personal definition, if the information, data, or content could be used to identify you, it’s ‘personal information’ – though professional or business contact information may be treated separately.” 1(Henglstler, 2013). A student’s personal information could include: name, date of birth, address, telephone number, email address, educational information, and anything that identifies an individual, including photographs.  If any information, data or content could be used to identify you it is then qualified as “personal information”.

**Why is BC so sensitive to privacy laws regarding data?**

“Shortly after the 9/11 attacks on the US in 2001, the American government enacted the United States Patriot Act that allowed the United States government to search private and public data housed on servers on United States soil. At the time, The British Columbia Medical Services Plan was hosting our provincial medical records in the United States. Unions in British Columbia expressed concern over the ability of the American government to search through British Columbian’s personal medical records and histories. Ultimately, the rule is: if you transfer or authorize the transfer of your personal information outside of Canada, that data is subject to the laws and practices of the country where it sits – be it the United States, China, or India. (Remember that minors, under the legal care of an adult, cannot authorize such a transfer.) Not all locations have similar notions about your right to privacy. Since cloud computing is a relatively new technology, the laws and best practices governing it are still changing and there is a need to stay current.” 1(Hengstler, 2013)

 **Why is a consent form necessary?**

Various provinces in Canada – and other jurisdictions across the world – have enacted laws to protect personal privacy. In BC, the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) covers all independent schools. It is one of the most defined privacy protection frameworks in Canada. PIPA states that ‘private bodies’ such as independent schools have defined legal requirements for handling your personal information when it is within their ‘custody’ and ‘control’. Generally, private bodies must make sure that your personal information cannot be stored or accessed outside of Canada without your expressed permission – ‘consent’ (Note: there are certain expectations in the law like data covered by treaties, etc.). PIPA states that your consent must be in writing, state to whom your personal information may be disclosed, and how your information will be used. Also, if you post personal information about others, their permission must also be secured.

**What if I don’t want to consent?**

You have the right as a parent/guardian to withhold consent to your child using TinyEYE. Alternate therapies will be considered for students in the event that parents/caregivers choose to withhold consent.

While no internet-based experience can ever be 100% risk-free, know that I will take every reasonable measure to manage expected risks.

[1] Julia Hengstler is the Educational Technologist with the Faculty of Education at Vancouver Island University & an Instructor in Educational Technology. Please visit this site for more background information about her:<http://www.viu.ca/education/faculty/profiles/hengstler_j.asp>