

# Best Practice Guidelines to Inform Selection of E-Mental Health Resources

Given school mental health professionals' limited time to review best practice literature on online mental health support, this infographic guide was developed to support the selection of e-mental health resources for adolescents.

## What is e-mental health?

E-mental health comprises not only online manualized programs but resources such as **websites, interactive infographics, mobile phone applications, and online interventions.**

"As a school psychologist, I find this guide helps me evaluate online resources so that I have confidence that what I recommend will be beneficial for adolescents"



## How to use this?

- ① Use the attached **evidence-based criteria** to inform your selection of e-mental health resources. Ideally, all of the essential criteria should be checked off before making a recommendation. The **value-added** criteria indicates an even higher quality of resource but are not essential. The prompting questions are there to guide you and provide further clarification about what each criterion entails.
- ② Refer to the **supplemental guide** for an example of how to apply the essential criteria and value-added criteria to a sample online resource.

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# How was this created?



This infographic guide was informed by a review of the scientific literature on youth-targeted e-mental health resources. For further reading, please check the reference list: [CLICK HERE](#)

## Best Practice Checklist - Essential Criteria

### Interactive



Are there opportunities for the user to interact with the information being provided (e.g., through quizzes, videos, audios, etc.)?

### General Accessibility



- Is the resource free or low cost? Is paid membership necessary to have full access?
- Can it be accessed through a variety of modalities (e.g., desktop, tablet, mobile- both IOS and android)?

### Visually Appealing



- Is the information presented in a creative & interesting way that will keep adolescents engaged?

### Evidence-Based



- Is the evidence base referred to, referenced, or available somewhere within the resource?



## Safety/Confidentiality

- Is there a clear privacy policy (e.g., does the resource follow appropriate internet security/privacy/confidentiality measures)?
- Is the resource discrete (e.g., is it easy to conceal on a phone or computer)?



## Clear Navigation/Use of Resource

- Is the navigation of the resource well-designed and easy to use?
- Can information easily be found in this resource (e.g., no need to click abundantly before finding information)?



## Developmentally Appropriate

- Is the information presented in a simple manner (e.g., not too technical or jargony)?
- Is the text concise?
- Is the tone used respectful towards adolescents (i.e., not too childish)?



## Inclusiveness

- Are the visuals diverse in terms of race, ability/disability, gender, etc.?
- Do the visuals avoid reinforcing stereotypes (e.g., sad/depressed visuals are female; angry/externalizing are male)?



## Accessibility For Diverse Learners



- Does the resource present the information in a variety of formats (e.g., audio, visual) to engage students based on their learning preferences?

# + Best Practice Checklist - Value-Added



## Mental Health Provider Follow Up



- Does the resource provide opportunities to share with mental health providers (MHPs) or a profile of activities that can be shared with MHPs?
- Are there opportunities for the MHP to follow up on progress or engage in discussion?



## Breadth and Depth



- Does the resource present strategies/support for a variety of mental health difficulties adolescents may experience?
- Does the resource include sufficiently detailed information?



## Social Interactions



- Does the resource provide a moderated platform for students to connect with peers facing similar challenges as well as share stories and experiences?



## Personalization



- Does the resource offer the opportunity to create a personalized profile, select personalized content, activities, or resources?