

Section 1: Introduction to Remote Tutoring

What is Remote Tutoring?

The terms *remote learning* and *distance learning* are often used interchangeably, yet there is a difference.

Remote tutoring is learning with a tutor over the phone or online in real time (synchronous learning). Distance learning is learning independently using content which the tutor has set up online or sent via mail (asynchronous learning).

At LU, we are advocating a remote learning/tutoring approach. We are asking tutors and learners to get together for their sessions online or over the phone in real time.

If you choose to tutor remotely, you may be working with your learner over the phone, via text or using various video calling apps such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Google Meet or Zoom. You will be working together in real time.

Please note that remote tutoring may include some independent learning activities. If your learner is ready and comfortable to work independently, you could assign them activities that they can do on their own between your remote real-time sessions.

When to Tutor Remotely

You may choose to tutor remotely as a practical solution for when you cannot tutor side by side or as an overall learning strategy together with your face-to-face sessions.

Here are a few examples of situations where remote tutoring is a great option:

Educational scenarios:

- Your learner has goals around digital literacy and practicing online with digital tools just makes sense
- You want to increase the scope of your tutoring activities to support the specific goals of your learner
- You want to access materials and activities that can only be found online
- You want to introduce variety and new approaches to your tutoring sessions
- You want to find new ways to engage your learner

Practical scenarios:

- You or your learner have transportation issues and cannot meet up in person
- You or your learner have mobility issues that make it difficult to meet in person (e.g. a broken leg, wheelchair use, etc.)
- There is a global pandemic and meeting in person is not a safe option
- You have a cold – you feel well enough for a tutoring session but do not want to pass it on
- There is (inevitably!) a snowstorm and it is not possible to travel
- The LU office is not accessible during the summer months, Fridays, weekends or because of a school closure

Being set up to tutor remotely opens a whole new world of possibilities for you and your learner!

The Advantages of Remote Tutoring

Whether you have chosen remote tutoring to enrich your face-to-face tutoring sessions or for practical reasons, remote tutoring will expand your practice as a tutor and offer your learner additional opportunities to grow and to develop their skills and experience.

Educational benefits of remote tutoring:

- You and your learner build knowledge, resilience and confidence when you step out of your comfort zones and learn something new
- Your learner gets to add basic digital skills to their bank of essential skills – so do you!
- Expanding digital skills and online access means expanding your options and opportunities in a modern world
- You and your learner will be exposed to new approaches to learning that you might not have been using in your in-person sessions
- Functionality of computers offer accommodations in ways that in-person activities do not (e.g. text can easily be enlarged by zooming in, converted to speech by screen readers or be accompanied by audio)
- Once familiar with certain online programs that supply immediate feedback or audio reading support, some learners have more options to work independently between sessions
- Opens possibilities for a hybrid approach of in-person tutoring combined with remote tutoring (blended learning)

Practical benefits of learning remotely:

- More flexibility and control over your schedule
- The possibility of tutoring throughout the summer and on Fridays and weekends
- Eliminates the hassles of commuting
- Time is saved with no commute
- Extreme weather (or a global pandemic!) will not keep you away from your tutoring session!

You may be starting to think that remote tutoring is a pretty good idea, but where to start? We acknowledge that despite the many benefits, the prospect of remote tutoring may be scary and intimidating for you and your learner.

By reading the following sections of this manual, we hope to guide you through the process of creating a successful remote learning environment for you and your learner.