Section 8: Transitioning to Blended Learning

Currently, most of us are engaged in remote learning, but there will be a time when we can start to consider meeting in person again and this will be a great opportunity to blend the new remote approaches we have been learning and practicing, with our familiar in-person approach.

Combining traditional face-to-face learning and remote learning is called *blended learning*.

Why do a blended learning approach?

- Research suggests that blended learning may be more effective than only face-to-face learning or only online learning – you get the best of both worlds!
- Offers flexibility
- Offers global access to resources – increases your options in finding that perfect resource that matches your learner's needs
- Gives learners the opportunity to acquire digital literacy skills
- Online component fits well with workplace literacy skills
- Tutors can cater to various learning styles using different modes
- Learners who do not have devices at home can learn on LU devices
- Learning time is extended as learners become more comfortable and independent online
- Contributes to learners being confident and self-directed learners

Blended learning can take many forms. Here are a few examples of how a blended learning approach could look:

- You tutor face-to-face and text or email in between sessions or during sessions to practice writing and digital skills
- You tutor face-to-face and assign online homework (if your learner is confident in using the platform)
- You tutor face-to-face with occasional remote sessions
- You alternate regularly between tutoring face-to-face and tutoring remotely
- You tutor remotely with occasional face-to-face meetings

Here are a few things you can do in your face-to-face sessions that will facilitate a shift into blended learning:

- Teach the digital skills needed for remote learning while tutoring face-to-face
- Use online tools and resources while tutoring face-to-face (quizzes, polls, language exercises, educational apps, videos, etc.)
- Use technology tools to communicate with your learner and share online resources and assignments with them

Blended learning will enrich your tutoring sessions and expand your learner's world.

When you are ready to bring a blended learning approach to your sessions, do not hesitate to contact the Program Director for guidance.