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**Virtual or in-person tutoring, is there a difference?**



Following the effects of the pandemic, 90% of corporations use virtual learning compared to 4% in 1995 <sup>1</sup>. This proportion is higher among educational institutions.

However, should this technological shift lead us to think that traditional teaching will be replaced by virtual teaching, or should we quickly conclude that in-person tutoring is the equivalent of virtual tutoring?

Will a doctor’s attention or direct measurement of their patient’s heart rate be the same as if this approach is done on telehealth? Surely there will be a difference.

Thus, there are many distinguishing factors between in-person and virtual tutoring. This blog presents the main factors while highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of each.

**In-person tutoring**

AVANTAGES	DISAVANTAGES
<p><b>Relationship</b> Strategically the best tutors develop a professional and friendly relationship with the student during their tutoring session. Several studies have shown that students who perceive their teacher or tutor as a mentor or helper are more motivated and engaged in their learning<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p><b>Concentration.</b> In the presence of his tutor, the student will be less inclined to use his cell phone to listen to music, send a text message or succumb to other forms of distraction. Consequently, its focus is optimized for effective learning</p> <p><b>Interaction.</b> In-person tutoring increases the level of direct interaction between the tutor and the student that is not restricted by a computer screen. In addition, this format is ideal for demonstrating laboratory concepts in science class and thus beneficial for kinesthetic students who learn through manipulation.</p>	<p><b>Travel time</b> For in-person tutoring, the tutor or student must travel a certain distance; it requires extra time .</p> <p><b>Location</b> The location and times of the sessions are more restricted than a virtual tutoring which could allow flexibility of the sessions either early in the morning or in the evening.</p> <p><b>Cost</b> Due to the displacement of the tutor, in-person tutoring becomes more expensive</p>

**Virtual tutoring**

AVANTAGES	DÉSAVANTAGES
<p><b>No travel time</b> For virtual tutoring, the student does not have to travel so this time can be redirected towards studies or activities</p> <p><b>Educational resources</b> For language, mathematics and theoretical science courses, the tutor has access to several online videos as well as other unlimited resources to illustrate and clarify the concepts</p> <p><b>Location and flexible schedule</b> Whether with parents, grandparents or another family member, a simple internet connection is enough. It is therefore very easy to schedule virtual tutoring sessions.</p> <p><b>Cost</b> Tutoring is usually obtained at a better cost because the tutor does not travel</p>	<p><b>Distraction</b> If a family member or a tutor is not at his side, the student can be distracted by his cell phone or his surroundings (radio, television, window, etc.). Some level of personal discipline or supervision of the student may be required.</p> <p><b>Equipment and internet connection</b> For a good tutoring session, it is essential that both the camera and the computer speakers work. In addition, the internet connection must be fast enough to avoid constant freezes or interruptions</p> <p><b>Student autonomy</b> A young elementary school student who does not use the computer fluently may need the assistance of a parent during a virtual tutoring session</p>



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In light of the information above, there are some variations between virtual and in-person tutoring. The choice of a parent should be made based on 2 main factors: the type of student and the type of course. For example, to prepare for a lab exam, in-person tutoring should be prioritized. For a student who has some proficiency with computers, then virtual tutoring may be the option. It should be noted that LMS tutors received training and strategies for conducting a virtual tutoring session with students who are diagnosed with ADHD (attention deficit with hyperactivity disorder).

### *LMS Consultant Team*

#### **About**

The mission of the LMS Centre is to help students excel or surpass themselves in math and science through continuous improvement. Provincial and national recognition of the expertise of its team has made it the leader in [tutoring services](#) and the Reference in [learning strategies](#)!

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#### References

1. Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG), 2022. London, England
2. Davis, H. A. (2013). Teacher-Student Relationships. In J. Hattie & E.M. Anderman (Eds.), *International Guide to Student Achievement* (pp. 221-223). New York: Routledge.
2. Murray, C. & Pianta, R.C. (2009). The Importance of Teacher-Student Relationships for Adolescents with High Incidence Disabilities. *Theory Into Practice* 46(2), 105-112.