



Schreibmotorik
INSTITUT

Schreibmotorik Institut e.V.

Schwanweg 1

90562 Heroldsberg

Kontakt: Andrej Priboschek

Agentur für Bildungsjournalismus

Telefon: 0211 / 97 17 75 53

Mobil: 0175 / 43 20 675

andrei.priboschek@bildungsjournalist.de

**Foundation of new institute: reducing
handwriting deficits**

Heroldsberg, November 2013

Foundation of new institute dedicated to researching the motor skills required for writing: learning to write is easier than you think

Poor grades for handwriting

More and more children have difficulties learning to write. According to the results of a study carried out by the Fraunhofer Institut, "when they finish primary school, many children have considerable problems writing legibly." *) Researchers warn that the consequences can be serious. Not only do children not enjoy writing but this also holds them back with their learning in general.

The initial situation is quite simple. Educational authorities, schools, educationalists and parents, as well as pupils themselves, all want legible, fluid and efficient handwriting. In recent years, there have been numerous actions, such as the introduction of the Vereinfachte Ausgangsschrift (VA – a standard lettering that has been established in several German federal states in order to simplify learning to write) and the latest ideas for learning to write by starting with unjoined printed characters. The concept of "practice makes perfect" is actually less successful than hoped. In 2013, the sobering conclusion was that all those involved experience

increasing helplessness and frustration, grades are poor, children have worse educational opportunities and the media talks about the “death of handwriting”.

The Schreibmotorik Institut as centre of expertise

The independent Schreibmotorik Institut was founded in 2012 in order to use scientific findings to help reduce shortcomings when writing by hand and learning to write. Supporters of the institute include scientists from the fields of ergonomics and writing motor skills, educational and didactics experts, as well as a manufacturer of writing instruments. So is this yet another attempt to rescue handwriting with an uncertain outcome? “No, it’s much more!” says Director Daniela Westner: “We are convinced that, with a few simple measures and just a little effort, we will soon see children learning to write much more successfully. The Schreibmotorik Institut researches, brings together and communicates the necessary expertise.”

Motor skills as key tool

The Schreibmotorik Institut is well positioned to start work. Scientific results from different studies and clinical research carried out in recent years all point in the same direction. “To ensure that our children learn to write quickly and legibly by hand without fatigue, we have to focus much more on the key tool. Namely on motor skills, on children’s ability to control their movements”, explains writing motor specialist, Dr Christian Marquardt: “The systematic development of fine motor skills provides the basis for less frustration and greater success at school.” In order to put this into practice, the institute will soon be offering scientifically-based training in motor skills for teachers and nursery-school teachers. “Because”, says Dr Marquardt, “children should enjoy learning to write from the start!”

**) Source: Die Bedeutung der Handschrift im Kontext der Digitalisierung, Fraunhofer Institut für Digitale Medientechnologie IDMT, Erfurt, 2011*