



Schreibmotorik Institut e. V.
Schwanweg 1
90562 Heroldsberg, Germany
www.schreibmotorik-institut.com

Contact: Andrej Priboschek
Tel. +49 (0)175 / 43 20 675
andrej.priboschek@bildungsjournalist.de



Verband Bildung und Erziehung (VBE)
Behrenstraße 24
10117 Berlin
www.vbe.de

Contact: Anne Roewer
Tel: +49 (0)30 726 19 66 17
presse@vbe.de

Press release

What's the deal with handwriting? VBE and Schreibmotorik Institut ask teachers

BERLIN, 2 November 2018. **How well can students write by hand? The VBE Verband Bildung und Erziehung has worked with the Schreibmotorik Institut to create a survey among teachers that should provide current answers to these questions.**

"Learning to write has been proven to positively impact the development of children's motor and mental skills. That which we write down by hand can be remembered more easily. We therefore want to incorporate teachers' experiences into a survey in order to raise awareness of the topic", Udo Beckmann – VBE's national chairman explains. The study is entitled STEP 2019 ("*Studie über die Entwicklung, Probleme und Interventionen zum Thema Handschreiben*" [Study of Development, Problems and Interventions on the topic of handwriting]). Primary and secondary school teachers are asked various questions considering the different stages of development of their pupils. The results are expected to be published in spring 2019.

Colleagues are complaining that an increasing number of children are coming to school with motor-skill deficiencies. It is unknown as to how many students are currently experiencing difficulties in developing "legible, fluent handwriting" as required by educational standards. Also, the influence of the use of digital devices upon handwriting acquisition has not been investigated. Beckmann stresses, however, that it is not a case of competition between handwriting and the use of digital devices: "If anything, we find it exciting that teachers are now using digital media in a mix of both methods. Based upon the survey, we are able to keep our finger on the pulse of time and hope to answer questions about the duality of proven and modern cultural techniques."

"Handwriting is not merely a pretty cultural skill that can be done away with in the age of digitalisation – it's about educational opportunities. Neuroscientists have pointed out that there is a correlation between motor skills and cognitive development in children," says Dr. Marianela Diaz Meyer, Managing Director of the Schreibmotorik Institut. She refers to scientific tests that clearly indicate that children's writing skills can quickly be improved via playful approaches and with little effort. However, nurseries and schools, which are already overburdened, require support.

Udo Beckmann and Dr. Marianela Diaz Meyer are appealing to teachers from all types of schools to participate in the online survey (which should take approx. 15 minutes) to publicise potential issues.

Check out the survey here: <https://media.4teachers.de/step2019/>