



Nasjonalt senter for  
leseopplæring og leseforskning

Universitetet i Stavanger

Camilla Fitjar, universitetslektor og PhD-student

---

# Håndskrift – mer enn bare motorikk

---

Nasjonal konferanse om lesing 2024

# DIGIHAND



33 skoler

1.-2. klasse

Nynorsk

- Kun digitalt
- Kun håndskrift
- Jatakk begge deler

*Nordic Journal of Literacy Research*  
Vol. 6 | No. 2 | 2020 | pp. 25–41

Protocol

## Study protocol: DigiHand – the emergence of handwriting skills in digital classrooms

Siv M. Gamlem,<sup>1\*</sup> Wenke M. Rogne,<sup>1</sup>  
Vibeke Rønneberg<sup>2</sup> and Per Henning Uppstad<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Volda University College and <sup>2</sup>University of Stavanger

### Abstract

This protocol article presents the project “DigiHand: The emergence of handwriting skills in digital classrooms.”<sup>1</sup> The project is a longitudinal natural experiment investigating how the use of different writing tools influences students’ handwriting and letter knowledge, word reading, spelling, written narrative composition and teacher–student interactions in Grades 1 and 2 (students aged 6 years in Grade 1). Participants are 33 schools (n = 585 students) representing three occurring conditions for learning writing skills in early years. Students in these conditions either (1) learn to write on a tablet while postponing handwriting, (2) learn both to handwrite and write on a tablet or (3) learn to handwrite. Effect analyses are conducted on four main domains of measures: (i) students’ letter knowledge, spelling competence and word reading competence; (ii) students’ handwriting fluency; (iii) students’ ability to write narrative compositions; (iv) quality of teacher–student interactions. This protocol describes the background, design and pre- and outcome measures for the research project.

**Keywords:** *Handwriting vs. digital writing; postponing handwriting; tablets; teacher–*

# Hva jeg *ikke* kommer til å snakke om:

---

- Framtidens skrivemodaliteter
- Hvorvidt barn lærer bedre med blyant eller tastatur
- Tekstproduksjon

# Hva jeg skal snakke om

---

- Om ulike typer motoriske ferdigheter i bokstavforming
- Faktorer som bidrar til flyt i bokstavforming hos førsteklasinger når de kopierer kjente og ukjente bokstaver – en studie fra min doktorgrad

# Å lære å skrive bokstaver for hånd handler om å:

---

koble fonemer til grafemer

skille de ulike grafemene fra hverandre

ha en abstrakt motorplan for kjente bokstaver

utføre en motorplan for kjente bokstaver med en bestemt hånd



Kognitivt

Motor

# Hva er motoriske ferdigheter i håndskrift?

---

## **Grovmotor**

sittestilling  
holdning

## **Finmotor**

håndledd,  
albue,  
skulder

## **Oculomotor**

øyemuskulatur,  
visuell persepsjon,  
visuomotor modning

Erhardt & Meade (2005)

Evnen til å tre perler på en snor predikerer ikke avkodningsferdigheter hos førskolebarn, men det gjør evnen til å kopiere greske bokstaver (Suggate et al. 2016)

# Visuomotor integrering

- **Visuell persepsjon**  
Kunne identifisere like objekter
- **Motorkoordinering**  
Flytte pennen fra punkt til punkt
- **Visuomotor integrering:**  
Flytte pennen intensjonelt fra et punkt til et annet for å *kopiere* en figur
- Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration (Beery & Beery, 2010)
- Predikerer lesbarhet når 3.-5. klassinger på Taiwan kopierte en tekst (Tseng & Murray, 1994).

FORMS 4 & 7 Vertical Line

Age Norms: 2:0 Imitated  
2:10 Copied

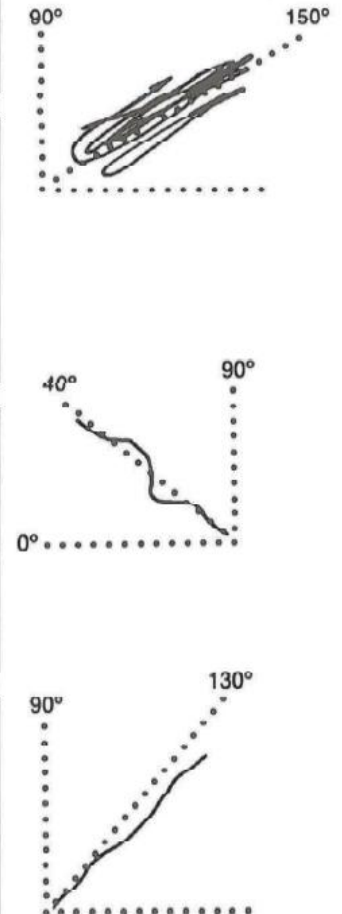
Scoring Criteria

1. Over 1/2 of line(s) within 30° of vertical

Score 1



No Score

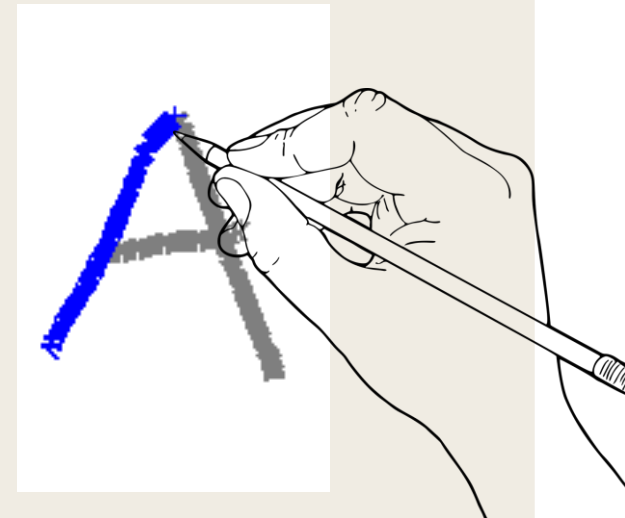
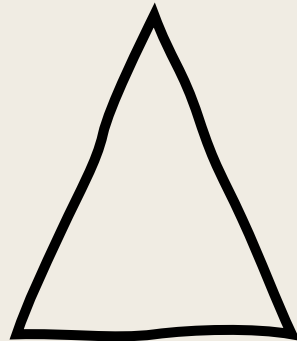
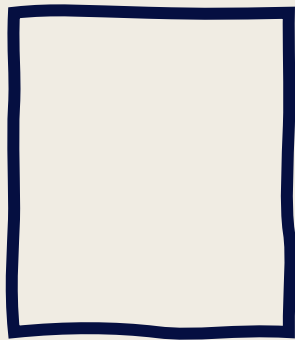


# Grafomotoriske ferdigheter

---

Grafem (bokstav) + motor

Bokstaver vs geometriske figurer



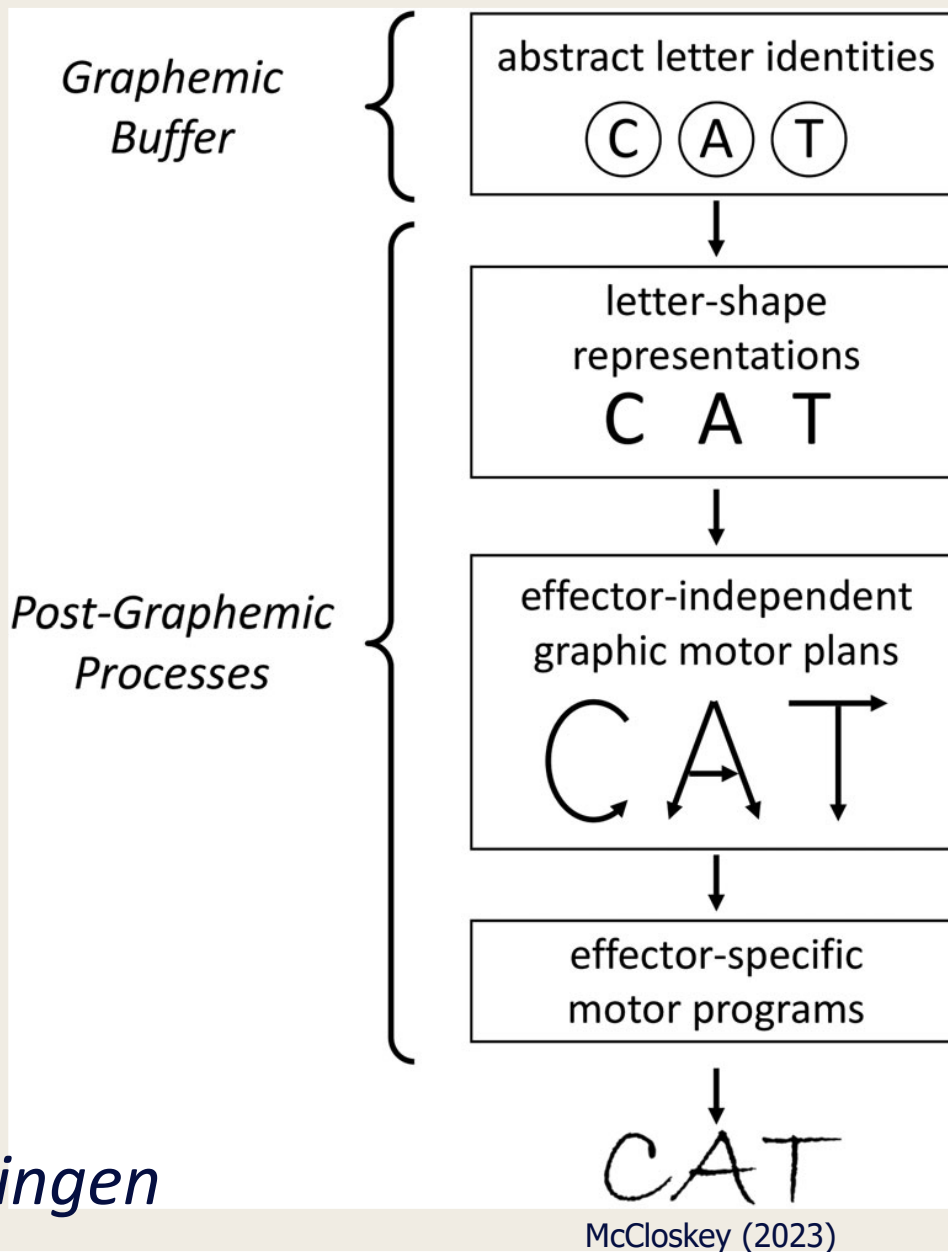


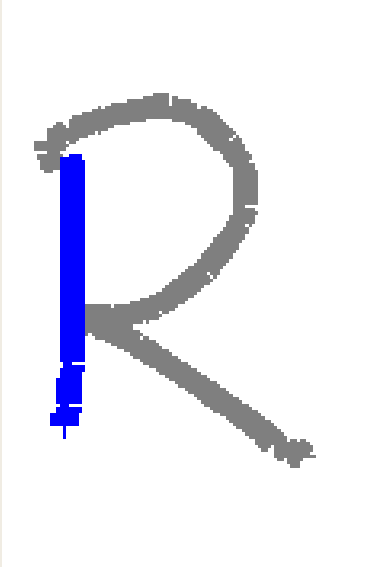
# Fra tanke til skrift

---

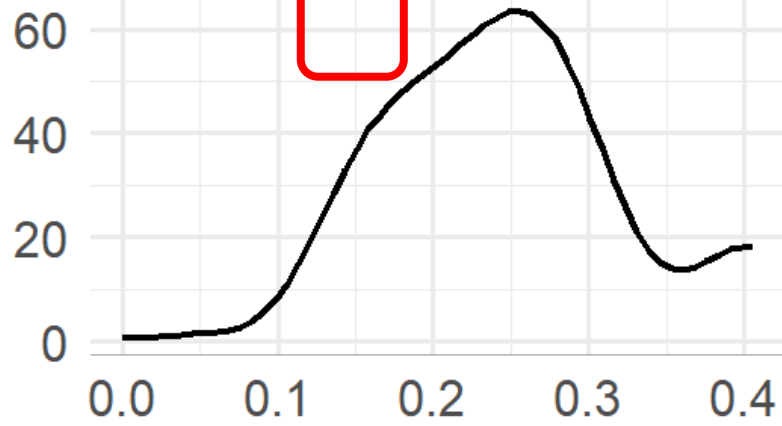
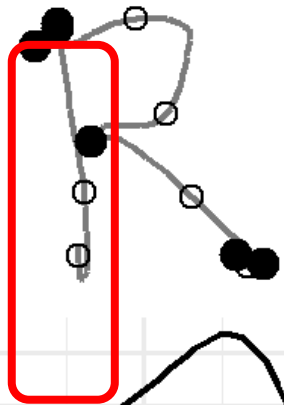
- Koble fonem – grafem
- Hente fram allograf (versjon av bokstaven)
- Aktivere en effektor *uavhengig* motorplan
- Aktivere en effektor *avhengig* motorplan

*Effektor: den kroppsdelen som utfører handlingen*

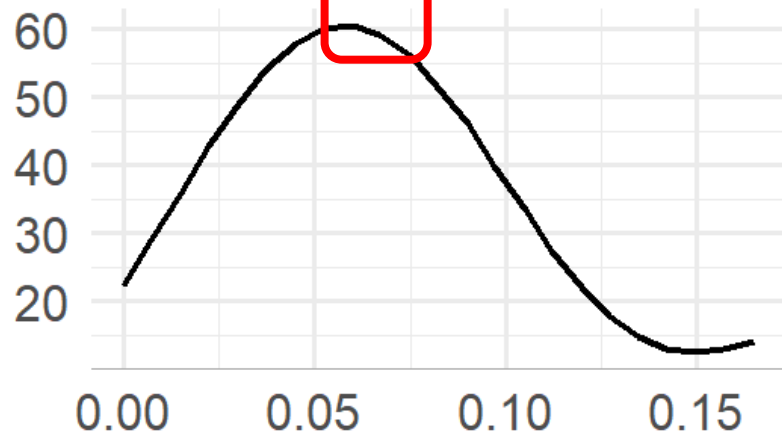
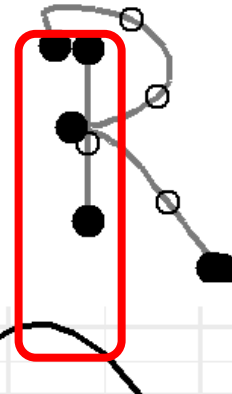




Adult non-dominant hand



Adult dominant hand

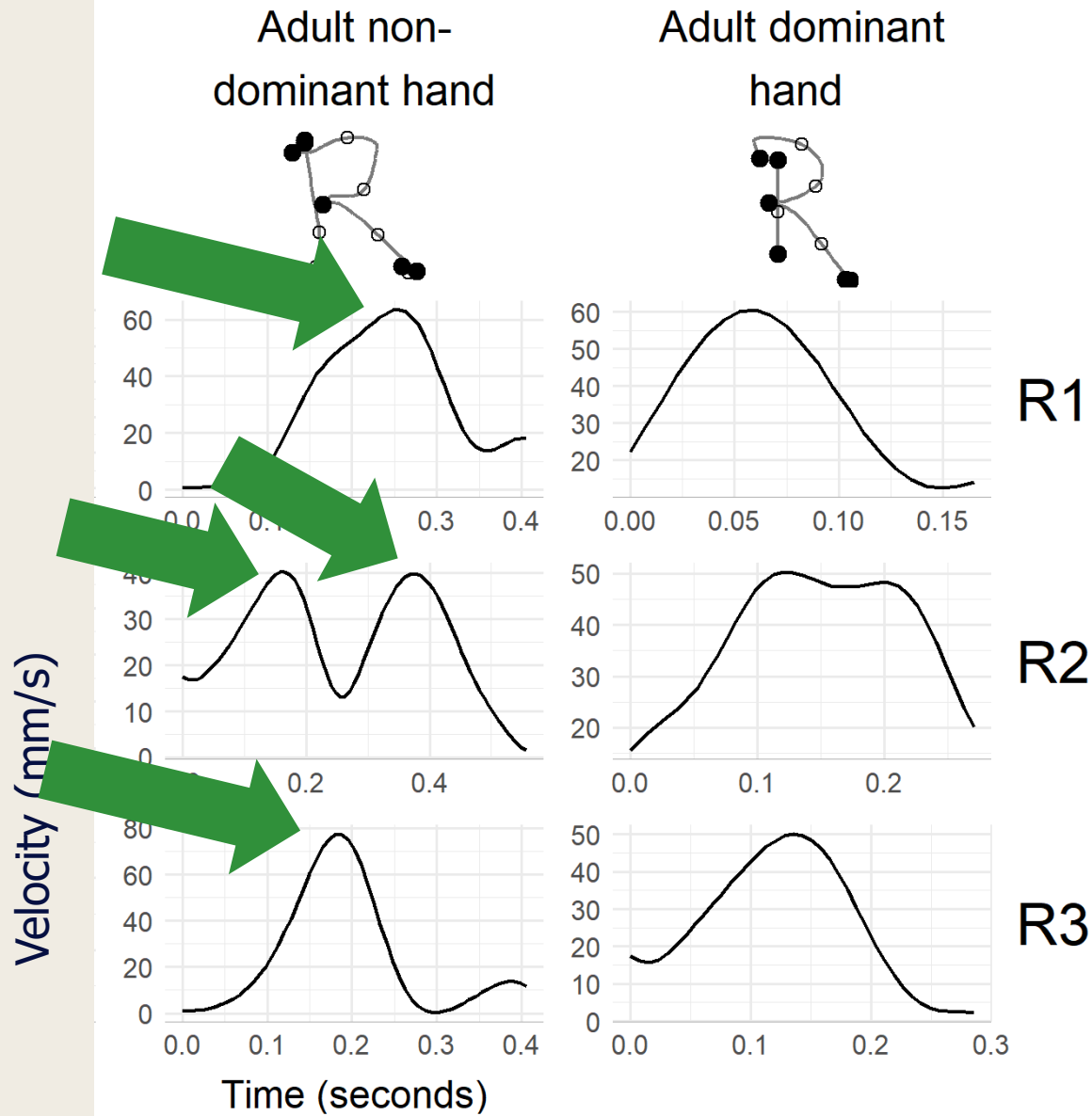


Velocity (mm/s)

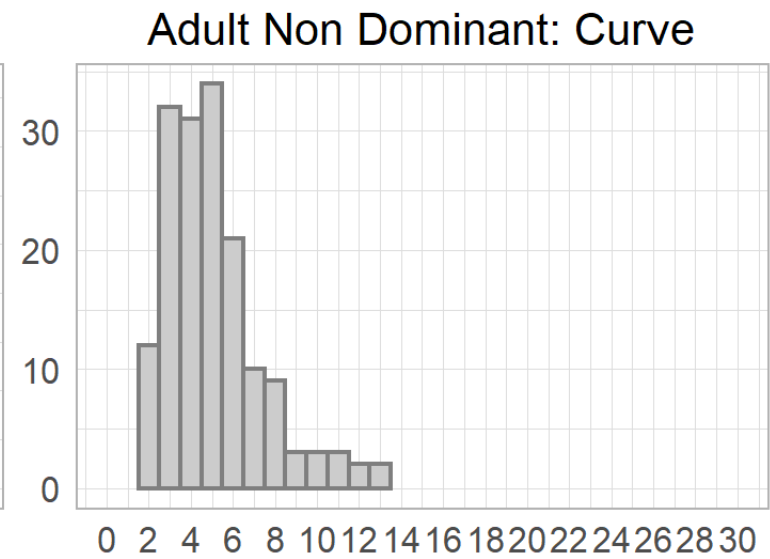
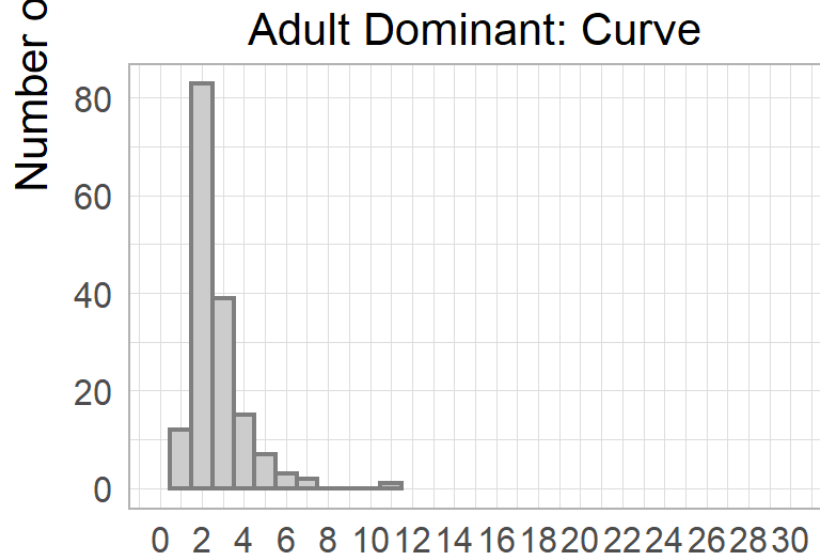
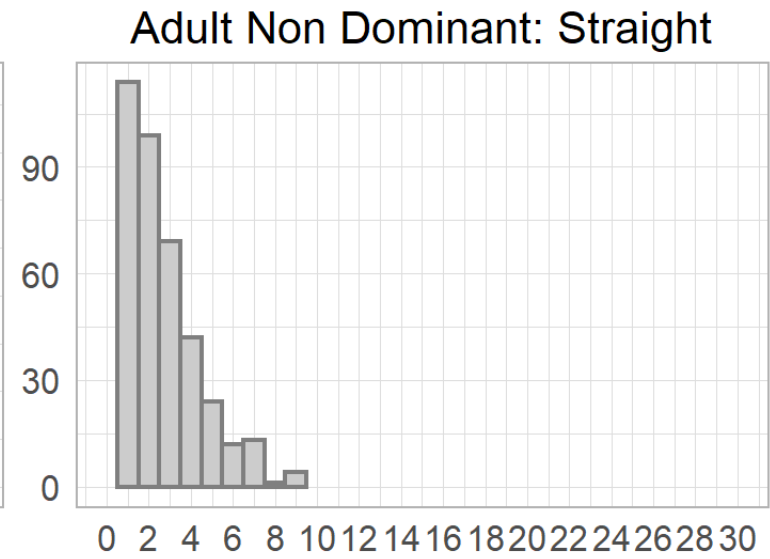
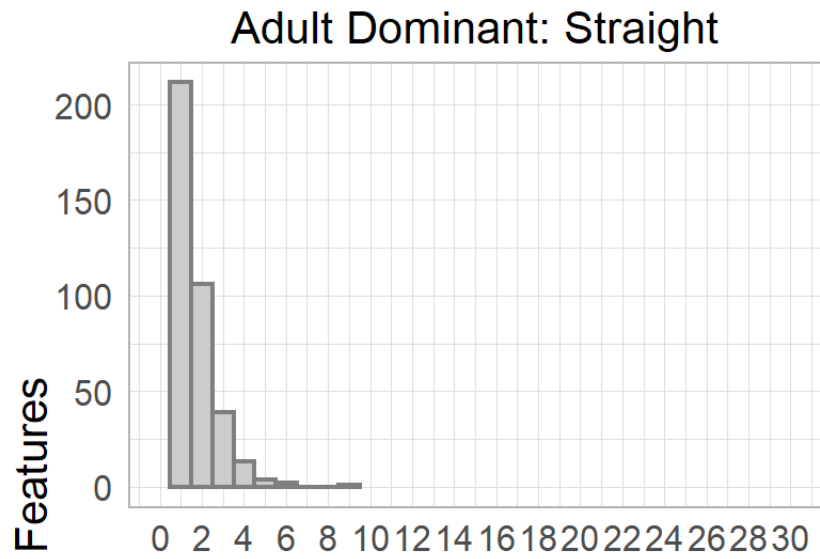
Time (seconds)

R1

Fitjar et al., 2024



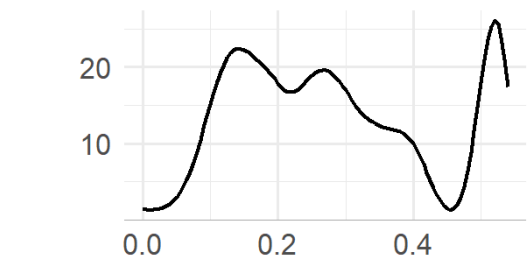
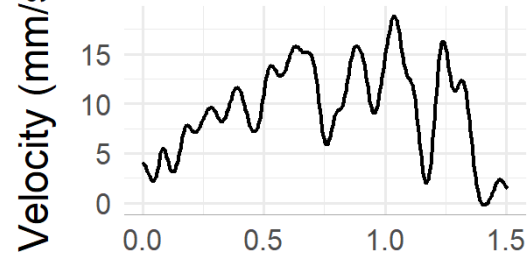
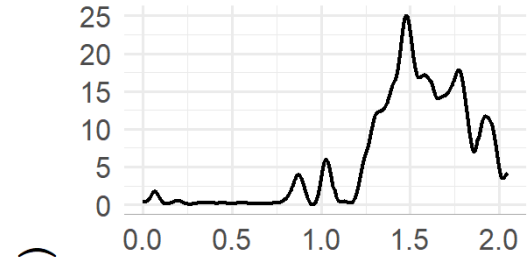
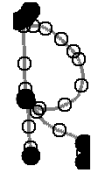
Fitjar et al., 2024



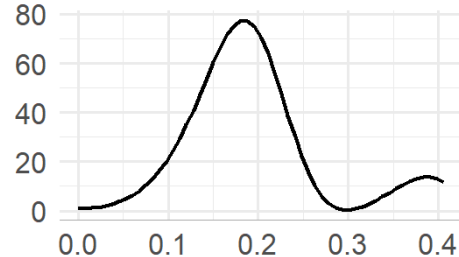
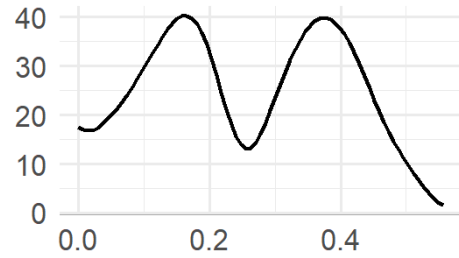
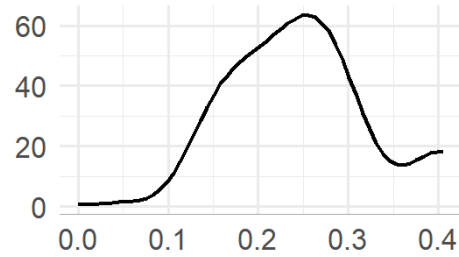
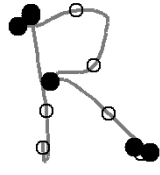
Count of Velocity Maxima

Fitjar et al., 2024

Child

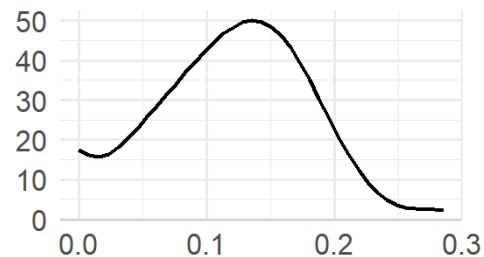
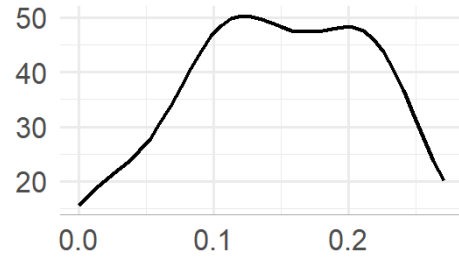
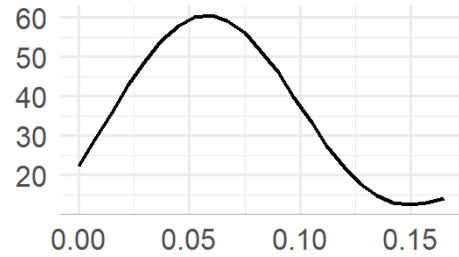
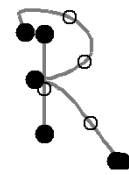


Adult non-dominant hand



Time (seconds)

Adult dominant hand



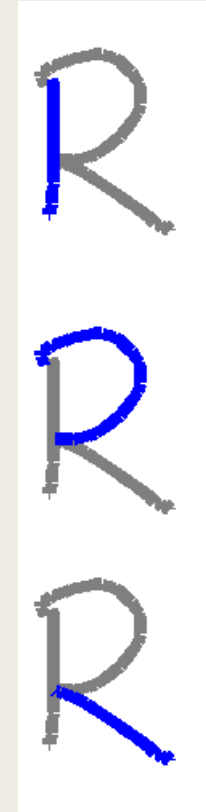
R1



R2



R3



Fitjar et al., 2024

# Hva bidrar til flyt i pennebevegelsen?

- 177 barn / 10 skoler
- 1. klasse (September)



## Learning Handwriting: Factors Affecting Pen-Movement Fluency in Beginning Writers

Camilla L. Fitjar<sup>1\*</sup>, Vibeke Rønneberg<sup>1</sup>, Guido Nottbusch<sup>2</sup> and Mark Torrance<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Norwegian Reading Centre, University of Stavanger, Stavanger, Norway, <sup>2</sup>Human Science Faculty, Primary School Education, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany, <sup>3</sup>Psychology Department, School of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, United Kingdom

Skilled handwriting of single letters is associated not only with a neat final product but also with fluent pen-movement, characterized by a smooth pen-tip velocity profile. Our study explored fluency when writing single letters in children who were just beginning to learn to handwrite, and the extent to which this was predicted by the children's pen-control ability and by their letter knowledge. 176 Norwegian children formed letters by copying and from dictation (i.e., in response to hearing letter sounds). Performance on these tasks was assessed in terms of the counts of velocity inversions as the children produced sub-letter features that would be produced by competent handwriters as a single, smooth (ballistic) action. We found that there was considerable variation in these measures across writers, even when producing well-formed letters. Children also copied unfamiliar symbols, completed various pen-control tasks (drawing lines, circles, garlands, and figure eights), and tasks that assessed knowledge of letter sounds and shapes. After controlling for pen-control ability, pen-movement fluency was affected by letter knowledge (specifically children's performance on a task that required selecting graphemes on the basis of their sound). This was the case when children retrieved letter forms from dictated letter sounds, but also when directly copying letters and, unexpectedly, when copying unfamiliar symbols. These findings suggest that familiarity with a letter affects movement fluency during letter production but may also point towards a more general ability to process new letter-like symbols in children with good letter knowledge.

**Keywords:** children, handwriting, fluency, pen-control, letter knowledge

### INTRODUCTION

It is still the case that in nearly all educational contexts children first learn to write by forming letters with pen or pencil on paper. The ability to handwrite is therefore a prerequisite for beginning to write. There is also evidence that, as children write longer texts, ability to retrieve and form letters and words quickly predicts the substantive quality of their written compositions (Feng et al., 2019). Several authors have argued that slow handwritten output not only reduces productivity – important when task duration is limited by time or motivation – but also demands attention that might otherwise be devoted to thinking about higher-level text structures (e.g., Berninger and

### OPEN ACCESS

**Edited by:**

Anna Maria Re,  
University of Turin, Italy

**Reviewed by:**

Jeremy Danna,  
CNRS, France  
Natale Adolfo Stucchi,  
University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

**\*Correspondence:**

Camilla L. Fitjar  
Camilla.L.fitjar@uis.no

**Specialty section:**

This article was submitted to  
Educational Psychology,  
a section of the journal  
Frontiers in Psychology

**Received:** 03 February 2021

**Accepted:** 13 April 2021

**Published:** 20 May 2021

**Citation:**

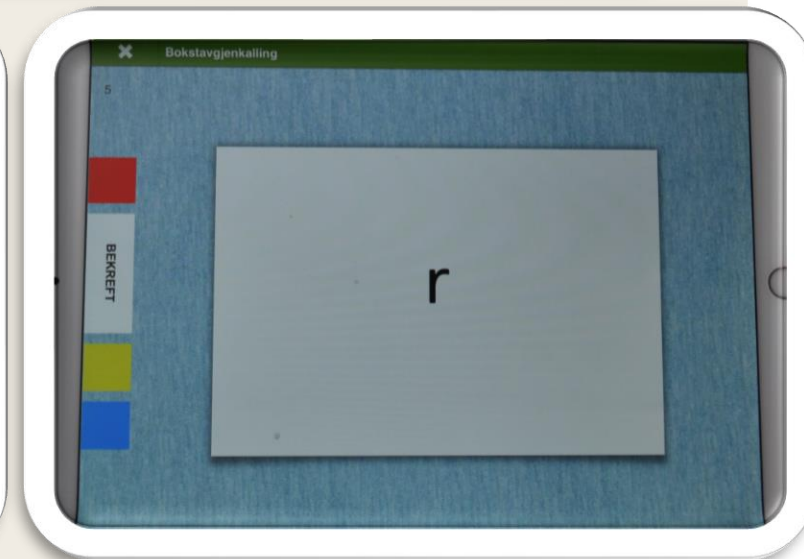
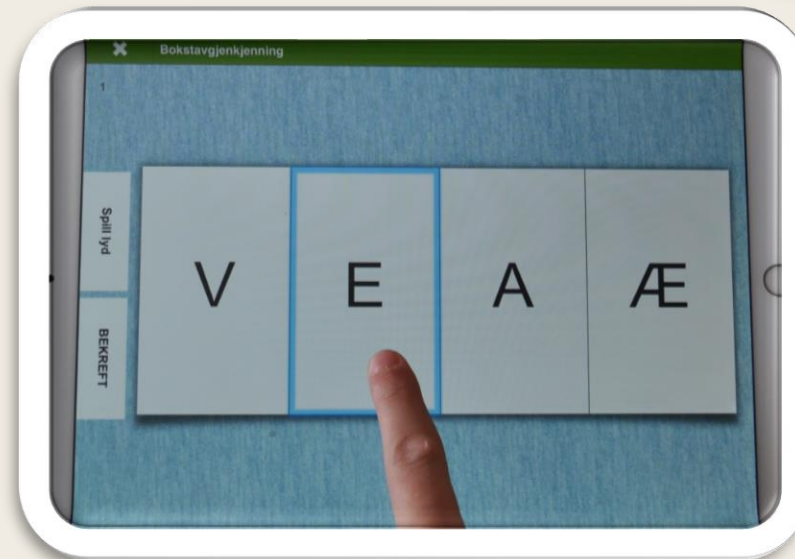
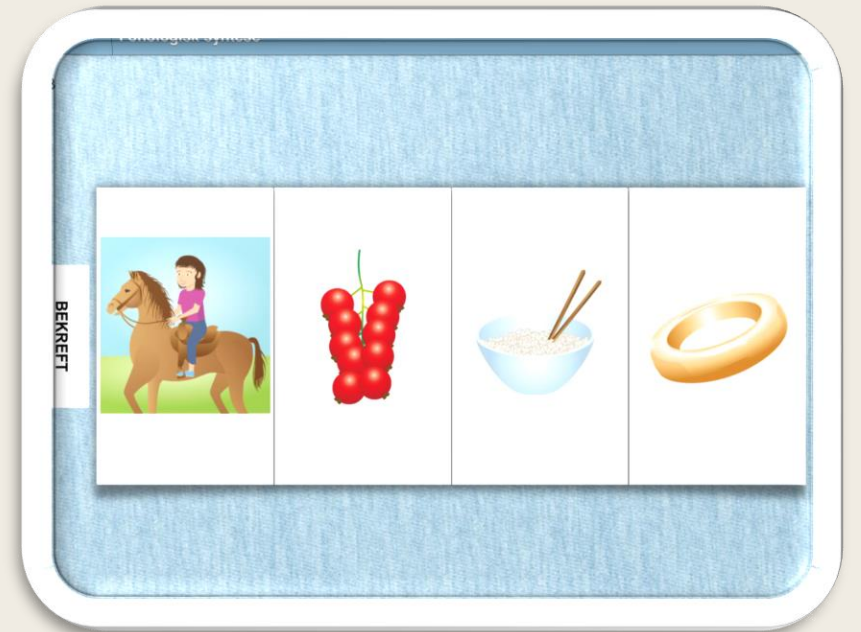
Fitjar CL, Rønneberg V,  
Nottbusch G and Torrance M (2021)  
Learning Handwriting: Factors  
Affecting Pen-Movement Fluency  
in Beginning Writers.  
Front. Psychol. 12:663829.

## Hva bidrar til flyt i pennebevegelsen hos førsteklasinger?

---

Kjennskap til bokstaver og avkoding

- Framlydsanalyse
- Ordlesing
- Fonologisk syntese
- Bokstavlydgjenkalling
- Staving (på papir)

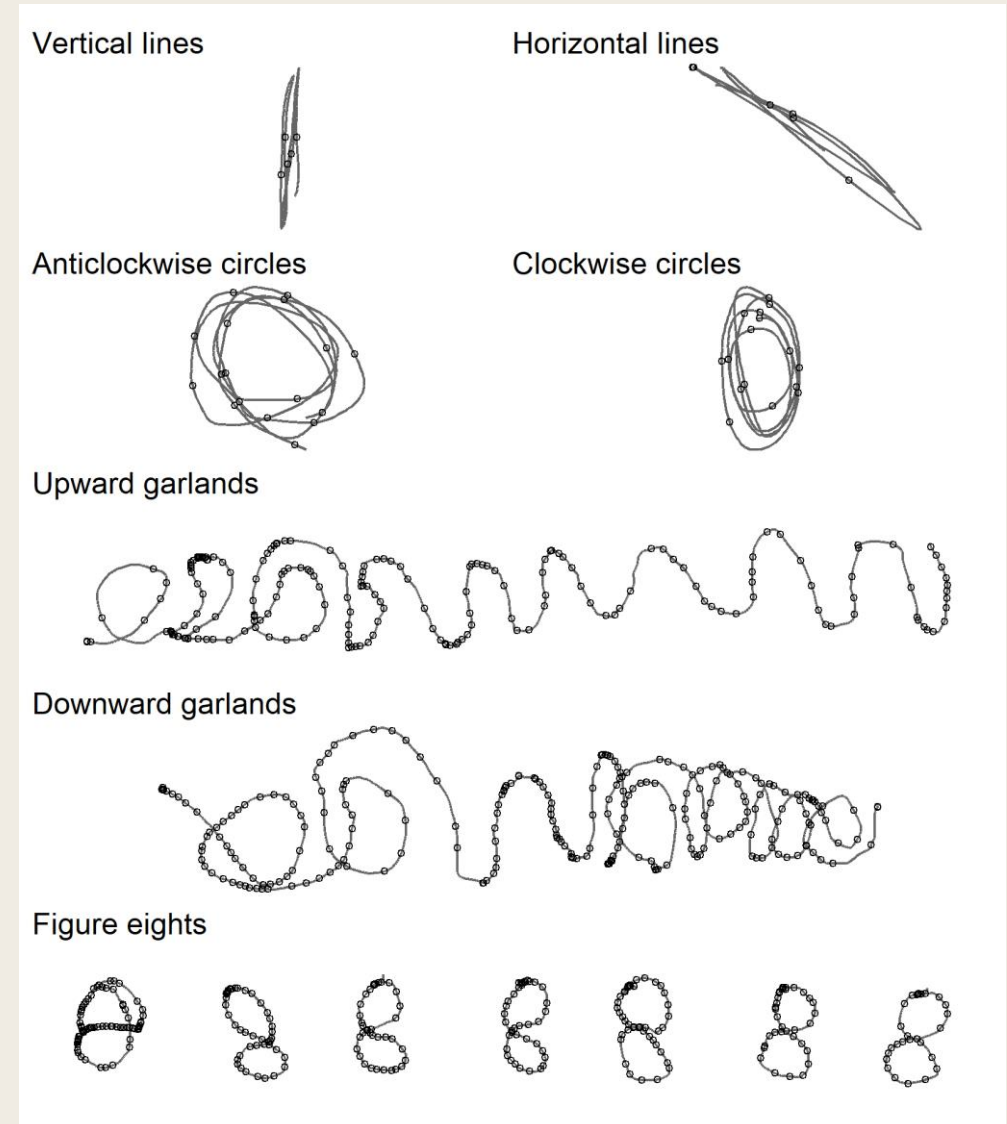


## Hva bidrar til flyt i pennebevegelsen hos førsteklassinger?

---

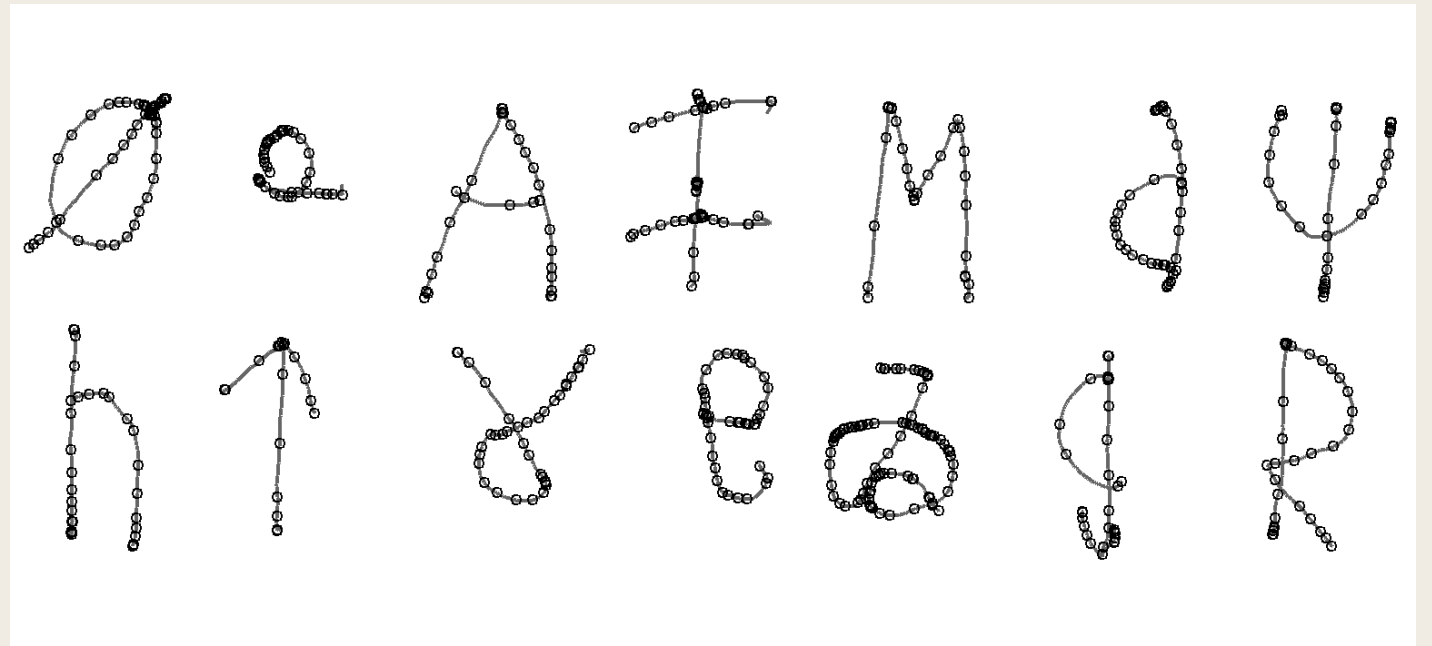
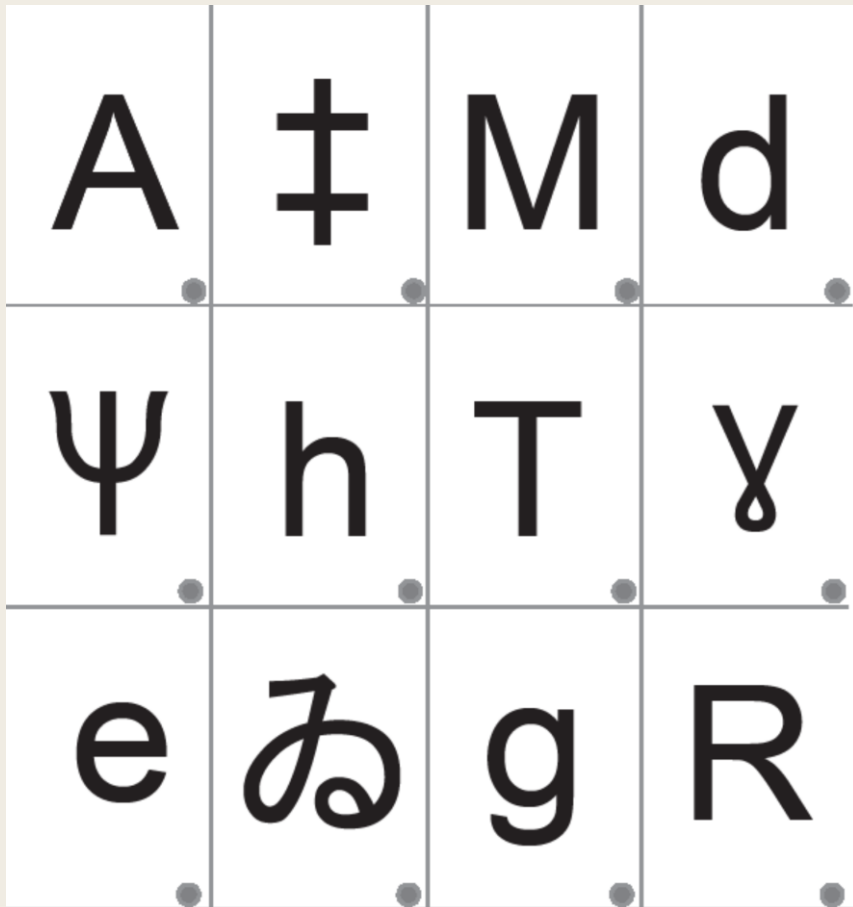
Kontroll på pennen – fra lett til vanskelig:

- Potensial for flytende pennebevegelse (Mai & Marquardt, 1994)
- Visuomotorisk integrering
- Symbol som ikke er bokstav gjentatte ganger



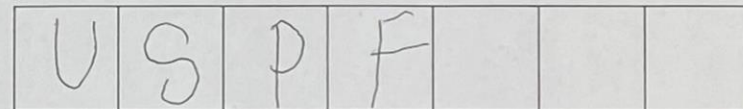
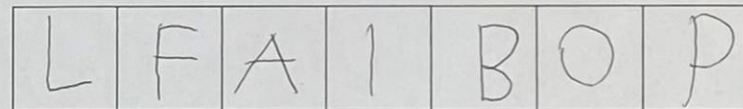
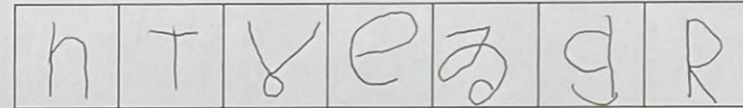
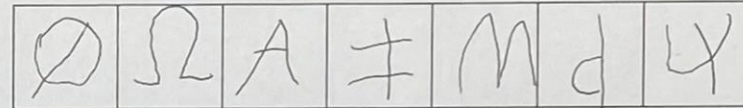
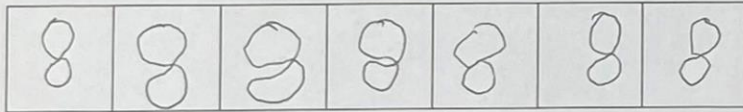
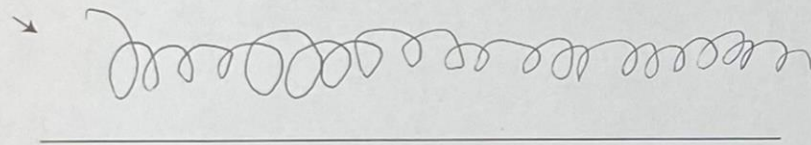
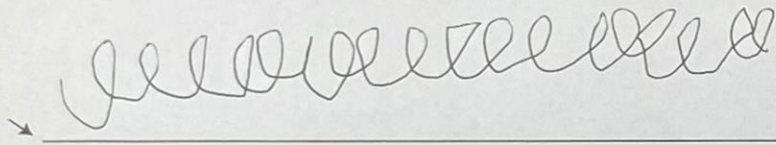


# Kopiere kjente og ukjente bokstaver





HANNA



Pen-movement disfluency (velocity peak count) when copying characters. Estimated effects with 95% CI.	Main effects	Interaction with Feature-is-curve	Interaction with Character-is-letter
Intercept	10 [8.0, 12]		
Feature is malformed (vs. correct)	3.0 [2.1, 3.9] ***		
Feature is a curve (vs. straight line)	7.3 [6.7, 8.0] ***		
Character is a letter (vs. symbol)	-2.1 [-4.8, .52]		
Pen-control fluency			
Lines	-.31 [-1.0, .42]	.12 [-.46, .70]	.32 [-.24, .87]
Circles	.55 [-.20, 1.3]	.53 [-.06, 1.1]	-.06 [-.63, .50]
Garlands	.73 [.01, 1.5] *	.37 [-.21, .94]	-.56 [-1.1, -.00] *
Figure Eights	1.8 [1.1, 2.5] ***	1.3 [.70, 1.8] ***	-.58 [-1.1, -.05] *
Letter knowledge			
Phoneme to Grapheme encoding	-1.1 [-1.8, -.34] **		
Phoneme isolation	.01 [-.74, .75]		
Phoneme blending	.36 [-.35, 1.1]		

Note. Parameter estimates from a linear mixed-effects model with random by-item and by-subject intercepts. Blank cells indicate that effect was absent in the best-fit model. \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .001$

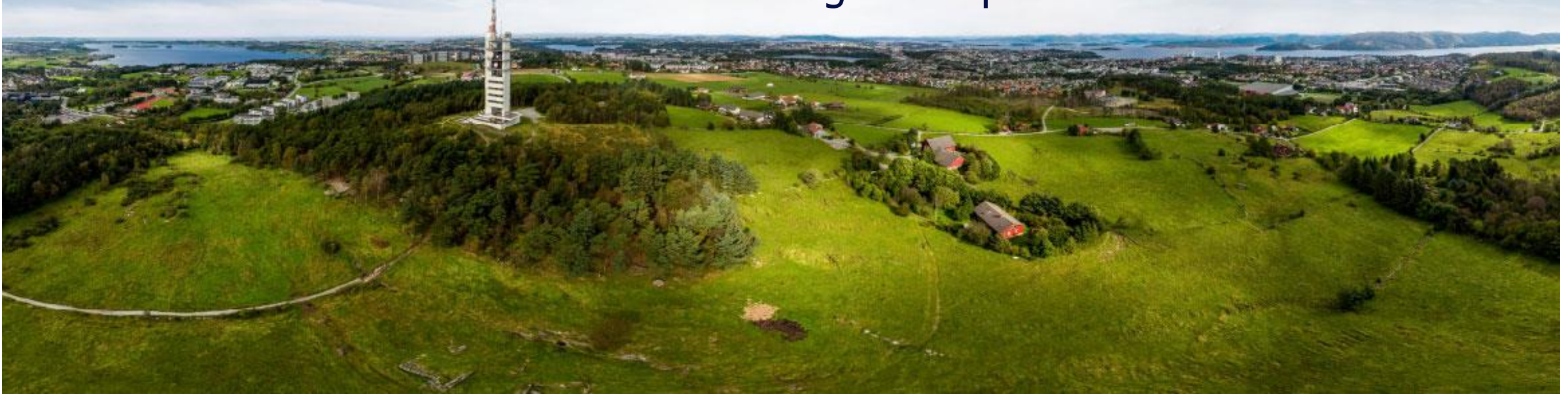


”

Å lære å skrive bokstaver handler om noe mer enn å forme pene bokstaver.

Flytende bokstavforming kan forklares med god kjennskap til bokstaver generelt sett.

Det handler om å lære hva en bokstav er i vårt alfabet, hvordan kan bokstaver se ut og hva representerer de.



# Referanser

---

Beery K. E., Beery N. A. (2010). *Administration, scoring, and teaching manual for the Beery-VMI* (6th ed.). San Antonio, TX: Pearson.

Erhardt, R. P., & Meade, V. (2005). Improving handwriting without teaching handwriting: The consultative clinical reasoning process. *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 52(3), 199–210. DOI: 10.1111/j.1440-1630.2005.00505.x

Fitjar, C. L. (2024). Advances in the study of handwritten letters: Influential factors, measures and methods.

Fitjar, C. L., Rønneberg, V., Nottbusch, G., & Torrance, M. (2021). Learning handwriting: Factors affecting pen-movement fluency in beginning writers. *Frontiers in psychology*, 12, 663829. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2021.663829

Fitjar, C. L., Rønneberg, V., & Torrance, M. (2024). Assessing handwriting: a method for detailed analysis of letter-formation accuracy and fluency. *Reading and Writing*, 37(2), 291-327. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11145-022-10308-z>

Gamlem, S. T. M., Rogne, W. M., Rønneberg, V., & Uppstad, P. H. (2020). Study protocol: DigiHand—the emergence of handwriting skills in digital classrooms. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23865/njlr.v6.2115>

McCloskey, M. (2023): Properties of graphic motor plans in the writing system, *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, DOI: 10.1080/02643294.2023.2178293

Suggate, S., Pufke, E., & Stoeger, H. (2016). The effect of fine and grapho-motor skill demands on preschoolers' decoding skill. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 141, 34-48. DOI: 10.1016/j.jecp.2015.07.012