

ERGONOMIC APPRAISAL OF THE STABILO 's move easyergo

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Ergonomic development process based on scientific criteria

At a young age, writing habits can still be influenced by the use of a suitable writing instrument. It is important for a pen intended for learner writers to be compatible with the characteristics, abilities and skills of children. An ergonomic design and the taking into consideration of handedness, by using a pencil made specifically for right or left-handers, both lead to better gripping habits. This in turn prevents cramping and sore muscles.

The STABILO 's move easyergo pencil for learning to write is the result of a highly user-oriented design process. The Institute for Ergonomics at the TU Darmstadt, experts from the fields of ergonomics, medicine and psychology, as well as children aged 3–8 were involved. Various design parameters were examined during the ergonomic tests. At the same time, it was investigated whether the handling of this pencil for learner writers differed in comparison to other pencils.

Positive design characteristics:

The shape of the STABILO 's move easyergo is compatible with the anatomical features of a child's hand. This is especially true regarding the design of different versions for right and left-handers, which is a further ergonomic advantage.

Another positive feature is the way it takes the dimensions of the hand and finger sizes of 5 to 8-year-olds into account. For the desired target group of children with little writing practice, the flexibility in gripping positions, with three grip zones, helps them. The profile of these has the advantage of preventing fingers from slipping down towards the pencil tip. The soft elasticity of the gripping zone represents an advantage over wooden pencils.

The dimensions, such as pencil length and diameter, are very well adapted to hand and finger sizes. According to ergonomic recommendations, a thicker pencil requires less fine motor skills and coordination than a thin one. For this reason, thicker pencils are considered helpful to children learning to write. Unfavourable leverage, which is common when using long pencils, is avoided.

Along with the intuitive gripping position, the light weight especially helps to minimize the effort required by children's hands during writing.

The coloring of the material is especially appealing to children. The difference between the materials in the gripping zone and the other parts of the pencil is regarded as positive from an ergonomic point of view. The softer surface of the gripping zone is pleasing to children. Also, the soft material of the gripping zone allows the pencil to be gripped firmly and at the same time prevents pressure marks on the fingers.

What's special about STABILO 's move easyergo:

The following advantages of this learner pencil could be deduced from the studies performed with children:

- » easy to pick up and hold
- » multipurpose use
- » suited to age and stage of development
- » fatigue-free writing

On the basis of the above criteria, I can strongly recommend the STABILO 's move easyergo from an ergonomic point of view!