



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Gesell Institute of Child Development
Releases FREE Resource for Education Reform Advocates**

New Haven, CT (October 25, 2012) – Gesell Institute of Child Development is proud to announce the release of its Community Early Childhood LEADership E-Kit. It is available free to the public via a CD-ROM or live on the Internet; both contain the same important information. The Institute encourages educators and parents to review the website, and take full advantage of this opportunity to help widen the current national conversation on education reform, starting with our youngest learners.

On the E-Kit website (www.geselle-kit.org) viewers will find proceedings from Gesell Institute's 60th Anniversary LEAD (Learn, Educate, Advocate, Do!) Conference held on the Yale campus. There are audio files and transcriptions of the keynote speeches by Joan Almon (Alliance for Childhood), T. Berry Brazelton (Harvard's Touchstone Institute), and Jacqueline Jones (U.S. Department of Education). The four panels on Practice, Play, Research, and Policy include luminaries such as U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro, Walter Gilliam (Yale Child Study Center), Sharon Lynn Kagan (Teachers College, Columbia University), and Edward Zigler (Founder of Head Start). The E-Kit also features 13 original thought papers. A 30-minute video, "Raising Test Scores the *Right Way*," documents the crisis in early childhood education today.

The Tools for Change Tool Kit section of the E-Kit provides valuable resources to encourage and guide viewers to begin their own community conversations about education reform, understand best practices found in research, and how to hold discussions about implementing quality early childhood programs. It is customized for educators, parents, and policy makers. In addition to sample PowerPoint presentations, there are how-to guides, success stories, meeting invitations, agendas, and a listing of helpful books, articles, and videos to help facilitate conversations that could generate change on a school, district, or state level.

The E-Kit website and the duplication of the CD-ROM was made possible due to generous donations and sponsorship from Consolidated Edison Company of New York (Con Edison), Highlights Magazine for Children, Yale University, Albertus Magnus College, and KaBOOM!

Gesell Institute of Child Development is an independent non-profit organization that has been associated with how children grow and learn since 1950. The work of Arnold Gesell, PhD, MD (1888-1961) has had a profound influence on the field of child development. Based on Dr. Gesell's pioneering work documenting infant and child growth and development, Gesell Institute's programs and publications now help parents and educators understand the ages and stages of childhood. Professional development and parent workshops cover a broad range of topics regarding child behavior, healthy growth and development, and positive learning outcomes. For additional information and resources, visit www.gesellinstitute.org. Gesell Institute is on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

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