



## **Gesell Developmental Observation Study 2008-2009**

### ***Fact Sheet & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)***

Early childhood personnel from around the country have been recruited to participate in a national study to collect normative and exploratory data on Gesell Institute's early childhood assessment, the **Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO) ©2007**. Data is being collected from a nationally diverse sample of children pulled from each region of the country and selected across eight different age groups: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0. A total of 1600 children are being targeted for study participation.

The GDO, based on the original schedules developed by Arnold Gesell, PhD, MD at Yale University in the 1940's and revised many times since at the Institute, is currently used by thousands of preschool and elementary schools across the country to determine a child's stage of development. The GDO was quite popular in the 1980's with almost 20% of all Kindergarten children receiving the assessment. It consists of many familiar performance items—block building; copying shapes and forms; writing name, letters, and numbers; interview questions about the child's personal life; complete a man drawing; language and comprehension questions; etc.

The current study design includes the following components and timeline:

- Recruitment of current users beginning Spring 2008
- Free training via conference call for participants Fall 2008 through Summer 2009
- GDO administration and data collection Fall 2008 through October 31, 2009
- Compensation to teachers/administrators at \$2.50 per completed form (GDO, Pilot Questions, Teacher Questionnaire, Parent Questionnaire)
- Data entry, scoring, and analysis Spring 2009 through Winter 2009
- Anticipated dissemination of new norms and scoring rubrics Winter 2009

*We continue to recruit participants in certain areas of the country. If you are interested in participating in our study, please complete our interest form attached here, or contact Program Coordinator Andrea Sambrook at 203-777-3481 x706 or [andrea@gesellinstitute.org](mailto:andrea@gesellinstitute.org).*

*Please refer to the following page for our "FAQ" to see if your question is answered there. Thank you!*

## GDO Study FAQ

1. Will the assessment be the exact same one we are used to administering?  
*Yes and no. All of the same items in the 2007 assessment will still be administered. However, GDO is not scored, nor is Developmental Age determined for the study. There will also be a new interview for children, some additional pilot child items, a survey for teachers, and a parent questionnaire. The order of certain sections or items may also be slightly different.*
2. What will the new items look at?  
*The new items are designed to collect information about the child's social, emotional, and adaptive behaviors, as well as some academic indicators in the areas of developmental literacy and numeracy. Parents and guardians will also have the opportunity to share past experiences and behaviors that they have seen at home and that the teacher may not have had the opportunity to observe in the classroom.*
3. Why is it necessary to add items?  
*Research shows that social/emotional and adaptive items relate to school success and, furthermore, are mandated by several federal and local programs. The current GDO does not adequately assess these items. Currently, a standard GDO Parent Questionnaire does not exist. In addition, some new items are being tested that may appear on a future Gesell measure.*
4. How many children must be assessed at each site?  
*There is no set number that must come from each site, although a minimum of one full class of children is preferred if possible. No more than 240 cases can be from any one location.*
5. What if I sign up for 18 children and then I can only deliver 15 completed assessments?  
*That is fine if that happens; however, only completed forms will be compensated (@\$2.50 each) that are returned and received by the Institute. (Make sure to keep a copy!)*
6. What if I have questions after the training, while in the process of administering the assessment?  
*Technical assistance is always available to you from Gesell Institute. Contact information will be provided to you at your training.*
7. Is the training for the study the same 3-day training that the Institute currently provides?  
*No, the training for the study will be abbreviated, covering only **how** to technically administer the GDO, along with logistical issues surrounding study participation. The regular three-day training consists of professional development on ages and stages of child development, and how to administer, score, and interpret the GDO.*
8. How can I get the three-day training?  
*Visit our website ([www.gesellinstitute.org](http://www.gesellinstitute.org)) for training schedules, registration, and payment – or call us at 1-800-369-7709 for more information. If you want to score and interpret GDO items, you must register and pay for the full training on your own.*
9. Will everyone be paid \$2.50 per completed form—even old customers and those who would have been giving the assessment anyway?  
*Yes, everyone who returns GDO Study forms (GDO, Pilot Child Items, Parent Guardian Questionnaire and Teacher Questionnaire,) complete and legible, will be eligible for \$2.50 per form received by the Institute. You may accept this compensation, or select a credit toward a future order and/or a donation to Gesell Institute, a non-profit organization, to help defray study costs.*



Tel: 203-777-3481  
Fax: 203-776-5001

## Gesell Developmental Observation Study 2008-2009 School General Interest and Demographic Form

*Please return this form ASAP so we can determine if your school is eligible!*

_____		_____	
<i>School and/or District Name</i>		<i>Grade range</i>	
_____		_____	
<i>Mailing Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>
_____		_____	
<i>Contact Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Work Phone</i>	
_____		_____	
<i>Summer Phone</i>	<i>Fax</i>	<i>E-mail address</i>	

By completing this form, you are indicating interest in participating in our study to collect baseline, normative data on the Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO).

**Yes! I am interested in becoming a trained examiner for the study and my school is interested in providing children for study participation. Our school currently has \_\_\_\_\_ examiners trained to administer the GDO. The time of year we typically administer the GDO is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Please provide an estimate of **Fall '09 projections** for ages & demographics of children at your school and/or district to assist us in selecting children/locations for study participation.

<i>For Pre-K through Grade 2 only</i>	<i>By School</i>	<i>By District</i>
Total number of children enrolled:		

**AGE Breakdown for Fall '09 projection:**

Number of 2-year-olds		
Number of 3-year-olds		
Number of 4-year-olds		
Number of 5-year-olds		
Number of 6-year-olds		

**DEMOGRAPHIC Breakdown (number or percentage) for Fall '09 projection that are:**

Male		
Female		
African American		
American Indian		
Asian American		
Hispanic		
White		
Other Race or Ethnicity		
Eligible for Free/Reduced-Priced Meals		
Native English-Speakers		

Please e-mail your completed form to [andrea@gesellinstitute.org](mailto:andrea@gesellinstitute.org) or fax to 203-776-5001.