



“A child is more than a score.”

-Arnold Gesell

GDO Study Newsletter

April 2010

Share your feedback and
GDO Study experiences!

Call or Email Feedback:
203-776-5001
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GDO National Study

BY THE NUMBERS! The numbers are in and it's time to celebrate GDO Study accomplishments! Our original target across 8 age bands was 1,600 GDO assessments. However, due to lack of available data in the 2½ age band, our final target was 1,400 GDO assessments across 7 age bands. We are pleased to report that we very nearly met this target with an impressive **1,334 GDOs submitted from across the country!** Altogether, **61 sites** collected data and submitted **4,864 child, parent, and teacher forms** in total! Our sample consists of young children from 15 different ethnic groups who speak 29 languages in addition to English, across 23 U.S. states.



NEW Teacher Appreciation

By far, educators are among the **most** hardworking group of professionals! The 110 examiners who collected data for our study found myriad ways to ensure participation by conducting assessments after school, during the day, over the summer, and even on weekends! We are especially thankful to examiners who chose to forgo compensation and donate their time in service to the GDO Study.

If you have conducted assessments for the GDO Study and are able to apply these hours toward teaching certification or professional

development (if permitted by your state), please let us know and we will happily provide a letter recognizing the work you completed for the study.

TOTALS

Schools Participating...61

GDOs Submitted...1334

Pilot Assessments...1178

Parent Questionnaires...1066

Teacher Questionnaires...1286

NEW Into the Future...

“Data Cleaning” – *No suds required!*

This is a process of checking that all forms match on date of birth, correcting keystroke entry errors, and documenting any missing information such as gender, ethnicity, or dates of administration. Usually we flag this during our review process as the data arrives, but we will do another level of checking before analyzing our final results. ***If we have contacted you regarding these details, please help us by responding quickly so that we can use all possible data. Quality is our first priority!***



Analysis

Subcontracted psychometricians at McREL will analyze the 2010 data to provide developmental mastery levels for all tasks across all ages. These results will provide the statistical backbone for the 2010 Gesell Developmental Observation. In addition, a subsample will be scored for Developmental Age, and selected National Lecture Staff members will analyze distinguishing features for each age band. Thus, the developmental “process” will be applied to the new data to provide rubrics for both new and seasoned users to continue to make solid estimates of a child's developmental profile.

This Little GDO Went to Market!

A newly revised and streamlined **Examiner's Script** will be available for purchase soon, and will include child stimulus cards, thumbnail sketches, and decision tree notations. The new **Examiner's Manual** will contain scoring rubrics and distinguishing features for each age, supported by the 2010 study data. The **Recording Form** will feature a new size, binding, perforated pages, updated interview questions, and newly designed **Summary Profile Sheet!** The **Parent and Teacher Questionnaires** (currently sold separately) are an essential complement to the GDO and complete this multi-dimensional assessment kit. Register today for your GDO workshop training so your school will be ready when all new products launch in Fall 2010!



Thank You! Participating Sites Include:

*Acton Coop Preschool, MA
Amberly Elementary, MI
Appleby Elementary, NY
Applewild Elementary School, MA
Bible Center Christian School, WV
Bluffton Elementary, OH
Bolles School, FL
Brevard County Schools, FL
Canterbury School, FL
Cesar Batalla, CT
Charlotte Christian School, NC
Christ the King, KY
Coyote Valley Elementary, CA
da Vinci School, TX
Dwight Pre-School, CT
Early Childhood Learning Center, CT
Elm Drive Elementary, NY
Evergreen Country Day School, CO
Forsyth Country Day, NC
Glendale Acres Elementary, NC
Grace Brethren School, CA
Greater Portland Christian School, ME
Greenhill School, TX
Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, SC
Hill Central Music Academy, CT
International School of Louisiana, LA
International School of Minnesota, MN
John Martinez School, CT
Kessler School, TX
Laurel Hall School, CA
Living Word Christian Academy, CT
Madison Academy, AL
Marlboro School District, NY
Naugatuck Early Child Dev. Center, CT
Naugatuck Valley Community College Child Center, CT
Noah's Ark Pre-School, MI
Oakland Christian School, MI
Pediatric Therapy Center, CA
Ravenscroft School, NC
Rhonda's Rompers Home Day Care Center, CT
Rosebud Elementary, SD
St. Anselm School, OH
St. Bernadette School, LA
St. Maria Goretti Preschool, AZ
Timbuktu Academy, MI
Townsend Elementary, NY
Truman Head Start, CT
Upland Country Day, PA
Wesleyan School, GA
Westminster Academy, TN
Wichita Collegiate School, KS
Wm. H. Frasier School, CA
Zigler Head Start, CT*

Favorite Funny Data Collection Quotes

Q: Who is your best friend?

A: Everyone except for monsters.

Q: What do you do when you cross the street?

A: Put on my Halloween costume and direct traffic.

Q: What do you think Maria should have said or done after David fell down?

A: Say, "I tripped you and I'm sorry. You should have tied your shoe."

Share Your Experience With Us!

Have you ever participated in a national study before? Was the GDO Study your first data collection experience? What was the most memorable part? What aspect was most challenging? Call or email our team to share your experience with us. We hope that we have given every school "full service" in answering questions, providing materials and resources. Through the GDO Study, we at Gesell feel we have connected with our "extended family" and hope that you feel the same way.

- **Listen on BAM Radio...**

A Nation of Wimps: How We Are Creating Psychologically Fragile Kids

Hara Estroff Marano, Lenore Skenazy, Susan Davis

Bubble wrapped, sanitized, protected and weak. As we've tried to protect our children from every conceivable threat, real or imagined, we have essentially created a fragile generation of Americans who lack some of the basic coping and survival skills of generations past. The general consensus is that we're creating a nation of wimps. So what can we do now? Moreover, what should you be doing differently with your child?

<http://www.gesellinstitute.org/radio.html>

GDO Study Site Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
1-800-369-7709 x 706

Who's Who on the GDO Study Team

Marcy Guddemi, PhD, MBA

Marcy is Gesell Institute's Executive Director, and a widely recognized expert in early childhood education, as well as a proponent of the rights of the child and the importance of play in early learning. She is an accomplished author and early childhood educator, with extensive corporate experience in educational publishing and specifically early childhood assessment products.

Crista Marchesseault, MAT, MA

Crista is the Institute's Associate Director, focused on project management and program development, including public awareness initiatives and community-based collaborations such as the Parent-Teacher Connection Program in New Haven. Her varied background includes experience in both applied and academic research, early childhood education, and literacy development, as well as work in public relations, web development, and professional editing.

Andrea Sambrook, MA

Andrea joined the team as Program Coordinator in June 2009, and brings to Gesell not only a dedication to applied child development, but a wealth of experience in community based research with parents and toddlers from low income neighborhoods. Andrea has extensive experience developing grassroots initiatives in school and community settings centered on issues of environmental health, safety, and wellness for children and families.

Ashley Firth, MA

Ashley joined the Gesell Institute as Program Associate in October 2009. Before coming to the Institute, Ashley completed her Teach for America commitment in Phoenix, AZ where she taught reading and language arts to struggling readers in a low income school. She brings a passion and commitment to education, now focusing on early childhood through research at the Institute and experience as a volunteer examiner.

Marina Peterson Pappas

After teaching High School Special Education in Phoenix, AZ through Teach for America, Marina shifted her focus to early childhood education when she launched the Jumpstart program at Boston University in 2007. Marina brings focused leadership and a passion for capturing children's abilities to her role as Project Coordinator of the Parent-Teacher Connection Program at the Gesell Institute.



*Do you have a
funny kid quote?
Advice for other
examiners?
Share your GDO
Study experience!*

- ✓ *What prompted you to participate in the GDO national study?*
- ✓ *What was most challenging about participating in the study?*
- ✓ *What are you hoping to gain from the experience?*
- ✓ *What words of advice would you offer us at Gesell?*
- ✓ *What words of advice would you offer other examiners?*
- ✓ *Share a funny kid quote! Remember to keep the child's identity anonymous!*

✓ Do We Have All Your Information?

- ✓ Date of Birth is in correct order on **ALL** forms
- ✓ Date of Administration is on **EACH** form
- ✓ Gender and Ethnicity is given for each student

Contact Ashley or Andrea to fill in any missing data or return missed phone calls! 800-369-7709

*If you would like to
**share your
experience**, please
send your feedback to
Ashley Firth, at 800-
369-7709 x703 or
[ashley@gesellinstitute.org!](mailto:ashley@gesellinstitute.org)*