



“The household serves as a ‘cultural workshop’ for the transmission of old traditions and for the creation of new social values.”

-Arnold Gesell

## GDO Study Newsletter

### December 2009



*Gesell Institute Wishes  
You  
A Happy Holiday Season  
And  
Health, Happiness, &  
Harmony in the New Year!*

### GDO National Study

WELCOME TO WINTER! Gesell Institute’s national study is wrapping up data collection and transitioning to data entry and analysis. Schools across the nation collected data on the Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO) and will be returning completed data by **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009!** As we enter 2010, Gesell welcomes select schools to collect data in January and February to top off our numbers so that each age band can have a minimum of 200 sets of data. Don’t miss your last opportunity to take part in this important study!



we are able to process your sample. Schools collecting data in Fall '09 must return completed data by **December 31, 2009.** We offer a pre-paid UPS pick up for your data. There is no reason to delay!

**NEW** **Data Deadline Information**

As a reminder to schools that collected data this fall – please return all data to Gesell Institute no later than **December 31, 2009.** Since many schools prepare for winter break early, please ensure that data is complete, includes a summary form, and is boxed for pick-up prior to your school’s winter break. *Contact Ashley or Andrea for your UPS mailer @ 203.777.3481.*

We plan to publish the technical report for Back to School 2010. To meet this goal, we need everyone to adhere to their individual assessment targets and deadlines. Gesell Institute has trained volunteers ready and waiting to enter your data!

#### Data Update

We know that many schools are working hard to collect data right now, and other schools have completed their collection. If your school collected data in **Spring '09**, it must be turned in **immediately** so that

<i>Schools Participating...46</i>
<i>New Schools...3</i>
<i>GDO Assessments</i>
<i>Anticipated by Jan '10...1663</i>
<i>GDO's Returned to Date...654</i>

### Reminder:

Deadline for Fall '09 data is **December 31, 2009.**

To make sure that data arrives by the deadline, please ship all completed data **before** your school breaks for the holidays.

**Thank You!**  
We appreciate your commitment to the study.

## Give Back Through Your Online Holiday Shopping!



Shopping for gifts online this season? Shop with us! Every online purchase you make can help Gesell Institute in our mission to support children, families, and teachers by shopping through this link: <http://gesellinstitute.we-care.com/> With each purchase, Gesell receives a donation – at no extra cost to you! Check out the website for more information and money-saving offers. With no additional cost to you, you can treat your loved ones and support early childhood education!

### Favorite Funny Data Collection Quotes

**Q: What sails?**

A: Stuff that you buy.

**Q: Who is your best friend?**

A: Aaron because he has red hair and red is my favorite color.

**Q: What should Maria have done [after she tripped David]?**

A: Who IS this Maria girl?!?



### What's What for Study Participation

Participating in the GDO Study consists of full administration of the GDO and pilot items, as well as a Teacher Questionnaire and Parent/Guardian Questionnaire for each participating child. Eligible participants must be between 2.3 to 6.3\* years of age and speak English as their primary language. As a **thank you**, we provide all GDO study forms FREE to each participating school, and offer **\$10 per completed set of data (all 4 forms)**.

**\*Please Note: Children must not be 6.3 + any days. Use 6.2 and 29 days as a better estimate to avoid ineligible data for the study.**

### ✓ Check Before You Send Us Your Data

- ✓ Date of Birth is in correct order on forms
- ✓ Data is complete OR Write us a note if it is not
- ✓ Summary form included
- ✓ Pilot, Teacher and Parent/Guardian forms are tucked inside Data Collection Form



## SITES CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING

*...and more being added each day!*

*Acton Coop Preschool, MA  
 Amberly Elementary, MI  
 Appleby Elementary, NY  
 Applewild Elementary School, MA  
 Bent Tree Child Development, TX  
 Bluffton Elementary School, OH  
 Bible Center Christian School, WV  
 Bolles School, FL  
 Brookwood School, MA  
 Canterbury School, FL  
 Coyote Valley Elementary, CA  
 da Vinci School, TX  
 Doane Academy, NJ  
 Dwight Pre-School, CT  
 Early Childhood Learning Center, CT  
 Elm Drive Elementary, NY  
 Evergreen Country Day School, CO  
 Forsyth Country Day, 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  
 Living Word Christian Academy, CT  
 Madison Academy, AL  
 Marlboro School District, NY  
 Naugatuck Early Child Dev. Center, CT  
 Naugatuck Valley Community College Child  
 Development Center, CT  
 Noah's Ark Pre-School, MI  
 Oakland Christian School, MI  
 Ravenscroft School, NC  
 Rosebud Elementary, SD  
 St. Anselm School, OH  
 St. Bernadette School, LA  
 St. Maria Goretti Preschool, AZ  
 Southwest Covenant School, OK  
 Truman Head Start, CT  
 Upland Country Day, PA  
 Wesleyan School, GA  
 Westminster Academy, TN  
 Zigler Head Start, CT  
Your School Name Here?, USA*



Standing L-R: Ashley Firth, Kristen Provost, Crista Marchesseault, Jennifer Bowers, Marcy Guddemi, Tiffany Burke  
 Seated L-R: Andrea Sambrook, Annette Watert  
 Portrait of Dr. Arnold Gesell.

**Gesell Institute Wishes You  
 Happiness, Health,  
 & Harmony  
 This Holiday Season.**

## 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. She brings a passion and commitment to education and research to the Institute and her experience as a volunteer examiner. Ashley recently completed her Teach for America commitment in Phoenix, AZ where she taught reading and language arts to struggling readers in a low income school.

### **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.

### **The GDO Data Entry Team in Connecticut:**

**Ashley** is an undergraduate at Southern Connecticut State University pursuing a degree in Psychology.

**Jennifer** is pursuing a Master's degree in clinical psychology. As a rotary exchange student in Ecuador, she facilitated art therapy interventions with young mothers and their children.

**Kristen** is a music teacher and holds a BA in Psychology. She will pursue graduate work in music therapy.

## ***Could your school be a good match for the study?***

*We are welcoming just a few schools to collect data in **January or February 2010** to top off our numbers so that each age band can have a minimum of 200 sets of data.*

- √ *Do you work with children between 2.3 and 6.3 years of age? We are specifically seeking students 2.3-2.9 and 5.9 to 6.3.*
- √ *Do you have Gesell trained examiners willing to administer ALL of the tasks?*
- √ *Are you interested in administering our NEW pilot items?*
- √ *Are you able to obtain completed forms from parents and teachers regarding students?*
- √ *Is your school interested in receiving recognition for participation in a national study on child development – a highly prestigious award that can be used in promoting your school?*

***If YES to any or all of these, please contact Andrea Sambrook, Program Coordinator at 800-369-7709 x706 or [andrea@gesellinstitute.org](mailto:andrea@gesellinstitute.org) to discuss a possible match!***

*GDO Study 310 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511  
1-800-369-7709 x 706*