



“..there are laws of growth and mechanisms of development which apply alike to body and mind.”

-Arnold Gesell

GDO Study Newsletter

January 2010

Need Technical Help?
Have a Question?



Call Gesell Institute at
203.777.3481
Ask for Ashley (x703)
Or Andrea (x706)

GDO National Study

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Gesell Institute's staff is excited to announce that we have received data from many schools! As other schools continue to wrap up data collection, staff and interns are entering and analyzing the data in our office. As we wind up our data collection in 2010, Gesell welcomes select schools to collect data in January and February to reach 1600 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!

If you are able to collect just 2 more GDOs, the added contributions will benefit our study! Please contact Andrea or Ashley today for additional forms or more information.



Data Deadline Information

As a reminder to schools that collected data this fall – please return all data to Gesell Institute **immediately**. Please ensure that data is complete, includes a summary form, and is boxed for pick-up. 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 interns ready and waiting to enter your data!

Schools Participating...52

New Schools...8

GDO Assessments

Anticipated by Feb '10...1468

GDOs Returned to Date...917

Data Update

We know that many schools are completing their data collection, and other schools have already sent data in. If your school collected data in **Fall '09**, it must be turned in **immediately** so that we are able to process your sample. Schools collecting data in January and February 2010 must return completed data by your individual deadline. We offer a pre-paid UPS pick up for your data. There is no reason to delay!



A Big Thank You to Schools That Have Returned Data



The New Haven Gesell Team rung in the New Year surrounded by lots of snow, gusty winds...and boxes of GDO data hailing from much warmer (and some cooler!) U.S. climates. Thank you to those schools that have completed and returned data to us. Your timelines have helped to keep our study moving forward and stay on track. Your boxes will be processed in the order they arrive, and certificates and compensation sent to you in short course.

Favorite Funny Data Collection Quotes

Q: When do you say please?

A: Months ago...I don't remember.

Q: What do you know how to do that makes you feel really good?

A: Pull out my wedgies. (Examiner Note: When prompted to explain, the child described a wedgie.)

Q: What do you do when you are curious?

A: Be naughty!



**SITES CURRENTLY
PARTICIPATING**
...and more being added each day!

What's What for Study Participation

Participating in the GDO Study consists of full administration of every item on 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 6.2* 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 remunerate schools **\$10 per completed set of data (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.**

Meet the Gesell Institute Interns

Jennifer is pursuing a Masters in Clinical Psychology. She has facilitated art therapy interventions for kids in Ecuador.

Kristen is a music teacher pursuing a BA in Psychology and hopes to pursue graduate work in Music Therapy.

Hannah is an Albertus Magnus student pursuing a BA in Art Therapy with an interest in psychometrics.

Ryan is pursuing a BA in Psychology and plays lacrosse for Quinnipiac University.

Lindsay is pursuing a joint degree in Art Therapy and Psychology.

Amy is a Quinnipiac Psychology student with an interest in healthcare; she will complete her BA degree this year.

Kelsey is a Quinnipiac student studying Psychology and Law.

Meghan is pursuing a BA in Psychology; she has a special interest in speech-language pathology.

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

Managing Aggressive Children

Rae Pica with Dr. Jane Nelson & Dr. Atilla Ceranoglu

Kicking, biting, hitting, fighting. Why are some children more aggressive than others? In this segment our guests explore the foundations of aggression in children, the causes, the warning signs and specific techniques for preventing and managing aggression from birth to age eight.

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

*Acton Coop Preschool, MA
Amberly Elementary, MI
Appleby Elementary, NY
Applewild Elementary School, MA
Bible Center Christian School, WV
Bolles School, FL
Brevard County Schools, FL
Canterbury School, FL
Charlotte Christian School, NC
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
Laurel Hall School, CA
Living Word Christian Academy, CT
Memorial School, MA
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
Ravenscroft School, NC
Rhonda's Rompers Home Day Care
Center, CT
Rosebud Elementary, SD
St. Anslem School, OH
St. Bernadette School, LA
St. Maria Goretti Preschool, AZ
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
Your School Name Here?, USA*

Haven

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.

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?*

✓ 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

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

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