



“What does the six-year-old child care for print? His fingers are itching for contact with things, and his legs are set for chasing butterflies. Too much formalism in childhood kills spontaneity and interest. Education cannot, by formulating courses of study, force intellectual functions.”

-Arnold Gesell

GDO Study Newsletter

July 2010

**60th Anniversary Banquet &
LEAD Conference
October 2010**

Hosted by Gesell Institute!

See Details on Page 2

GDO National Study

COOL OFF WITH A SWIM IN OUR DATA POOL! As summer moves into full swing and Connecticut is hit with a heat wave, Gesell Institute staff and interns are busy swimming in data. Over the past month we have spent hours cleaning the data, continuing our reliability study, and dedicating time to our NLS qualitative study – all in the effort to determine the long awaited baseline trends for normative development on the GDO tasks. As our anticipated release of the GDO-R approaches (Fall 2010), we want to keep you in the loop each step of the way! Included in this newsletter are brief bios on select National Lecture Staff (NLS), some exciting news about our upcoming conference, information on our new products, and more!



Top: Marcy, Cheryl, Suzy, Annette, Norm, Crista, Sally
Bottom: Andrea, Richard, Marilyn, Linda

NEW National Lecture Staff Bios!

While four of our expert National Lecture Staff (NLS) members are participating in our Qualitative Review, all of the NLS continue to share their knowledge of child development through Gesell Workshops and Trainings. Gesell Institute's NLS is a group of experts with a wealth of knowledge and experience in child development, proper administration of the GDO, and teacher training. In previous newsletters, we featured our study participants. Here we introduce you to the rest of our phenomenal team!

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NEW 2010 Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO) Study Outcomes: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

For the last two years, Gesell Institute of Human Development has coordinated a national effort to collect baseline and exploratory data on the Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO) ©2007. Schools from around the country were recruited in 2008-2010 to participate in the GDO study. Data has been collected from a diverse sample of over 1,350 children, families, and teachers.

The new data will provide current information and updated trends indicating what children can and cannot do at various developmental stages. New products and materials for the GDO are currently under development based on this data, and a number of questions have come up from our customers, friends, and colleagues. If you have a question that is not answered on this [FAQ](#), please contact us through our website.

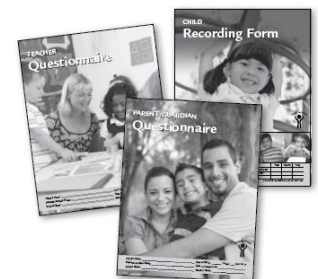
OR Visit our FAQ online:

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

A child is more than a score...

Gesell Developmental Observation

Newly Revised and Updated in 2010!



GDO Study Newsletter

July 2010

Gearing Up: [60th Anniversary Banquet & LEAD Conference](#), October 14-15, 2010

NEW We hope to see you all in New Haven in October – join us to celebrate the Institute’s 60th anniversary and hear the latest research and strategies for developing best policies for children’s early education! Come hear world-renowned speakers **T. Berry Brazelton, MD & Joshua D. Sparrow, MD**; US Alliance for Childhood’s **Joan Almon**; Head Start founder **Ed Zigler, PhD**; Columbia University’s **Sharon Lynn Kagan, PhD**; NYT bestseller *Nurture Shock* author **Ashley Merryman**; and more. This important event is hosted by Gesell Institute and made possible by generous sponsors including the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, ConEdison, and Yale University. We envision take home “Toolkits” to start Community Conversations in your locations and also plan to launch a Policy Think Tank group comprised of leading minds (like yours!) in the field. Don’t miss this opportunity!



LEAD CONFERENCE
Early Childhood Leadership Conference
October 15, 2010, New Haven, CT

Feature d Speakers

					
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T. Berry Brazelton and Joshua D. Sparrow, MDs
Deacon Touchpoints Center, Harvard University

Edward Zigler, PhD
Shelton Professor of Psychology, Emerita, Yale University

Sharon Lynn Kagan, EdD
Virginia and Leonard Mann Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy,
Teachers College, Columbia University

Joan Almon
Executive Director, U.S. Alliance for Childhood
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. State Representative

Speakers and session topics are subject to change. The Gesell Institute reserves the right to change the program, speakers, and dates without notice. All questions should be directed to the Institute. An independent nonprofit organization and a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Register Today! www.gesellinstitute.org/events



GESELL INSTITUTE
LEAD CONFERENCE

Hosted by Gesell Institute of Human Development



LEAD: Learn, Educate, Advocate, Do!

An Early Childhood Leadership Conference

*Let's raise test scores the right way!
We know what works, now let's do it.*

October 15, 2010
New Haven, Connecticut

Register Today!
www.gesellinstitute.org/events

Conference Overview & Objectives

Gesell Institute's LEAD Conference will be held in New Haven, Connecticut on October 15, 2010. This stand-alone event is designed for school administrators, Board of Education members, early childhood coordinators, psychologists, researchers, policy makers, and other important decision makers from around the country. Conference goals include widening an understanding of the critical importance of the early years in education and life-long development.

Contributing to the national conversation about early childhood and leadership in educational policy, sessions and speakers will generate practical ideas for setting and implementing appropriate expectations for our youngest learners, inspiring and motivating educational leaders toward change. A publication of the proceeding is expected to become required reading for policy makers across the country.

Why a Conference?

- Research confirms the vital role of child development principles as a basis for teaching young children.
- Current educational policy does not take the whole child into consideration, leaving behind the fundamental principles that govern how children learn.
- Children are being asked to perform inappropriate learning tasks for their stage of development, leading to lower test scores, decreased motivation, and overall school failure.

Join us to contribute to and learn from this important conversation and LEAD the way to effective change!

Special Events

A pre-conference banquet honoring the work of Dr. Arnold Gesell (1880-1961) and in celebration of Gesell Institute's 60th Anniversary will be held on October 14th. Award-winning journalists and New York Times bestseller *Nurture Shock* authors Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman will speak at the banquet, and a special video message will be aired from Nobel Prize Winner James J. Heckman. Gesell Alumni will also be featured at this event.

(Be sure to register as a Gesell Alumnus if you have a past association or relationship with the Institute and be recognized at these events. Visit www.gesellinstitute.org/alumni.html today!)

PLUS... take advantage of being in beautiful New England at the peak of fall foliage!

Home to Yale University, New Haven has much to offer, from culture to history to fine dining. This quaint New England city has multiple museums, galleries, and theatre groups. With a rich history spanning more than 350 years, a broad heritage is preserved in New Haven's architecture, cuisine, and cultural events. The area's scenery is simply stunning in the fall, an excellent time to enjoy an extended weekend visit!

Take a guided tour of the Yale Campus to learn its history and current contributions. Tours are available Monday through Saturday. Visit www.yale.edu/visitor for details or call 203-432-2300.

New Haven is also only a 90-minute train ride away from New York City and 2 hours from Boston. Come enjoy a convenient trip to these diverse and awe-inspiring cities!

For more information about what to do while in New Haven, see www.visitnewhaven.com.

About Gesell Institute

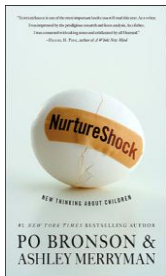
Gesell Institute of Human Development is an independent non-profit organization located on the Yale campus. Our mission is based on the work of Dr. Arnold Gesell, as well as on current research and practice, broadening the Gesell philosophy of the past and bringing the work of the Institute into the 21st century. The Institute provides various sources of information for parents, teachers, and schools to assist them in making critical decisions about children. Gesell programs and publications help parents and educators understand the ages and stages of childhood. This knowledge can be used to understand and interpret behaviors and to plan appropriate curricula in the classroom.



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July 2010

NEW *NurtureShock: New Thinking About Children* Authors – and Fall 2010 LEAD Conference supporters – in Newsweek!



Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, authors of the award-winning book *NurtureShock*, recently wrote an article for *Newsweek* on the science of creativity. The main article, entitled “The Creativity Crisis,” is about how our national strategy for creativity development is lacking. They report that researcher Kyung Hee Kim of the College of William and Mary recently analyzed 300,000 creativity scores – and found that American creativity scores have been dropping since 1990.

The good news is that creativity is teachable and learnable!

In a side article, “Forget Brainstorming,” Bronson and Merryman offer tips for boosting creativity among individuals.

Merryman will be a keynote speaker at Gesell Institute’s 60th Anniversary banquet as well as a panel member for the LEAD Conference in October!

Check out the articles:

[“The Creativity Crisis”](#)

[“Forget Brainstorming”](#)

Kid Quotes!

Q: My friend David fell down and scraped his knee. How do you think that made him feel?

A: **Very bad! I would help him! I would give him a colorful band-aid.**

Q: Why do you say Please and Thank You?

A: **So I can be nice and ‘cause Santa is watching and it is almost Christmas and so I want to be nice.**

Q: How does singing your favorite song make you feel?

A: **Like flying.**

New Product Underway!

Very soon we will be introducing a short screener based on the GDO updated technical data – the **Gesell Early Screener**. It will be a 20 minute short form available Fall 2010!

NLS Biographies

Kiki Ammons has worked as an early childhood educator in Florida for 39 years and has been a member of Gesell’s NLS for 28 years. She has administered over 6,000 observations to students in her county! This proud mother of a 26 year-old son plans to retire next year to pursue her passions for arts, reading, traveling, and maintaining her commitment to Gesell Institute.

Norm Heimgartner has been with Gesell Institute since 1970 and has personally met Dr. Gesell. He has traveled throughout the United States to train teachers and throughout the world teaching others about child development and administering the GDO.

Sallie Wells is Gesell Institute’s newest National Lecture Staff. Sallie hails from Texas, where she used the GDO in her own classroom. She serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Family Sciences at Texas Woman’s University.

Sally Keller has been a Director at Noah’s Ark Preschool for two decades. She has been with Gesell Institute since 1976, training teachers and administrators. Sally lives in Hastings, Michigan with her husband and has three grown children of her own. She recently was appointed Director of the NLS!

This Little GDO Went to Market!

The new **Examiner’s Script** will be streamlined to include child cards, sketches, and decision trees. The **Examiner’s Manual** contains scoring rubrics and distinguishing features supported by the 2010 Study data. The **Recording Form** features new binding, perforated child pages, updated interview questions, and a newly designed Profile Sheet. The **Parent & Teacher Questionnaires** (sold separately) are an essential component for the multi-dimensional assessment! Register today for your GDO workshop, and look for new kits in Fall 2010!

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.

*Listen on [Bam!](#)
[Radio](#)*

Handling Inappropriate Sexual Behavior in Young Children

Pat Beck, Kevin
Alderson, & Meg Meeker

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

Increasingly, early childhood professionals are being confronted with inappropriate sexual behaviors by the children in their care. We're seeing young children mimicking sexual acts, touching each other's body parts and displaying sexual curiosity far beyond their age. What is normal? What is not? What's developmentally appropriate? How should parents and early childhood professionals best handle these behaviors?

Pat Beck is an adult educator for early childhood professionals at Child Care Solutions. Kevin Alderson holds a Masters degree in clinical, school and community psychology. Meg Meeker is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Save the Date: October 15, 2010

[Lead Educate Advocate Do!](#)

An Early Childhood Leadership Conference

Visit our [website](#) for details and to register!