



“Who is this ‘Richard’ guy? He doesn’t follow the rules. He arrives late. Then he does the most amazing things with children!”

-Sue Troia on Richard Ruiter
Detroit Institute of the Arts
As reported by Sally Keller

GDO Study Newsletter

June 2010

Join Us for LEAD! Conference

October 14, 2010
New Haven, Connecticut

See Page 2 for Details!

LOOKING FORWARD! Having reached our target sample size for data collection, we are moving into the next stages of the research process: data cleaning, qualitative scoring, and determining the long awaited baseline trends for normative development on the GDO tasks. While we anticipate releasing the GDO-R in fall 2010, we want to keep you in the loop each step of the way! Included in this newsletter is an introduction to our National Lecture Staff (NLS), some exciting news about our upcoming conference and more!

NEW NLS Qualitative Study Launched!

Four of our expert National Lecture Staff will participate in the NLS Qualitative Review. Gesell Institute’s National Lecture Staff (NLS) is a group of experts with a wealth of knowledge and experience in child development, proper administration of the GDO, and training for teachers. These four NLS will review a random sample of Incomplete Man and Copy Form records in order to provide scoring of Developmental Age and “Distinguishing Features” for each age group in the sample. They will select classic examples of children’s records to be included in the Examiner’s Manual you will see this fall!



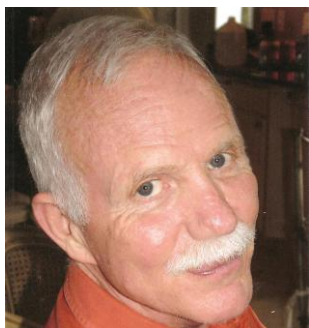
Top: Marcy, Cheryl, Suzy, Annette, Norm, Crista, Sally
Bottom: Andrea, Richard, Marilyn, Linda

On the Horizon: Pilot Data Review

Thanks to all the schools that collected pilot data, we are able to think about Gesell Institute’s next steps. We are looking ahead and plan to develop an all new assessment in the future! This brand new assessment will be informed by the data collected on core Gesell items and by the best of our new pilot items.

Additionally, we have openings for interns who wish to focus on this topic and conduct qualitative analysis on specific questions, such as:

- “What do you do that makes you feel good?”
- “David fell down because Maria pushed him. How do you think David feels? How did Maria feel? What should Maria do next?”
- What is something new you want to learn?



Richard Ruiter

February 15, 1940-May 26, 2010

Beloved NLS member Richard Ruiter recently passed away after a battle with cancer. He was devoted to children and education and committed to putting the whole child first. He is dearly loved and missed by family, friends, and colleagues.

GDO Study Newsletter

June 2010

Gearing Up: LEAD! Conference October 15, 2010

NEW We hope you will all be coming to New England to hear the latest research and strategies for developing best policies for children's early education. Come hear experts such as keynote speaker **T. Berry Brazelton, Joan Almon, Ed Zigler, Sharon Lynn Kagan, authors of bestselling *Nurture Shock* Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman** (and others)! This highly collaborative event is hosted by Gesell Institute. We envision take home "How-to-Kits" to start Community Conversations in your locations and 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

Featured Speakers

					
---	---	---	---	---	---

T. Berry Brazelton and Joshua D. Sparrow, MD's
Deacon, Touchpoints Center, Harvard University
Edward Zigler, PhD
Shilling 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 without notice. All content is the property of Gesell Institute. All rights reserved. © 2010 Gesell Institute. All rights reserved.

Register Today! www.gesellinstitute.org/events



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.



GDO Study Newsletter

June 2010

NEW **Be Reliable!**

Aren't parents always encouraging their teen children to "Be reliable?" Not only is it a life skill, it is a research one, too! In addition to screening data upon arrival, over 10% of our national sample has been checked for accuracy of scoring, recording and data entry. Our responsibility is to ensure we have noted or corrected any errors so that we will have data we can count on.

This Little GDO Went to Market!

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



NEW **Under Construction**

Very soon we will be introducing a **shorter screening instrument** based on the GDO updated technical data. It will be a 20 minute "Short Form" and we are looking for a new name! If you'd like to suggest a name, and we select it, you could win a free 3 day workshop! Email ashley@gesellinstitute.org by July 15th to enter!

NEW **Meet our New Interns**

Megan DeVizio is a rising junior at Quinnipiac University. She majors in Marketing with a minor in Public Relations and aspires to be the creative director at a magazine some day. In the meantime, she enjoys crafts, sushi, friends and family.

Susan Stevens is pursuing a Masters in Art Therapy at Albertus Magnus College. She has a professional background in media relations and marketing, has designed curriculum for programs serving blind children, and now finds love in data and research.

Ancient Chinese "Assessment"

Recently, Marcy travelled to China and brought back this fun Chinese assessment. When a child is one year old, they are placed in front of 12 items. Whichever item the child chooses suggests the child's future career or personality!

Weight.....	Business tycoons
Book.....	Knowledgeable
God of fortune.....	Good luck.
Musical instrument..	Good at music
Seal of Emperor..	An official
Food case.....	Wealth
Helmet.....	General
Rings of bells.....	Medical doctor
Cooking utensils....	Good life
Carpenter's ink.....	Skillful designer
Spinning top.....	Athletic
Chinese game	Good at communication

Thank You!
Participating Sites Include:

- Acton Coop Preschool, MA*
- Amberly Elementary, MI*
- Appleby Elementary, NY*
- Applewild Elementary School, MA*
- Bent Tree Development Center, TX*
- Bluffton Elementary, OH*
- Bolles School, FL*
- Brevard County Schools, FL*
- Cesar Batalla School, CT*
- Charlotte Christian School, NC*
- Charlotte Preparatory 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*
- Memorial School, MA*
- Naugatuck Early Childhood Development 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*
- Zimmerman School, ND*

New Haven, CT 06511
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.

Listen on BAM Radio

When Parents and Teachers Disagree About What Is Developmentally Appropriate by Maureen Gerard Anne Henderson

It's a raging conflict. Parents committed to get their children ahead of the educational curve want to see rigorous academic work, even in preschool. Teachers trained in developmentally appropriate practice struggle to explain why what looks like play is actually the best way to prepare children at that age. What's a parent/teacher to do? Our guests offer some guidance to resolving this conflict.

Maureen Gerard, Ph.D., is co-Author: Family Involvement in Early Childhood Education Director of Professional Field Experience, College of Teacher Education and Leadership, Arizona State University. Anne Henderson is co-author, Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family School Partnerships, Senior Consultant, Community Organizing and Engagement, Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Washington, D.C.

Save the Date: October 15, 2010

Lead Educate Advocate Do!
An Early Childhood Leadership Conference

Visit our website for details and to register!

<http://www.gesellinstitute.org/events>

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