



“I am passionate about aiding teachers, parents, and professionals in their understanding of children – all for the sake of creating environments that nurture, encourage, and support children as they grow in discovering who they have been made to be.”

-Cheryl Wolfe
National Lecture Staff

GDO Study Newsletter

May 2010

**Come See Us at NAEYC's
Institute in Arizona!**

June 6-9, 2010

See Page 3 for Details!

GDO National Study

LOOKING FORWARD! Having reached our target sample size for data collection, we are moving into the next stages of the research process: qualitative scoring, data cleaning, and determining the much anticipated baseline trends for normative development. While we anticipate releasing the final results 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 preliminary statistics from our raw data, and more!

Into the Future...

“Data Cleaning” – No suds required!

This is a process that includes checking that forms match on date of birth, correcting keystroke entry errors, and documenting any missing information such as gender, ethnicity, or dates of administration. We usually flag these issues during our review process, but we will do another level of checking before analyzing our final results.



Qualitative Scoring

A subsample of the larger data set will be scored for Developmental Age, and selected National Lecture Staff members will analyze trends and distinguishing features for each age band.

Analysis

Our psychometricians at McREL will analyze the 2010 data to provide statistical mastery levels for all tasks across all ages. These results will provide the statistical backbone for the 2010 Gesell Developmental Observation and associated developmental trends.

Reliability

Two trained examiners will review a selected percentage of the sample to determine the level of consensus between them on evaluating the child's work. This is an important step in all rigorous studies. No study has 100% agreement (for sure!) but all studies of merit do this in order to understand confidence intervals for the final results.

NEW National Lecture Staff

Gesell Institute's National Lecture Staff (NLS) is a group of experts with a wealth of knowledge and experience who train teachers around the country in child development and proper administration of the GDO. The following four NLS will serve as experts for the qualitative study.*

Linda Halverson has served on the NLS for Gesell Institute since 1987. She began her career as a kindergarten teacher, has administered the GDO to thousands of children, and has led nearly 200 workshops. She lives in Arizona with her husband Skip. *Meet Linda at the NAEYC conference in Arizona June 6-9!*

Cheryl Wolfe was introduced to Gesell in 1998 while serving as Director of Admissions for a private school in North Carolina. She joined the NLS in 2005 and has led workshops internationally. She home-schooled her own children and has been married for 27 years.

Marilyn Mansberry's association with the Institute first began in the early 1980s when she began training and presenting workshops.

Suzy Ferree has a Masters in Early Childhood Education, served as Director of a preschool, and taught pre-K to 6th grade.

**Other NLS members Kiki Ammons, Sally Keller, Richard Ruter, Sallie Wells and Norm Heimgartner will be featured next month!*

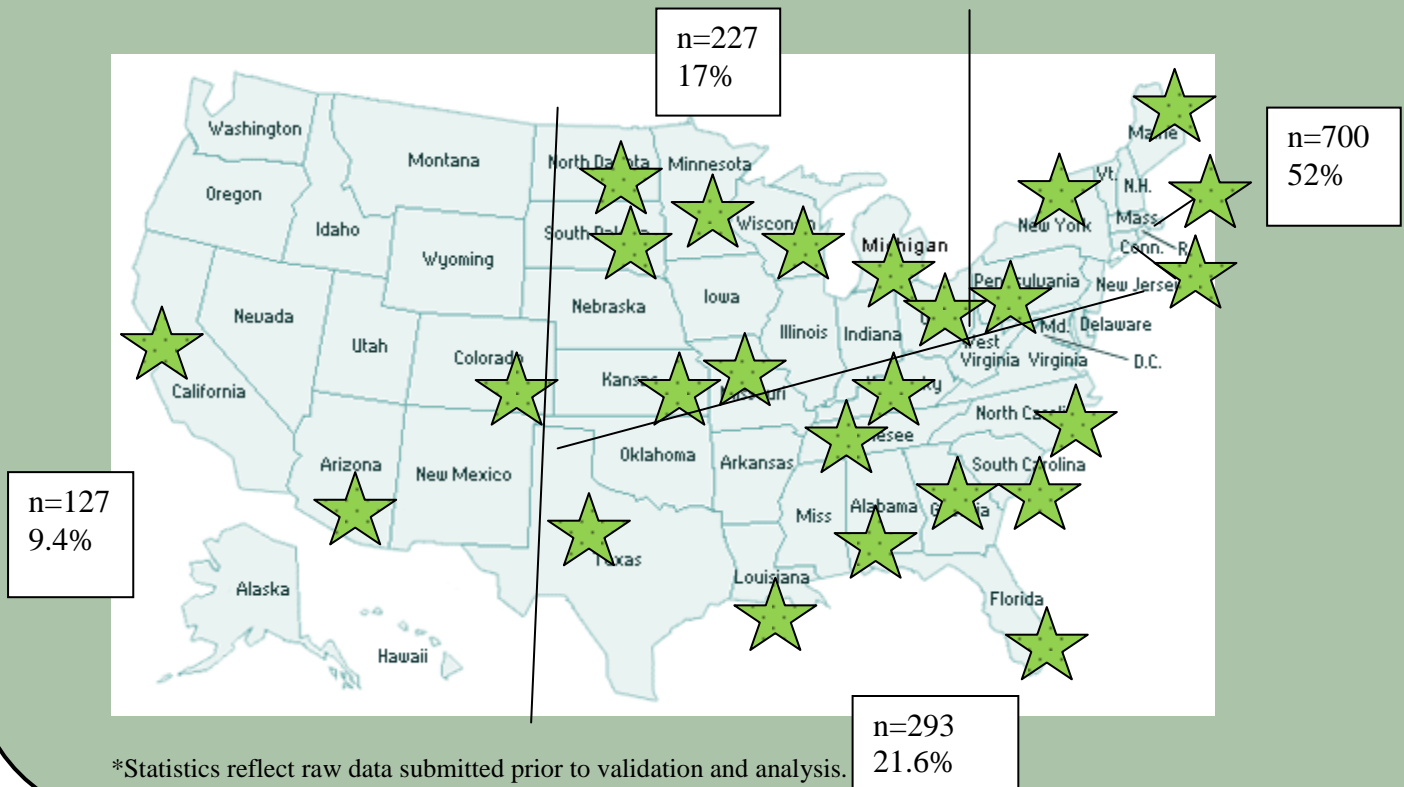
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NEW A Preliminary Look Across the Country

We sincerely appreciate the hardworking teachers at schools all around the United States who participated in the study by gathering GDO data and Pilot data. The chart below shows a participation distribution, including the number of GDO assessments collected in each region and the percentage of the total sample by region. The numbers reflect raw data collected to date prior to cleaning and analysis. Here's a glimpse!

GDO Study Site Preliminary Demographics



• “Bird’s Eye” view of raw data collected for the 2010 GDO Study

Total Schools (collected GDO+Pilot, or GDO only)	56			
Total States	23			
# Private Schools enrolled	32 or 57%			
# Public Schools enrolled	24 or 43%			
Subsample of Schools that collected GDO Pilot Data <u>only</u>	9 (11% private; 89% public)			
Male / Female Ratio	Approx 50/50			
% Free/Reduced Lunch	TBD by McREL			
Total Data collected (Target: 1,400 child assessments)	GDO: 1,347	Pilot: 1,222	Teacher: 1,340	Parent: 1,089
Total forms processed:	4,998			

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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 user 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!



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 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
Zimmerman School, ND*

Favorite Funny Data Collection Quotes

Q: What are you curious about?

A: My Uncle George, because he is **NOT** a monkey.

Q: What is something that makes you feel good?

A: I'm good at emptying the dishwasher.

Q: What makes you curious?

A: If Santa is real. That is SO confusing.

Gesell Institute at NAEYC Conference in Arizona

Gesell Institute will have a table at NAEYC's National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development June 6-9 in sunny Arizona! Andrea Sambrook will be joining Linda Halverson (NLS) and Barbara Ottervick (educational products consultant) at the conference. Visit booth #104 for a sneak peek of the revised GDO with new normative data. Be sure to stop by and say hello!

Listen on BAM Radio...

Touching Children in the Classroom Is Essential

Frances M. Carlson, Lisa B. Fiore

Many teachers fear touching children and many schools have no-touch policies. Our guests say that children need to be touched. In fact, they assert that low-touch-teaching retards children's development and creates social dysfunctions that can last a lifetime. In this segment we talk about embracing touching in the classroom, why it's essential, and considering the practical issues and risks.

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

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? A bit of 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.*

Sending positive thoughts and hugs to much loved NLS member **Richard** for a full recovery!

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>

*If you would like to **share your experience**, please submit your feedback to Ashley Firth at 800-369-7709 x703 or **ashley@gesellinstitute.org**!*