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Gesell Institute Announces Release of Technical Report on Two-Year Study of Young Children

New Haven, CT (July 6, 2012) – Gesell Institute of Child Development announces the release of the Gesell Developmental Observation-Revised and Gesell Early Screener Technical Report. The publication describes the sample, methodology, and technical findings of a nationwide study of 3- to 6-year-old children.

The report presents new reliability and validity evidence for the widely used Gesell Developmental Observation-Revised (GDO-R). It also supports the new Gesell Early Screener (GES), which was developed from a subset of the GDO-R tasks and items. The study for the Technical Report involved 1,287 children in 23 states over a two-year data collection period on multiple developmental and achievement tasks. It was determined that children are still reaching important developmental milestones in much the same timeframe as they did when Dr. Arnold Gesell first collected and published his data in 1925.

Dr. Marcy Guddemi, Executive Director, says “We were delighted that *Harvard Education Letter On-Line* was the first to report our findings in an article entitled, ‘Oldest Voice in America Weighs in with New Data: Children have not changed but Kindergarten has.’ That sums it up perfectly. We have to respect child development in our school settings.”

The study supports the nationwide conversation calling for school reform, starting with our youngest learners. School Reform for ages 3 to Grade 3 must include quality early childhood programs based on developmental data of what children can and cannot do at various ages. It also has to focus on how young children learn differently from older children. The study findings also support the continued use of the GDO-R for children ages 2 ½ to 9, and the newly created screener (GES) for children ages 3 to 6, to help guide instruction in early childhood classrooms. The Technical Report includes a GDO-R and GES Overview, Validity and Content Rationale, Research Study Details, Conclusions, Summary, Appendix, and References.

Gesell Institute’s GDO-R and GES Technical Report is available at:

http://www.gesellinstitute.org/pdf/GDO-R_Technical-Report.pdf

The Executive Summary is available at:

www.gesellinstitute.org/pdf/2012-Gesell-Executive-Summary.pdf

About Gesell Institute

Gesell Institute of Child Development is an independent non-profit organization associated with how children grow and learn since 1950. The work of Arnold Gesell, PhD, MD, (1888-1961), founding Director of the Yale Child Study Center in 1911 and the Institute’s namesake, had a profound influence on the field of child development. Based on Dr. Gesell’s

pioneering work documenting infant and child growth and development, Gesell Institute's programs and publications help educators and parents understand the ages and stages of childhood. Professional development and parent workshops cover a broad range of topics regarding child behavior, healthy growth and development, and positive learning outcomes. For additional information and resources, please visit www.gesellinstitute.org.

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