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Gesell Child Development Experts Renew and Expand Relationships in China

New Haven, CT, May 26, 2010 – Exciting international connections are being strengthened with child development experts in the U.S. and China through Gesell Institute of Human Development, a New Haven based non-profit organization focused on the education and support of parents and educators worldwide. Executive Director Marcy Guddemi, PhD visited China for a second tour April 15-25, 2010 with National Lecture Staff Member Norman Heimgartner, EdD, who has been collaborating with educators and pediatricians in China for several years.



Dr. Guddemi provided three public presentations for parents, two in Beijing and one in Guangzhou, about how children learn and grow; and one lecture with a group of educators at Beijing Union University. In addition, Dr. Heimgartner addressed doctors at the First Hospital of Peking University's Department of Pediatrics. Ming Li, MD, Associate Professor at the hospital's Child Neuro-rehabilitation Clinic, sits on the Institute's Advisory Council. Says Guddemi of the visit, "Renewing our relationship with China is just one way that Gesell Institute is working to expand its reach both in and beyond the United States, reinforcing the universality of child growth and development, and supporting the wellbeing of children everywhere."

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The work of Arnold Gesell, PhD, MD, founding Director of the Yale Child Study Center and the Institute's namesake, has had a strong presence in Chinese pediatrics for years. In fact, items from the Gesell Developmental Schedules appear on a clinical assessment normed and printed in China in 1992. Dr. Guddemi met with Yum Mei of Beijing Publishing House to pursue the possibility of collecting normative data on Chinese children for a more educational version of the assessment, the Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO). The GDO is currently the focus of a large-scale study that has resulted in new technical data from a national sample of over 1300 young children in the U.S. The Beijing publisher also produces *Parenting Science*, a popular national parenting magazine that has published articles by Dr. Guddemi in the past. Guddemi has agreed to make regular contributions to the magazine going forward.

Gesell Institute of Human 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 child development. Based on Gesell's pioneering work documenting infant and child growth and development during the first half of the century, Gesell programs and publications help parents and educators 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, visit www.gesellinstitute.org. For more details about the national GDO study, visit www.gesellinstitute.org/research.html. For questions about the Gesell-China collaboration, contact mguddemi@gesellinstitute.org.

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