



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jennifer Pelton

E-mail: [Jennifer@gesellinstitute.org](mailto:Jennifer@gesellinstitute.org)

Voice: 203-777-3481 ext.718

**Gesell Institute Partners with Department of Education to Host Successful Symposium**

**New Haven, CT (May 24, 2012)** – On May 8, 2012 Gesell Institute of Child Development was honored to host a day-long symposium partnership with Alliance for Childhood and the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. Held in Barnard Auditorium at the DOE, this special event, *Giving Young Children the Right Start: Effective Practices for Experiential Learning*, brought together influential, early childhood like-minded thought leaders, who discussed best practices for children in Pre K through Grade 3.

This symposium consisted of a morning keynote, three panels and then closing remarks, which were hosted by Dr. Jacqueline Jones, the Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Early Learning at the DOE, and friend of Gesell Institute. She spoke at Gesell's LEAD (Learn. Educate. Advocate. DO!) Conference.

Other powerful speakers who participated in this day were Deborah Leong, Senior Research Fellow NIEER; Joan Almon, Director of Alliance for Childhood; Linda Espinosa, Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Missouri; Sherry Cleary, Executive Director at the NYC Early Childhood Professional Development Institute; Maurice Sykes, Executive Director at the Early Childhood Leadership Institute; Shakera Walker, Washington Teaching Ambassador Fellow; Kelly Pollitt, National Association of Elementary School Principals; and Dr. Marcy Guddemi, Executive Director of Gesell Institute.

There were 150 attendees in the audience and over 800 parents, teachers and educators watching online during the live-stream broadcast. It is now possible to watch a recording of the day's live event at [gesellinstituteworkshops.org/DCEVENT.html](http://gesellinstituteworkshops.org/DCEVENT.html). Slides of the keynote and panel PowerPoint presentations will also be made public shortly.

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 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](http://www.gesellinstitute.org).

You can find Gesell Institute on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

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