



“With your new data, Gesell Institute can play a leadership role in establishing that children have clear patterns of development and these need to be honored and not ignored by ratcheting up the demands on young children.”

- Joan Almon, Executive Director of the US Alliance for Childhood



## Gesell E-Newsletter: The Institute Insider

*Our Prospects on Prospect*

**60th Anniversary Banquet & LEAD Conference**  
**October 14 - 15, 2010**

**Hosted by Gesell Institute!**

See Details on Page 2

## Gesell Institute of Human Development

### What's Going On Inside the Institute?

On October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Gesell Institute hosted its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet & LEAD Conference (SEE PAGE 2).

#### Extra! Extra! Read All About It

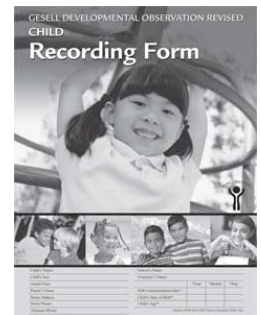
At our very first press conference we revealed that children are still developing in the same ways they were when Dr. Arnold Gesell examined them during the 1940's; however it is classroom curriculums that have changed. We proved that developmental abilities must emerge first before any academic curriculum has meaning for a child and that it then stimulates their desire to learn! Trying to have children perform academic tasks that are too advanced for them at a young age is unproductive for the student. Our study results have recently appeared in *Harvard Education Letter*, *New Haven Register*, *New Haven Advocate*, *Teacher Magazine* and on our local ABC affiliate, WTNH News 8.

To read more about the Press Conference and our study, please visit:  
<http://www.gesellinstitute.org/pdf/GesellPressConferenceResultsRelease.pdf>

#### Check Out Our New Products Hot Off The Presses!

Our **Examiner's Script** has been printed and is now available for purchase. In your workshops this Fall you'll get a sneak preview of the new script! No need to dig into your bag anymore to find the cards because they are now bound inside the professional script for a seamless, standardized administration.

Our new **Child Recording Form** has been printed and this too is available for purchase. New binding and formatting make recording the observation easier than ever! Included in the Child Recording Form are instructions for computing the score for the Teacher Questionnaire and the Parent/Guardian Questionnaire: Both are essential components to the GDO-R!

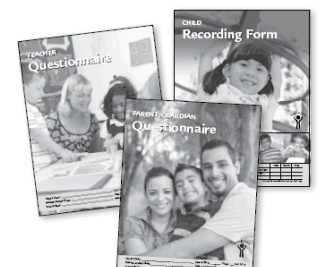


The **Examiner's Manual** is in its final stages of production. Examiners will notice improvements in scoring and interpreting the child's performance in each area of growth. A newly designed Summary Profile Sheet streamlines the Parent-Teacher conference to create greater communication on the level of functioning across the areas of development and learning.

## A child is more than a score...

**Gesell Developmental Observation**

*Newly Revised and Updated in 2010!*





**Gesell Institute's LEAD Conference was a HUGE SUCCESS!** There were about 300 guests in the Ballroom at the Omni Hotel in downtown New Haven, CT on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The day was full of exciting discussions on our Practice Panel, Play Panel, Research Panel and Policy Panel. T. Berry Brazelton, Joan Almon and Jacqueline Jones from the Department of Education in Washington, DC gave inspiring keynote speeches. And Don Monopoli, from The Learning Station, entertained the crowd with his songs. We want to thank all our sponsors for their generous grants and donations. We were so honored to partner with those organizations in promoting and advocating the well being of all children. **LEAD stands for "Learn, Educate, Advocate, Do!"** Now that the conference is over, the Institute is creating our "DO!" action plan to help school communities all over the country. For those of you who were unable to attend the conference, we are creating **electronic Proceedings**. You will be able to watch a video summary of the conference with personal interviews on a DVD, and read thought papers from our speakers. This DVD will be provided to communities for **FREE** to help early childhood advocates like yourselves make change in your own school districts. Follow us on our Facebook and Twitter pages to learn more about these Proceedings in the near future.

## Fun SNAP



## Shots from Gesell's LEAD Conference



We received **very positive feedback** on our Conference Evaluation Forms when we asked if participants would attend, or recommend colleagues to attend, our conferences in the future. For example:

*"Yes! I am hoping that more of my own colleagues can attend next time, because I am so concerned that academic-based preschools are becoming the norm and worse, academic preschools will become what parents request most. We need to start with the parents to educate them to demand a developmentally appropriate program which uses data and assessment results in an appropriate way." --Anonymous*

*"The Institute is a gift to early childhood and children." – Anonymous*

If you attended the conference, [please complete our survey here](#), thank you!

[Quotes From the LEAD Conference](#)

“Children are the future of our world. If we don’t pay attention to them, and if we don’t capture the parents to understand them, we don’t have a future...If we’re early enough to reinforce the parents at each of these stages of development (touchpoints), we can give those children, particularly the underprivileged, undernourished, and minorities, a future that all of us want for them...It becomes an opportunity to reach for them and give them a brilliant future.”

--T. Berry Brazelton  
Morning Keynote Speaker

“The focus of the home-school connection program is to understand school success as an effort in what I like to call a triangular process of parents, teachers, and children...to understand parent’s expectations and perspectives they have about their child’s education and teachers, and translate the child for both of them in a way that there is continuity in their expectations, and the way they see the child developing.”

--Martha Garcia-Sellers  
Practice Panel Member

“What we need in Kindergarten is a balance between teachers having goals for what they would like to accomplish for their children, have good experimental ways of bringing things to the children and then giving the children TIME and trusting the child to use their time well, to explore the world in their own way which usually takes the form of PLAY.”

--Joan Almon,  
Luncheon Keynote Speaker



**LEAD stands for Learn, Educate, Advocate, and Do!** So what can you “Do!” to help ensure that our youngest learners have appropriate learning experiences and environments?

Post ideas on our Facebook page!

facebook

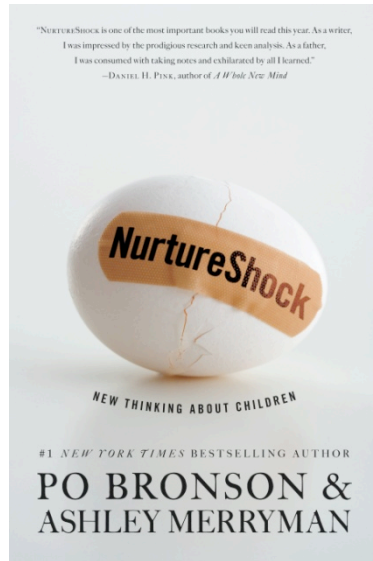
Check out our new YouTube Page!





**NurtureShock: New Thinking About Children**

Ashley Merryman, co-author of this New York Times Bestseller, was the Keynote speaker at Dr. Ed Zigler's Award Banquet on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. "NurtureShock", which has been called a 'revolutionary new perspective on childhood', has received many awards over the past year since its release and was featured on *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, *All Things Considered*, *Fresh Air* and in *Newsweek*. Ashley signed copies of her book at the Banquet. Merryman told a reporter at *The New Haven Register* that, in regards to the Lead Conference, "This conference is about telling people about the great science that's out there that could really change kids' lives, and how it's incumbent upon us to learn that science and figure out what we can do."



**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

For the last two years, Gesell Institute of Human Development has coordinated a national effort to collect baseline and exploratory data on the Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO) ©2007. Schools from around the country were recruited in 2008-2010 to participate in the GDO study. Data has been collected from a diverse sample of close to 1,300 children, families, and teachers.

Our latest data provides new technical data and updated trends indicating what children can and cannot do at various developmental stages. **New products and materials for the GDO-R are currently for sale.** We have created a set of FAQs for old and new users, customers, friends, and colleagues. If you have a question that is not answered on this [FAQ](#), please contact us through our website.

**OR Visit our FAQ online:**  
<http://www.gesellinstitute.org/gdofaq.html>

**Gesell Institute's Revised Observation and New Products!**

**Gesell Developmental Observation-Revised, GDO-R** is the newly revised developmental assessment system based on current data and updated trends. The system includes the following updated materials:

- *Examiner's Manual*
- *Examiner's Script (includes Copy Forms and Visual I cards right in the script!)*
- *Child Recording Form*
- *Manipulatives*
- *Summary Profile Sheet (includes developmental, academic, and social-emotional items)*
- *Parent and Teacher Questionnaires*

**Gesell Early Screener, GES** is a brand new screening product designed to give a quick look at a child's developmental functioning. Easily administered in 20 minutes, the GES is perfect for collecting baseline developmental data on large numbers of incoming students, and provides interpretive rubrics for children who may need further evaluation.

**Parent/Guardian Questionnaire** collects information regarding the child's early health history and records social, emotional, and adaptive behaviors observed by family members.

**Teacher Questionnaire** collects social, emotional and adaptive behaviors observed in the classroom and includes an interpretive rubric.

**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.



**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.

**Marina 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 the Director of the Parent-Teacher Connection Program at the Gesell Institute.



**Jennifer Pelton, MA in Publishing**

Jennifer joined the Gesell team in August 2010 as the Marketing & Communications Associate. Previously, she studied in Oxford, England where she earned her Master's Degree and had an undergraduate interest in Psychology, Sociology and English. Jen brings in interests in all these endeavors to her work at Gesell as she markets the Institute's new products and social networking sites.

***Gesell Institute's  
National Lecture  
Staff***

After the conference on October 16<sup>th</sup>, Gesell Institute's National Lecture Staff (NLS) met for their yearly meeting in New Haven, CT. Gesell Institute is represented throughout the United States by the NLS, a carefully selected, highly educated, intensively trained, and skilled group of professionals. Coming from such diverse backgrounds as school superintendents; principals and other administrators; preschool, elementary, secondary, and university teachers; as well as resource and special education professionals, the NLS work together to provide a comprehensive program for staff development and in-service training across the country.

**Save the Date: November 3-6, 2010**

**NAEYC Conference in Anaheim, California**

**Gesell Institute of Human Development will be an Exhibitor**

*Come find us at **Booth # 639!***

Enter a Raffle at our Booth for your chance to win a **FREE** 3 day workshop - a \$500 Value!

Are you interested in becoming a part of our NLS Staff? The Institute currently has NLS Representatives in Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Texas. We are always looking for more! Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a staff member or how to register for a workshop in your area. Call us at 1-800-369-7709