



“..primary teachers...have a big part to play in the expanding movement for the conservation of national vitality...by bringing new health, gladness, and creativeness into the primary school ...”

-Arnold Gesell



# GDO Study Newsletter

## February 2010

**Be a Part of Cutting Edge Research!**

**Participate in our PILOT study!**

*See Details Below.*

## GDO National Study

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Gesell Institute's staff is excitedly opening up incoming boxes and wrapping up data collection! As other schools continue to finish data collection or volunteer to collect additional Pilot data, staff and interns are analyzing the in-house data. As we wind up GDO data collection in 2010, Gesell welcomes select schools to collect data on Pilot Items ONLY. Don't miss **your last opportunity** to take part in this important study!

### Data Update and Information

The Gesell Institute team is thankful for the reams of data you have collected and submitted so far! We are busy processing your data in the order it has arrived. Certificates and compensation will be sent to you in short course.



Some schools are currently collecting GDO data. Thank you for your continued efforts and enthusiasm. **Please note: all data must be returned to the Institute by February 28, 2010 in order to be eligible for our study.** Data postmarked after February 28, 2010 will not be eligible for compensation.

Please ensure that data is complete, includes a summary form and school demographic form, and is boxed for pick-up. *Contact Ashley or Andrea for your UPS mailer @ 203.777.3481 before February 28.*

We plan to publish the technical report for Back to School 2010. To meet this goal, we need everyone to adhere to their individual assessment targets and deadlines. In addition, we need **demographic information for your school** as well as for examiners. Please fax back the form you will receive by email if you have not done so already.

### **NEW** More Pilot Study Data Needed!

While many schools have been working hard to collect GDO data, we are still searching for some select sites to collect Pilot data. This data is important for focusing the course of Gesell Institute's Next Steps, preparing the Institute for the future, and moving our assessments forward. *If your school is interested in participating in this cutting edge research, please contact Ashley or Andrea @ 203.777.3481 immediately!*

Pilot data collection includes the pilot items, consisting of a 10 min child interview, and obtaining Teacher Questionnaire, and Parent/Guardian Questionnaire (each take approximately 5 minutes to complete). Unlike administering the full GDO, **Pilot data collection is quick** and can be completed during quiet moments in the classroom. Teachers do not have to be GDO trained in order to administer the Pilot items. **Receive \$7.50 per completed set of forms!**

*Schools Participating...53*

*New Schools...1*

*GDO Assessments Anticipated by Feb*

*'10...1447*

*GDOs Returned to Date...1080*

*Pilot Assessments Returned to*

*Date...886*

## Meet the Gesell Institute Interns

**Jennifer** is pursuing a Masters in Clinical Psychology. She has facilitated art therapy interventions for kids in Ecuador.

**Hannah** is an Albertus Magnus student pursuing a BA in Art Therapy with an interest in psychometrics.

**Ryan** is pursuing a BA in Psychology and plays lacrosse for Quinnipiac University.

**Lindsay** is pursuing a joint degree in Art Therapy and Psychology.

**Amy** is a Quinnipiac Psychology student with an interest in healthcare; she will complete her BA degree this year.

**Kelsey** is a Quinnipiac student studying Psychology and Law.

**Meghan** is pursuing a BA in Psychology; she has a special interest in speech-language pathology.



L-R: Meghan, Ryan, Kelsey

## SITES CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING

*...and more being added each day!*

*Acton Coop Preschool, MA  
 Amberly Elementary, MI  
 Appleby Elementary, NY  
 Applewild Elementary School, MA  
 Bible Center Christian School, WV  
 Bolles School, FL  
 Brevard County Schools, FL  
 Canterbury School, FL  
 Charlotte Christian 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  
 Naugatuck Early Child Dev. Center, CT  
 Naugatuck Valley Community College Child Center, CT  
 Noah's Ark Pre-School, MI  
 Oakland Christian School, MI  
 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  
 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  
[Your School Name Here?, USA](#)*

### Favorite Funny Data Collection Quotes

**Q: Who is your best friend?**

A: Jack Ray because he's handsome.

**Q: What do you do when you are lost?**

A: Take an acorn top and whistle on it.

**Q: What do you like to do outside?**

A: Meditate on a hill.

### **NEW** Coming Up!

Thanks to data collected in this study, revisions are now underway in order to launch the updated GDO manual, script, and child recording forms in Fall 2010. Keep an eye out for our new look! Bundles and kits will include our newly formatted Teacher Questionnaire and Parent Questionnaire to strengthen our multi-dimensional approach to understanding individual children.

### **NEW** Listen on BAM Radio...

Dr. Andrew Adesman & Dr. Peter Breggin with host Rae Pica

Is it possible that ADHD is really the result of poor parenting or misguided teaching? Is ADHD even a legitimate diagnosis, or have we simply "medicalized" what is typical child behavior under specific conditions? This issue is far from settled. Our two guests share very different views and both make a compelling case. Listen, get the facts, and decide for yourself.

Dr. Andrew Adesman received his Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Adesman is board certified in neurodevelopmental disabilities and also developmental behavioral pediatrics. Peter R. Breggin M.D., is a psychiatrist in private practice in Ithaca, New York. He is the author of more than twenty books, including Talking Back to Ritalin: The Ritalin Fact Book.

<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.

***Could your school be a good match for the PILOT study?***

***We are welcoming a few schools to collect data in February & March 2010 on our Pilot Assessment ONLY.***

- √ *Do you work with children between 2.3 and 6.3 years of age?*
- √ *Do you have interested examiners willing to administer the Pilot interview?*  
***Note: They do not need to be trained on the GDO.***
- √ *Are you interested in taking part in cutting edge research?*
- √ *Are you able to obtain completed forms from parents and teachers regarding students?*
- √ *Is your school interested in receiving recognition for participation in a national study on child development – a highly prestigious award that can be used in promoting your school?*

### **√ Check Before You Send Us Your Data**

- √ Date of Birth is in correct order on forms
- √ Data is complete OR Write us a note if it is not
- √ Summary form included
- √ Pilot, Teacher and Parent/Guardian forms are tucked inside Data Collection Form

***If YES to any or all of these, please contact Andrea Sambrook, Program Coordinator at 800-369-7709 x706 or [andrea@gesellinstitute.org](mailto:andrea@gesellinstitute.org) to discuss a possible match!***

***GDO Study 310 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511  
1-800-369-7709 x 706***