



“Every generation rediscovers and re-evaluates the meaning of infancy and childhood.”

-Arnold Gesell

# GDO Study Newsletter

## November 2009

**Need Technical Help? Have a question? Call our help desk.**

**800.369.7709**

X703 for Ashley Firth  
X706 for Andrea Sambrook

### GDO National Study

WELCOME TO PROGRESS! Gesell Institute’s national study is pursuing its most active phase of data collection. Schools across the nation collected data on the Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO). **Eleven new schools have joined just this month!** We are welcoming just a few schools to collect data in January and February ‘10 to top off our numbers so that each age band can have a minimum of 200 sets of data. Don’t miss your last opportunity to take part in this important study!

#### What’s What for Study Participation

Participating in the GDO Study consists of full administration of the GDO and pilot items, as well as a Teacher Questionnaire and Parent/Guardian Questionnaire for each participating child. Eligible participants must be between 2.3 to 6.3\* years of age and speak English as their primary language. As a **thank you**, we provide all GDO study forms FREE to each participating school, and remunerate schools **\$10 per completed set of data (4 forms)**.



**\*Please Note: Children must not be 6.3 + any days. Use 6.2 and 29 days as a better estimate to avoid ineligible data for the study.**

Schools Participating.....	46
New Schools Added.....	11
GDO Assessments	
Anticipated by Jan '10.....	1653
GDO's Returned to Date...	617

#### Data Update

We know that many schools are working hard to collect data right now, and other schools have completed their collection.

If your school collected data in **Spring '09**, it must be turned in **immediately** so that we are able to process your sample. Schools collecting data in Fall '09 must return completed data by **December 31, 2009**. We offer a pre-paid UPS pick up for your data. There is no reason to delay!

- ✓ 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

**SITES CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING**  
*...and more being added each day!*

- Amberly Elementary, MI*
- Appleby Elementary, NY*
- Applewild Elementary School, MA*
- Bible Center Christian School, WV*
- Bolles School, FL*
- Brookwood School, MA*
- Charlotte Preparatory School, NC*
- Coyote Valley Elementary, CA*
- da Vinci School, TX*
- Doane Academy, NJ*
- Dwight Pre-School, CT*
- Early Childhood Learning Center, CT*
- Early Learning Center, VA*
- Elm Drive Elementary, NY*
- Evergreen Country Day School, CO*
- Franklin Academy, NC*
- Forsyth Country Day, NC*
- Grace Brethren School, CA*
- Greater Portland Christian School, ME*
- Greenhill School, TX*
- Helene Grant, CT*
- 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*
- 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*
- Rosebud Elementary, SD*
- St. Anslem School, OH*
- St. Bernadette School, LA*
- St. Maria Goretti Preschool, AZ*
- Southwest Covenant School, OK*
- Truman Head Start, CT*
- Upland Country Day, PA*
- Weslyan School, GA*
- Westminster Academy, TN*
- Zigler Head Start, CT*
- Zimmerman School, ND*
- Your School Name Here?, USA*



## **HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DATA?**

Does your school have data you have been holding on to? Do you have questions that are still unanswered? Are you missing parts of the data packet and feel unsure about what to do?

**CALL Andrea or Ashley @ Gesell: 203.777.3148**

### **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. She brings a passion and commitment to education and research to the Institute and her experience as a volunteer examiner. Ashley recently completed her Teach for America commitment in Phoenix, AZ where she taught reading and language arts to struggling readers in a low income school.



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

***We are welcoming a few schools to collect data in January or February to top off our numbers so that each age band can have a minimum of 200 sets of data.***

- √ *Do you work with children between 2.3 and 6.3 years of age?*
- √ *Do you have Gesell trained examiners willing to administer ALL of the tasks?*
- √ *Are you interested in administering our NEW pilot items?*
- √ *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?*

### **Favorite Funny Data Collection Quotes**

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

A: Run around and go AHHHHHH!!!

**Q: What aches?**

A: Your stomach when you eat too much chocolate.

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

A: Find Pa. Pa doesn't get lost.

### **The GDO Data Entry Team in Connecticut:**

**Ashley** is an undergraduate at Southern Connecticut State University pursuing a degree in Psychology.

**Jennifer** is pursuing a Master's degree in clinical psychology. As a rotary exchange student in Ecuador, she facilitated art therapy interventions with young mothers and their children.

**Kristen** is a music teacher and

holds a BA in Psychology. She will pursue graduate work in music therapy.

***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***