



“The task of child care is not to force [children] into a predetermined pattern but to guide [their] growth.”

-Arnold Gesell

GDO Study Newsletter

October 2009

GDO National Renorming Study

WELCOME TO FALL! Gesell Institute’s national study is entering its most active phase of data collection. Schools across the nation collected data on the Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO), a widely used and deeply loved assessment tool among early childhood educators. Don’t miss an opportunity to take part in this



important study. Even small samples of five to ten assessments are welcome!

What’s What for Study Participation

Participating in the GDO Study consists of the 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)**.

Data Collection Update

Schools Participating...34
New Schools Added...10
GDO Assessments
Anticipated by Fall '09...1662
GDO's Returned to Date...560

We know that many schools are working hard to collect data now, and other schools are done! If your school collected data in **Spring '09**, it must be turned in **no later**

than October 31 so that we are able to process your GDO Study 310 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
1-800-369-7709 x 706

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!

SITES PARTICIPATING... more added each day!

- Amberly Elementary, MI*
- Appleby Elementary, NY*
- Bolles School, FL*
- Brookwood School, MA*
- Canterbury School, FL*
- Charlotte Preparatory School, NC*
- Coyote Valley Elementary, CA*
- da Vinci School, TX*
- Doane Academy, NJ*
- Dwight Pre-School, CT*
- Early Childhood Learning Center, CT*
- Elm Drive Elementary, NY*
- Early Learning Center, VA*
- Forsyth Country Day, NC*
- Grace Brethren School, CA*
- Greater Portland Christian School, ME*
- Greenhill School, TX*
- Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, SC*
- Hill Central Music Academy, CT*
- John Martinez School, CT*
- Kessler School, TX*
- 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. Anselm School, OH*
- St. Maria Goretti Preschool, AZ*
- Southwest Covenant School, OK*
- Truman Head Start, CT*
- Upland Country Day, PA*
- Westminster Academy, TN*
- Zigler Head Start, CT*
- Your School Name Here?, USA*

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.

Favorite Funny Data Collection Quotes

Q: What do you do when you are confused?

A: Act like Barack Obama.

Q: What swims?


A: Michael Phelps.


Q: What do you do when you cross the street?

A: You do NOT touch the dead squirrel in the middle of the street!

The GDO Volunteer Examiner Team in Connecticut:

Andrea is an assistant teacher in a child development lab school who in the future will pursue graduate clinical work with children. She also trains horses in her free time.

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.

Victoria is a public and home school teacher, artist, parent, and lifelong learner.

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Could your school be a good match for the study?

- √ *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?*

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