



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Child Development Experts Renew and Expand Relationship with China

New Haven, CT, September 10, 2008 – Exciting international connections are being strengthened between child development experts in the U.S. and China through the Gesell Institute of Human Development, a New Haven based, independent non-profit organization whose work focuses on the education and support of teachers and parents worldwide. Gesell Executive Director Marcy Guddemi, PhD has accepted an invitation to visit Beijing later this month with Gesell National Lecture Staff Member Norman Heimgartner, EdD, who has been working to expand collaboration with Pediatricians in China for a number of years.

Dr. Guddemi will be providing two presentations about how children learn and grow, one with a group of educators at The First Hospital of Peking University's Department of Pediatrics, and separately with a group of Chinese parents. Ming Li, MD, Associate Professor at the hospital's Child Neuro-habilitation Clinic, sits on the Institute's recently formed Advisory Council. Says Guddemi of the visit, "Renewing our relationship with China is just one way that Gesell Institute is working to expand its reach both in and beyond the United States, reinforcing the universality of child growth and development, and supporting the wellbeing of children everywhere."

The work of Arnold Gesell, Phd, MD, founding Director of the Yale Child Study Center and the Institute's namesake, has had a strong presence in Chinese pediatrics for years, and in fact a loose translation of the Gesell Developmental Schedules was printed in China in 1992. As a follow-up to this recently discovered translation, Dr. Guddemi has been asked to meet with a publisher in China to pursue the possibility of a more official translation of the Institute's early childhood assessment, the Gesell Developmental Observation (GDO) ©2007, currently the center of a national normative and exploratory study.

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The GDO, based on the original schedules developed by Dr. Gesell at Yale University in the 1940's and revised many times since at the Institute, is currently used by thousands of preschool and elementary schools across the country to determine a child's stage of development. The GDO was quite popular in the 1980's with almost 20% of all Kindergarten children receiving the assessment. Despite continued accolades by GDO examiners and educators around the world, the GDO has received some criticism over the years due to its outdated norms. Results with current norms from the 2008-2009 national study are expected to be released in Fall of 2009, followed by a revised and updated version of the assessment.

The Gesell Institute has been associated with how children grow and learn since 1950. Based on the pioneering work of Arnold Gesell documenting infant and child growth and development through cinematography during the first half of the century, today, Gesell 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. Community programs help create collaborative partnerships between parents and teachers to support school success. For additional information and resources, visit www.gesellinstitute.org. For questions about the Gesell-China collaboration, contact mguddemi@gesellinstitute.org. For questions about the current GDO study, contact shannon@gesellinstitute.org.

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