



“If animals play, this is because play is useful in the struggle for survival; because play practices and so perfects the skills needed in adult life.”

- Susanna Miller

Gesell Institute Newsletter

September 2010

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

Hosted by Gesell Institute!

See Details on Page 2

Gesell Institute of Human Development

With our national study moving to print, staff at Gesell Institute is thrilled to focus on our upcoming events! On October 14 and 15, Gesell Institute hosts its 60th Anniversary Celebration Banquet and first national LEAD Conference (**SEE PAGE 2**). We will announce awards for two “Giants” who have contributed to the field of early childhood education....and our long awaited data and products! Come join us in New Haven for a chance to become a LEADer!

NEW Gesell Institute LEADership and Discovery Day!

With our new baseline trends for normative development hot off the presses, we are thrilled to announce that mayor has proclaimed October 14th as Gesell Institute LEADership and Discovery Day. On this day, Gesell Institute will hold a press conference to release its new, up to date data based on the 2010 study that many of you participated in! Moreover, our new products are ready to purchase. Call now to order the updated and revised Child Recording Form!

NEW Get to Know Our Parent-Teach Connection Program!

This year, the Parent-Teacher Connection Program kicks off the 2010-2011 program year with a revised mission: *To create Parent-Teacher Teams that personalize education and build on individual children’s strengths and interests in preparation for Kindergarten.* We can’t wait to meet the families, teachers, and little ones!

- The P-TCP will begin recruiting families on Sept 7th for the 2010-2011 program year
- We expect to serve 35-40 children in 3 New Haven Head Start Centers (Zigler Head Start, Celentano & Early Childhood Learning Center – Blake Street)
- We will be “piloting” the GDO Screener this year with all the children we serve!

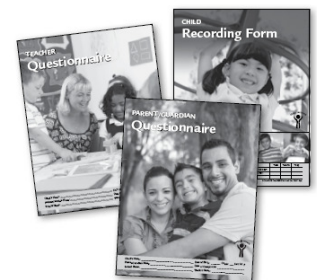


The members of the Parent-Teacher Connection Program Team:
Marina Pappas (Program Director)
Monica Bunton (Liaison) Victoria Knezek (Liaison)
Michele Moore (Liaison) Pamela Ralston (Liaison)

A child is more than a score...

Gesell Developmental Observation

Newly Revised and Updated in 2010!



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

Gesell Institute Newsletter

September 2010

Gearing Up: [60th Anniversary Banquet & LEAD Conference](#), October 14-15, 2010

NEW We hope to see you all in New Haven in October – join us to celebrate the Institute's 60th anniversary and hear the latest research and strategies for developing best policies for children's early education! Come hear world-renowned speakers **T. Berry Brazelton, MD & Joshua D. Sparrow, MD**; Alliance for Childhood's **Joan Almon**; Head Start founder **Ed Zigler, PhD**; Columbia University's **Sharon Lynn Kagan, PhD**; NYT bestseller *Nurture Shock* author **Ashley Merryman**; and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Education **Jaqueline Jones**. This important event is hosted by Gesell Institute and made possible by generous sponsors including the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, ConEdison, and Yale University. We envision take home "Toolkits" to start Community Conversations in your locations and also plan to launch a Policy Think Tank group comprised of leading minds (like yours!) in the field. Don't miss this opportunity!



Early Childhood Leadership Conference
October 15, 2010, New Haven, CT

Featured Speakers

					
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T. Berry Brazelton and Joshua D. Sparrow, MDs
Deacon Toolports Center, Harvard University

Edward Zigler, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Emerita, Yale University

Sharon Lynn Kagan, PhD
Virginia and Leonard Mann Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy,
Teachers College, Columbia University

Joan Almon
Executive Director, U.S. Alliance for Childhood
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. State Representative

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Register Today! www.gesellinstitute.org/events



LEAD CONFERENCE

Hosted by Gesell Institute of Human Development



LEAD: Learn, Educate, Advocate, Do!

An Early Childhood Leadership Conference

*Let's raise test scores the right way!
We know what works, now let's do it.*

October 15, 2010
New Haven, Connecticut

Register Today!
www.gesellinstitute.org/events

Conference Overview & Objectives

Gesell Institute's LEAD Conference will be held in New Haven, Connecticut on October 15, 2010. This stand-alone event is designed for school administrators, Board of Education members, early childhood coordinators, psychologists, researchers, policy makers, and other important decision makers from around the country. Conference goals include widening an understanding of the critical importance of the early years in education and life-long development.

Contributing to the national conversation about early childhood and leadership in educational policy, sessions and speakers will generate practical ideas for setting and implementing appropriate expectations for our youngest learners, inspiring and motivating educational leaders toward change. A publication of the proceeding is expected to become required reading for policy makers across the country.

Why a Conference?

- Research confirms the vital role of child development principles as a basis for teaching young children.
- Current educational policy does not take the whole child into consideration, leaving behind the fundamental principles that govern how children learn.
- Children are being asked to perform inappropriate learning tasks for their stage of development, leading to lower test scores, decreased motivation, and overall school failure.

Join us to contribute to and learn from this important conversation and LEAD the way to effective change!

Special Events

A pre-conference banquet honoring the work of Dr. Arnold Gesell (1880-1961) and in celebration of Gesell Institute's 60th Anniversary will be held on October 14th. Award-winning journalists and New York Times bestseller *Nurture Shock* authors Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman will speak at the banquet, and a special video message will be aired from Nobel Prize Winner James J. Heckman. Gesell Alumni will also be featured at this event.

(Be sure to register as a Gesell Alumnus if you have a past association or relationship with the Institute and be recognized at these events. Visit www.gesellinstitute.org/alumni.html today!)

PLUS... take advantage of being in beautiful New England at the peak of fall foliage!

Home to Yale University, New Haven has much to offer, from culture to history to fine dining. This quaint New England city has multiple museums, galleries, and theatre groups. With a rich history spanning more than 350 years, a broad heritage is preserved in New Haven's architecture, cuisine, and cultural events. The area's scenery is simply stunning in the fall, an excellent time to enjoy an extended weekend visit!

Take a guided tour of the Yale Campus to learn its history and current contributions. Tours are available Monday through Saturday. Visit www.yale.edu/visitor for details or call 203-432-2300.

New Haven is also only a 90-minute train ride away from New York City and 2 hours from Boston. Come enjoy a convenient trip to these diverse and awe-inspiring cities!

For more information about what to do while in New Haven, see www.visitnewhaven.com.

About Gesell Institute

Gesell Institute of Human Development is an independent non-profit organization located on the Yale campus. Our mission is based on the work of Dr. Arnold Gesell, as well as on current research and practice, broadening the Gesell philosophy of the past and bringing the work of the Institute into the 21st century. The Institute provides various sources of information for parents, teachers, and schools to assist them in making critical decisions about children. Gesell programs and publications help parents and educators understand the ages and stages of childhood. This knowledge can be used to understand and interpret behaviors and to plan appropriate curricula in the classroom.

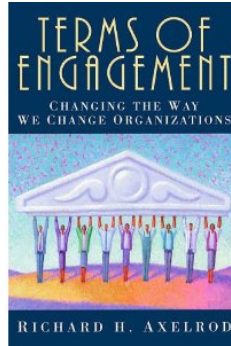


Check Out This Hot New Book!

This October, check out a new book by Richard H. Axelrod, *Terms of Engagement: New Ways of Leading and Changing Organizations*. After reading an advanced copy, Executive Director Marcy Guddemi can't wait to recommend it to others!

Terms of Engagement

- Outlines four core principles and three practices that enable leaders to build strong employee commitment to change efforts
- Shows how the old change management model actually discourages engagement
- Includes new interviews and new material on encouraging engagement through everyday interactions and work design



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 over 1,350 children, families, and teachers.

The new data will provide current information and updated trends indicating what children can and cannot do at various developmental stages. New products and materials for the GDO are currently under development based on this data, and a number of questions have come up from our 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 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 devised 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 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 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.

Ashley Firth, MA in Education

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.



Jennifer Pelton, MA in Publishing

Jennifer joined the Gesell team in August 2010 as Marketing and Communication Associate. Previously, she studied at Oxford in England where she earned her Masters degree and had an undergraduate interest in psychology. Jen brings in interests in both endeavors to her work at Gesell as she prepares for the upcoming LEAD Conference.

Listen on [Bam! Radio](http://www.gesellinstitute.org/radio.html)

Rewards for Academic Performance: A Good Idea?

Edward Deci, James Windell, & Lisa Guernsey

<http://www.gesellinstitute.org/radio.html>

The notion of offering incentives, including cash rewards to motivate students to excel academically has arrested the imagination of educators eager to close the achievement gap. Are gold stars, pizza, or cash appropriate and effective ways to drive academic performance? Expert opinion and data are mixed.

Edward Deci, PhD, professor of psychology, University of Rochester Clinical and Social Psychology. James Windell, MA, author and clinical psychologist, Oakland County Circuit Court/Family Division. Lisa Guernsey is a mother and journalist who is curious about how new media and technology effect the developing mind. She is also author of *Into the Minds of Babes*.

Save the Date: October 15, 2010

[Lead Educate Advocate Do!](#)

An Early Childhood Leadership Conference

Visit our [website](#) for details and to register!