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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Gesell Institute Director Attending International Child Development Conference in China**

**New Haven, CT (August 1, 2011)** – This week Dr. Marcy Guddemi, Executive Director of Gesell Institute of Child Development, is visiting China to attend the 2011 International Child Education Expo (ICEE) that is taking place in Beijing. This is Asia’s annual leading early childhood trade and consumer event where experts can meet, share experiences, and discuss the best practices, latest innovations and available technologies in the industry. Marcy will be accompanied by Dr. Walter Gilliam, an Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry and Psychology at the Yale Child Study Center. He is also the Director of the Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy, which is a branch of the Yale School of Medicine. Tong Liu, a Postdoctoral Fellow from the Edward Zigler Center, will also be joining them.

Located at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, ICEE will host over 300 exhibitors and over 100,000 attendees. Administration professionals, policy makers, educators, teachers, Kindergarten specialists and parents from around the world will be gathering together to unite around the theme of this year’s ICEE, *High Quality Education Can Achieve Exceptional Growth!*

Dr. Guddemi will represent Gesell Institute this year at ICEE as a presenter. Her presentation, *Respecting the “Child” in Child Development*, focuses on the need for more developmentally appropriate classrooms which should be designed to meet the needs of every child, the different Ages & Stages that are found within development (age 3 to 9), and the importance of PLAY and play-based learning. “This presentation,” states Dr. Guddemi, “Will be my opportunity to explain the six needed C’s involved in child development: Collaboration (teamwork), Communication (verbal and writing), Content (academic skills), Creative Innovation (problem solving), Critical Thinking (learning to analyze and evaluate) and having Confidence (the courage to take risks and to learn from them). Every developmentally appropriate classroom should bring the opportunity to expand the skill set of each needed ‘C’ to each child in the room.”

For ten days Dr. Guddemi, Dr. Gilliam and Ms. Liu will be traveling between Beijing and Shanghai visiting Kindergarten classrooms, teaching about the work of Dr. Arnold Gesell (Gesell Institute’s namesake and founding Director of the Yale Child Study Center), and introducing Chinese educators to Gesell Institute’s Gesell Developmental Observation Revised (GDO-R) ©2011. The GDO-R is a unique multi-dimensional assessment system for children ages 2 ½ to 9 that can assist parents, educators and other professionals in understanding a child’s behavior in relation to typical growth patterns. It involves direct observation of a child’s growth, academic achievement, and social and emotional development. Gesell assessments have been used as a standard of measure of child growth and development for over 85 years.

Gesell Institute of Child Development is an independent non-profit organization located on Yale University’s campus in New Haven, CT. It has been associated with how children grow and learn since 1950. The work of Arnold Gesell, PhD, MD, (1888-1961) had a profound influence on the field

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of child development. Based on Gesell's pioneering work documenting child growth and development during the first half the Twentieth Century, Gesell programs and publications helped parents and educators understand the ages and stages of childhood; and still do to this day. Gesell Institute's professional development and parent workshops cover a broad range of topics regarding child behavior, healthy growth and development, and positive learning outcomes. For additional information and resources, please visit [www.gesellinstitute.org](http://www.gesellinstitute.org) and [www.gesellinstituteworkshops.org](http://www.gesellinstituteworkshops.org).

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