



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gesell Institute Partners with National Association of Elementary School Principals

New Haven, CT (October 1, 2013) – Gesell Institute of Child Development is pleased to announce that it has recently partnered with The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). NAESP is an internationally recognized organization that has supported principals and education leaders since 1921. The September/October 2013 issue of *Principal* magazine, a professional journal mailed to all 20,000 NAESP members, includes Gesell Institute’s timely *Community Early Childhood LEADership E-Kit*.

This partnership takes place in light of the implementation of Common Core Standards in K-12 schools across the country. “There must be common sense to the Common Core!” comments Dr. Marcy Guddemi, Executive Director of Gesell Institute. “Our latest research,” says Guddemi, “shows that children are not reaching developmental milestones any faster than previous generations of children. Respecting the variations of development from child to child is more important than ever. There is a right way to raise test scores with leadership in quality early childhood programs for children PreK3 to Grade 3.”

During the Opening Session of NAESP’s 2013 Annual Conference, U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, addressed principal leadership and early learning. “Unfortunately, many principal preparation programs and school systems currently lack sufficient training to teach principals how to design and lead quality early childhood programs. To reverse this trend, new policies in the ESEA reauthorization must include program strategies to create comprehensive early childhood programs.” NAESP is actively supporting a P-3 policy and practice agenda, of which the E-Kit can be of assistance to. “When policy makers and school leaders don’t have access to the latest research about how children learn, they can make mistakes that actually keep down the very test scores they are trying to enhance,” states Guddemi.

Gesell Institute’s E-Kit CD-ROM is an interactive compilation of multi-media resources designed for school leaders, as well as teachers, parents, and policy makers. The E-Kit provides tools that help principals begin their own “call-to-action” community conversations about educational reform, quality early childhood programs, and best practices based on research. The E-Kit’s Tools For Change Tool Kit, complete with thought papers, audio files, a video and multiple PowerPoint presentations, shows how to use scientific theories and practice to help raise test scores the right way. The distribution of the E-Kit to NAESP members was made possible by a generous grant from ConEdison in New York. The E-Kit is also available online at www.geselle-kit.org.

About Gesell Institute

Gesell Institute of Child Development is an independent non-profit organization, located on the Yale campus in New Haven, Conn., that 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 of child development. Based on Dr. Gesell’s pioneering work documenting infant and child growth and development, Gesell Institute’s programs and publications now 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. For additional information and resources, visit www.gesellinstitute.org.

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