



# *The Gesell Developmental Observation*

# Gesell Institute of Human Development

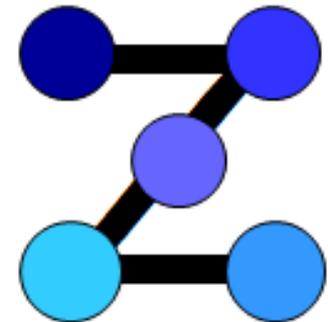
## Mission Statement

*Our mission is to educate, guide, and support parents, educators, and others in the understanding of child growth and development so that all children may be nurtured, encouraged, and empowered as they grow and learn.*

Let's talk about developmental age.  
What did Dr. Arnold Gesell say about development?

"Humans develop in a patterned, predictable way. Each developmental age has characteristic patterns of mental and physical organization, social and emotional behavior, and play interests and activities."

**What are the different patterns?  
How can we predict what will  
come or happen next?**



# What is developmental age?

"Research shows us that certain behaviors, language, and intellectual abilities are typically characteristic of and associated with a specific chronological age.

A child's **developmental age** will indicate where a child is socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually on the path of development, as compared to typical behaviors and characteristics of that age."



According to the Gesell Institute of Human Development, “**Developmental age** is the age at which the child is functioning as a total organism—the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical components are interdependent.”



# Are developmental age and chronological age the same thing?

A child's developmental age may or may not correspond with his or her chronological age.

The importance of a child's developmental readiness to begin a given grade or school program is of great importance.



# Why consider developmental age?

Children require different environments at different stages in their development in order to function and learn most effectively.

Children are best able to reach their fullest potential in an environment where educators are sensitive to their developmental characteristics and understand children's changing competencies and needs over time.



The School can accommodate each scholar's individual needs more appropriately by determining where they are functioning in each of the four areas of development.

It is important to understand that faster is not necessarily better and more time is a gift.

The simple fact is that children develop at different rates and **the younger the child, the more variance there is in development.**

In addition, most children do not experience growth evenly in all four areas.

Ready to  
learn to  
read?



Ready to  
read to  
learn?

# How does the Gesell Observation help?

- This program is too “hard”!
- This program is too “soft”!

We are looking for the program that is just right!

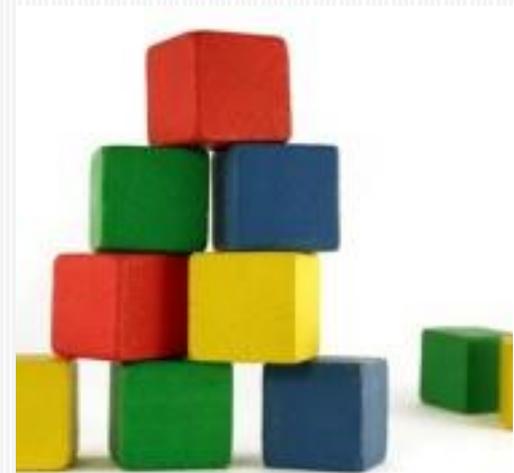
We want to be sure that we “match” your child with the very best program we have to offer, based on their individual development.

- ♥ Your number one concern is your child.
- ♥ So is ours!



# *The Gesell Developmental Observation...*

- is not a test...children can not "prepare" for their development.
- is a standardized instrument.
- must be administered by a trained, certified observer.
- is individual.
- is interactive.
- is easy to administer.
- provides an easy to understand *Summary Profile Report*.



The *Gesell Developmental Observation* consists of a number of research-based tasks that include:

- visual perception
- fine motor coordination
- attention span
- short term and visual memory
- spatial judgment and depth perception
- ability to stay on task
- visual tracking
- discrimination abilities
- awareness of detail
- auditory processing

The  
*Gesell Developmental Observation*  
is composed of..

- Parent Questionnaire
- Teacher Questionnaire
- Child Recording Form

## Is my child ready for [Kindergarten?](#)

These questions might help.

Is my child able to:

- Be away from me an entire day?
- Express ideas and feelings to adults other than the immediate family?
- Accept minor disappointments or limits without tears?
- Listen to and follow directions?
- Take turns and/or wait his or her turn patiently?
- Work independently without constant adult supervision?
- Find ways to resolve conflict and solve problems with peers independently? (Use their words.)
- Make simple decisions given a few choices of play activities?
- Take care of personal belongings and toileting needs independently?
- Retell familiar stories, nursery rhymes, or songs?

## FAQ:

- What happens to developmentally young children?
- Is something wrong when children are developmentally young?
- My child is very bright. Will that make a difference?
- I will work with my child and get her tutors. Will that get her ready over the summer?
- What can I do to help my child feel good about their placement?



**Development happens!**

**Respect and cherish each stage  
of your child's development!**

Best advice: Don't wish away one  
minute of their childhood.

Remember, we are a team!  
Working together, using your observations,  
the teachers observations, and using the  
*Gesell Developmental Observation*,  
we can find the academic program that is  
just right for your child.

