



THE ULSTER HOSPITAL

DUNDONALD — BELFAST BT16 0RH

Telephone: DUNDONALD 4511

9th April, 1991

JM/JC/U8706831

cc: Dr. H. McMillen, S.C.M.O.

Dr. McMillin,
220 Knock Road,
Belfast 5

Miss H. O'Doherty,
Senior Educational Psychologist

Dear Dr. McMillin,

re: Claire Roberts, [REDACTED] (DOB 10.1.87)

Claire was seen at the Assessment Clinic on the 3rd April at the age of 4 years 3 months. I was delighted to hear that there had been no problems with her general health and that there had been no suggestion of further convulsions. As you know her Epilim had been increased following the recurrence of minor seizures shortly after her last clinic visit. Her mother tells me that she is giving her 4 mls twice daily and a serum valproate level taken on that dose was 110 mg/L which is just marginally above the reference range. I have not suggested any alteration in her present medication.

Her mother feels that she has made good developmental progress since her integration at Castlereagh Nursery School. She does understand that Claire would not benefit from the experience of a normal primary education. She is being formally assessed at present but to date her mother has not been informed of an actual placement for September.

Gross Motor Development: There is no obvious difficulty in this developmental field.

Fine Motor Development: The Occupational Therapist reports slow progress in development of play. There is some improvement in her behaviour and concentration though she remains difficult to direct at times. She is able to line blocks and complete a train. If given verbal instructions ++++ she can build a tower of blocks with both the right and left hands, but appears to have a preference for the right. She knows the concept of big and small but is unable to replace stacking toys unless directed verbally. Shapes - she is able to post circles. Other shapes are done by trial and error. She did however visually discriminate the 5 pieces of an inset tray.

Pencil skills are still poor. She scribbles with both the right and left hands but will not copy a circle. She matches colours red and blue. Her fine co-ordination was satisfactory.

Speech Development: Receptive skills - the Speech Therapist carried out a Reynell Developmental Language Test at a chronological age of 4.03 and her age equivalent was 2 years 5 months. This was disappointing as it suggests an improvement of only 2 months over the past 8 months.

Her attention still remains poor, though she is improving in her performance she still fails at tests such as object function which have been worked on for a long period of time. She has an understanding of prepositions in and on but fails at under.

Expressive language - she now uses 4-5 word utterances more appropriately but still tends to use over-learned stereotyped phrases.

Cont.

Claire Roberts

She continues to be echolalic. She is beginning to describe pictures and has improved in this aspect.

In summary Claire is a pleasant, young child with epilepsy which is well controlled on anticonvulsant therapy. She has always displayed a moderate to severe developmental delay and as I have said is now being formally assessed. She will continue to attend Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy on a regular basis until she commences school.

I would intend to review her in 6 months time on account of her epilepsy. An appointment will be sent to Mrs. Roberts about this.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. J. Major, M.B., D.C.H.,
Associate Specialist in Paediatrics