



THE ULSTER HOSPITAL

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JM/JC/U8706831

17th May, 1989

Dr. McMillin,
220 Knock Road,
Belfast 5

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

Dear Dr. McMillin,

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

Claire was seen at the Assessment Clinic on the 10th May at the age of 2 years 4 months. You will remember this little girl who presented with convulsions at the age of 6 months. She had a total of 10 over a 2 month period but has had none since September 1987. She is on Epilim 2.5 ml b.d. and the serum Valproate level is at the lower end of the therapeutic range. I have not suggested any increase in her medication.

When I first saw Claire at the age of 18 months there were signs of mild general overall developmental delay. She was then introduced to an Occupational Therapist and a Speech Therapist and although her mother has worked extremely well with her, you will see from to-day's report that her progress has been disappointing.

Claire is a 3rd child who was delivered normally at term. She weighed 7 lbs 7 ozs and there were no neonatal problems apart from a clicky hip. There is no significant family history.

On clinical examination there was no evidence of infection today. She has no dysmorphic features and no clinical abnormalities were noted.

Gross Motor Development: Claire was walking independently at the age of 19 months but there is no particular problem in this developmental field. She walks and runs well. She goes up stairs on her hands and feet and comes down 2 feet per stair holding on. She was unable to kick a ball.

Fine Motor Development: The Occupational Therapist finds her irritable during play sessions when demands are made of her. Her attention is limited. She has poor concentration and is very easily distracted. She could build blocks 6 high but would not line them. She slots rings and probably recognises when they are grossly wrong. With basic shapes she selects a circle and experiments with others. She does not persevere to finish the task. She holds a pencil in the midshaft with a gross grasp and makes a vague scribble. She does know the correct end of the pencil. Her handling has improved in that she can replace a medium sized peg but still has difficulty with a small peg.

Speech Development: Claire mainly communicates by her behaviour but does use some words. Twenty words were heard during the Clinic session.

On the receptive side she does respond to some commands in context. She still has no knowledge of body parts although she responded to hair once. She did select some pictures today from a choice of 3. She failed with miniatures. During the symbolic play activity she related the spoon to the cup and she fed the doll but she also fed the sock. She related the brush to the cup. So there was appropriate and inappropriate play.

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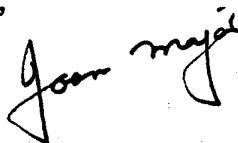
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Claire Roberts U8706831

In summary all Therapists were disappointed at her lack of progress despite her mother's input. Development in any field could not be placed above that of any 2 year old infant. Her mother realises that Claire does show delay in her development but unfortunately her father feels that she will catch up in another year.

I would like to review Claire at the Assessment Clinic in approximately 4 months time when the Psychologist will be present.

Yours sincerely,



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