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June 8, 1998

Dr. R.E. McIntosh  
432 Ellis Street  
Penticton, B.C. V2A 4M2

Dear Dr. McIntosh:

RE: Jeremy Rodrigues  
DOB: [REDACTED], 1994

Thank you for referring Jeremy and for your reports. Dr. Burrows' report provides an excellent summary of Jeremy's development and symptomatology. Dr. McGillivray also outlines Jeremy's development and physical findings at 2 1/2 years of age.

These reports were reviewed. I also interviewed Mrs. Rodrigues and observed Jeremy in the office. From this study I have no doubt that Jeremy has childhood autism.

Jeremy's major deficiency in receptive and expressive language, his isolated stereotype play, his self-stimulation, his unusual preference for spinning toys, his poor eye contact, his social indifference are all classic features of autism. Jeremy's symptoms and signs definitely meet the criteria to diagnose him as autistic.

The consensus now is that there is little or no value in trying to differentiate between pervasive development disorder and autism. It is much clearer to describe Jeremy as being in the Autism Spectrum.

Jeremy, at 4 years of age, must be considered moderately to severely disabled because of his autism.

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It is extremely important to treat Jeremy's autism. The therapy that is required is as follows:

1. Behaviour Therapy (ABA) - applied behaviour analysis, that is an expert behaviour therapist experienced with autism. Presently in B.C. this can only be provided by consultants from either California or Oregon. The consultant teaches the ABA program to the parents, child-care workers, pre-school staff etc., as this therapy needs to be intense and substantial. Ideally the program is 40 hours per week.
2. Speech Therapy - It is important to combine speech therapy with the ABA program. Jeremy's program will depend to a large extent on his speech/language development. Speech therapy is recommended at least once per week.
3. Pre-school - Hopefully by September a pre-school can be found which can adapt to assist Jeremy's cognitive and language development. Ideally, the teacher will have some knowledge of autism. However, Jeremy will certainly require an aide, again, a person who will be familiar with Jeremy's ABA program.
4. Financial Support - Jeremy will require the ABA program, speech/language therapy and aides at school for many years. This is a long journey to help him develop. Therefore, the family will need financial support in order to implement this needed therapy.

Yours truly,



Melvin I. deLevie, M.D., C.R.C.P.(C)

✓ cc. Mr. & Mrs. Rodrigues

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