

the Covenant Counseling Center

INdependence 3-2070 • 3417 WEST FOSTER AVENUE CHICAGO 25, ILLINOIS

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April 11, 1963

Mr. John Liljegren
Covenant Children's Home
Elm Place
Princeton, Illinois

Re: Robert Mitchell
Born 10/12/54

Dear Mr. Liljegren:

As you know, Robert Mitchell was examined by us at the Covenant Counseling Center April 1, 1963. He was given the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, The House-Tree-Person Test, Projective Questions, Projective Doll House Play, and Interview.

He was a cooperative youngster who quickly entered into both play and examination as well as discussion. He was eager to get started and was hesitant to stop and showed a good interpersonal relationship. There were no overt signs of disturbing anxiety, extreme nervousness, or other indications of discomfort during the psychological testing.

Robert presents a picture of a child who functions intellectually at an above-average level. He has particularly good abilities both for achieving and retaining information. His ability to comprehend a situation and follow through with acceptable logic is above average and his attention span and retention ability is considerably better than average. From the intellectual point of view, the child is consistent, well coordinated and intellectually superior in most areas. There are no gross inconsistencies noticeable in his intellectual functioning. The projective testing reveals a child who is quite well organized and who is not suffering from what could be termed extreme neurosis or psychosis. He, however, is insecure and is seeking a warm parental relationship. He fears his present parental relationship and is aware of a good bit of the distortion that is occurring at the moment in regard to his parents. The child is intelligent and is therefore observing and knows much more than he is usually given credit for knowing regarding his parents. He sees himself as one who has been cast out or thrown aside which is, to some degree true. He desires closeness, companionship, attention, relationship and the feeling of security. He would like to be able to handle the situation himself and at certain places seems to indicate a self-condemnation that he is unable to completely correct the situation all by himself. He blames himself for not being able to take hold of life and make it more meaningful. This, of course, takes considerable intelligence and mental coordination, as well as ego strength.

There is evidence from the material point of view for a feeling of deprivation, as well as emotional deprivation. He wishes for power and wishes for the ability to get away and to have life more tranquil.

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In summary, this boy is an above-average child from an intellectual point of view and does not appear to be damaged irreparably from his traumatic background. How he escaped severe damage in the light of his background is a difficult question to answer. However, the evidence is amazingly in his favor to support the above statements. The child has the ability to do above average work in school and to relate on an above average level with other people. If placed in a warm foster home where someone could show him attention and affection and at the same time make him feel adequate, he would be prone to blossom out into an adequate youngster I think fairly soon. Psychiatric care for the child does not seem to be indicated at the moment but instead a good home placement and a warm relationship with people who would make him feel important, needed and loved is indicated. There is no evidence for psychosis or organic involvement in this youngster and he does not appear to be severely involved neurotically. There is, of course, emotional conflict as a result of the traumatic background but even this seems minimal in the light of what has actually taken place.

We would consider this child to be a good risk for foster home placement and he should be able to adjust quite adequately to a warm and accepting home.

Sincerely,

Truman G. Esau
Truman G. Esau, M.D., Director
Covenant Counseling Center

Richard H. Cox
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Chief Clinical Psychologist
Covenant Counseling Center

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