A young patient surprises and confounds most of his doctors and therapists. He isn’t what they expect to see. Suffering a brain injury at birth, much like a stroke in an adult, by age 8, he walks in the awkward pattern that is typical of children with cerebral palsy. Yet he can run, just like any other boy.

It turns out that there are plenty of children like this boy, children who can run and do jumping jacks and many other things that experts do not expect. These children do not fit the established theory that early brain injury is irreversible. So they have been ignored, until now.

In this extraordinary book, Dr. Karen Pape, a respected neonatologist and clinical neuroscientist, demonstrates that neuroplasticity, the ability of the brain to change and heal itself, can transform children’s lives, just as it has transformed the outlook for adults suffering from stroke.

With profound implications for the nearly seventeen million children and adults worldwide living with cerebral palsy, The Boy Who Could Run But Not Walk demonstrates that much of the movement disorders called CP are a physical habit that may be changed, with a lot of hard work.

These stories of children’s recovery and improvements are a revelation – surprising, inspiring and illuminating, offering real hope for some of the world’s most vulnerable children.

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