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News Release

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Defying the odds: How one child achieved triumph on his road to independence

All children should be able to strive for independence and the ability to live a self-sufficient life. Ryan, a child born with a brain lesion, has achieved triumph in his journey to independence. He has surpassed people's imagination and met milestones he was never expected to reach. As a result, his case is one of many inspiring stories seen in an independent clinic located in Toronto.

Ryan's brain lesion affects his respiratory, swallowing, speech and mobility functions. At the age of four, Ryan still could not crawl, stand or walk independently and relied on a walker for short distances. His parents worried about his balance and mobility and how it would limit his abilities and independence for the future.

In addition, Ryan has endured multiple hospitalizations due to respiratory illnesses. Despite following the advice of doctors, nurses and therapists, Ryan's health and immune system continued to decline, and it seemed obvious that Ryan needed to support his physical strength so that everything else would fall into place.

"We knew antibiotics were not the solution," stated Ryan's parents, Yvonne and Thomas. "We knew that we had to strengthen his physical health and could not prolong this situation. We needed help."

It was at this moment that Ryan's family came across LIFE, a comprehensive treatment program at Health in Motion Rehabilitation, which would change Ryan's future for the better. Standing for Learning Independent Function Everyday, the LIFE Program integrates functional education/rehabilitation, speech-language pathology and massage therapy for children with developmental and neurological disorders. The distinctiveness

of LIFE is that it directly addresses issues with dependency and provides hope for families.

With treatment, Ryan's overall health improved at an unexpected rate. He gained mobility rapidly and was able to crawl cross pattern in two to three weeks and take his own steps six to seven weeks after being enrolled in The LIFE Program. His progress has enabled him to attend junior kindergarten without any issues, and his progress is something that his parents will never take for granted.

“It’s such a joy to see him integrate well and function in a regular class environment.

It's such a sweet feeling that we are now able to hold his hands for a walk.”

Ryan has one of many inspiring stories at Health in Motion, for more information about his triumph, please contact Rana Mansour at (647) 786-1904, or rana@healthrehab.ca. To see how he has defied the odds, contact us for a DVD of his story.