This book will prove to be a practical guide in the examination and assessment helping to identify the child with a minor neurological dysfunction. For many it will become a valuable assessment tool for the child with learning, behavioural or co-ordination problems. On completion of the examination of the child, one is provided with information forming a neurological profile of the child, which in turn highlights the neurological strengths and weaknesses of the child. The assessment is a criterion-referenced assessment, which has been based on the experience of Bert Touwen and Mijna Hadders-Algra gathered over several decades in the assessment of the child and adolescent with minor neurological dysfunction.

The minimum age for this assessment is 4 years although some items, such as muscle tone and tendon reflexes, could be assessed at an earlier age. Other items are more appropriate for children aged 5 and above. The assessment is suggested for a child, however there appears to be no upper age limit.

Although the assessment may appear to be time consuming, the author anticipates that it will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. It is acknowledged that hearing, speech and vision will need to be assessed separately from the current evaluation and that these may have a bearing on the results.

The assessment requires minimal equipment and therefore lends itself to a wide range of clinical settings as the items used are common place such as a reflex hammer, penlight, skull circumference tape, and a height and weight chart. The majority of the assessment is carried out in sitting (on a plinth), standing or walking.

To guide the clinician during the assessment the book has clear annotated photographs which are well set out. The scoring system for the assessment is also clear, leaving no uncertainty as to how to award scores for an individual. As certain items are age dependent there is supplementary information to help guide the clinician concerning what can typically be expected from different age groups. In addition the current edition comes with a DVD.

The chapters are clearly set out and easy for the reader to follow, as the assessment is broken down into appropriate sections. The final chapter of the book focuses on the interpretation of the clinical findings and helps to provide further information and guidance for the reader. Overall I think that this the guide will be a useful resource for many therapists and paediatricians.