[Insert date]

[Insert referring physician’s address]

[address]

[address]

[address]

Dear Dr. [Insert referring physician’s name]:

I am writing to introduce myself and share with you the services I can provide your pediatric patients. Whether it’s medical or surgical treatment of the foot or ankle, I’d welcome the opportunity to work with you to meet the foot and ankle needs of the children in your practice.

I see children every day in my clinic. On the next page, I have listed a few of the most common issues I see in my younger patient’s feet and ankles.

***As a podiatric physician and surgeon, I am well-trained to treat your pediatric patients.***

* [insert details about your training, to include your residency and/or fellowship training, board certifications, hospital affiliations, etc.].

I provide both medical and surgical care, and I am well experienced in working with children.

* [insert details about your experience, to include specifics about your work with children, any conditions in which you specialize, and any details about the types of ].

Thank you for keeping my services in mind for your pediatric patients’ needs. I would appreciate your referrals. I will follow up with you to see if I may provide you with foot health materials to distribute to your patients or answer any questions you may have about podiatric medicine and surgery.

Respectfully,

[Insert your signature and name underneath]



**Common Conditions Affecting Children’s Feet and Ankles**

* **Apophysitis**—If a young athlete complains of heel pain that is worse with activity, I suspect calcaneal apophysitis, or Sever’s Disease. The key to diagnosis is pain with side-to-side compression of the heel and pain when standing barefoot on one foot. Treatment is to reduce inflammation, with oral steroids or anti-inflammatory medications, calf stretches, and reducing shock to the growth plate with a heel cup or orthotics. We may refer to “growing pains,” but foot pain for kids is never normal, and it negatively affects their quality of life. I would be happy to have your heel pain referrals!
* **Fractures/Injuries—**If a child has suffered a foot or ankle injury, a podiatrist is a great alternative to crowded ERs and urgent care facilities. I am specifically trained to diagnose and treat everything from sprains to fractures. I provide a range of care from conservative to surgical and would welcome your patients with foot and ankle trauma.
* **Ingrown toenails**—Ingrown nails can become seriously infected, even leading to osteomyelitis, if left untreated. Antibiotics alone are not a cure. I will gladly see your patients with ingrown nails or other toenail problems to get to the source of the problem.
* **Warts**—Plantar warts are certainly not serious, but they’re very common among kids. They can become uncomfortable or even painful for your patients and may lead to embarrassment. I would love to see your patients and address their plantar warts—as well as provide advice about how to avoid infection and injury to the foot and ankle!

To learn more about children’s foot and ankle health, visit [www.apma.org/keepkidsactive](http://www.apma.org/keepkidsactive).