

Writing sub-test

Podiatry

Sample Test

Please print in **BLOCK LETTERS**

Candidate number - -

Family name _____

Other name(s) _____

City _____

Date of test _____

Candidate's signature _____

YOU MUST NOT REMOVE OET MATERIAL FROM THE TEST ROOM

OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

WRITING SUB-TEST: PODIATRY

TIME ALLOWED: READING TIME: 5 MINUTES
WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES

Read the case notes below and complete the writing task which follows.

Notes:

You are attending to a five-year-old girl with mild cerebral palsy (CP) who exhibits toe walking. The patient was referred to you by her paediatrician, Dr Robyn Black.

Patient: Felicity Brown

Residence: 1 Power Street, Princetown

Date of Birth: May 16, 2009

Examination date: February 10, 2014

Diagnosis: Toe walking (equinus gait)

Past medical history: Mild L hemiplegic (one arm/one leg affected) CP since September 2009
Mild asthma – salbutamol inhaler, occasionally, mostly nocte
Spent wks on & off in children’s hospital – 1st few yrs of life
Sees paediatrician 6 mthly
Assessment by educational psychologist – should integrate well into school
Above average intelligence
Chest infections annually – Rx: antibiotics ✓
No known allergies

Social background: Lives with parents, 1 brother (7yrs), 1 sister (9yrs)
Parents (especially mother) very overprotective. Attended preschool fairly successfully. Preparing for school next year. Enjoys music and is learning the piano.

Treatment record: Felicity always walks on toes. Late walker ~22mths. Mother worried – paediatrician doing nothing about problem, recommended mother to see podiatrist for 2nd opinion. Gait reasonable. Managing well but mother comments that she seems to trip a lot. Plays table tennis with siblings – doesn’t have to move far/fast to compete. Normal childhood games, playing, etc. Likes running – slowly but enjoys it. Mother seems to want an orthotic.

On examination: Shoe wear slightly uneven L side but reasonable
Range of foot movement in the R foot – NAD
L foot – Varus position with equinus. Assessment of movement through L ankle
?spastic and reveals a ‘clasp knife’ quality. Overly strong calf muscles compared to weak dorsiflexors (tibialis anterior)
No pain in feet/legs
Suggested paediatric physio to ↑ ankle movement
Suggested the need for assessment by a prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) professional for AFO (ankle foot orthoses)
Letter to paediatrician to explain findings and recommendations

Writing Task:

Using the information given in the case notes, write a letter to the paediatrician, Dr Robyn Black, 9 Fenton St, Newtown, outlining your findings and reinforcing that Felicity’s mobility and gait are acceptable and that you provided reassurance to the parents.

In your answer:

- **Expand the relevant notes into complete sentences**
- **Do not use note form**
- **Use letter format**

The body of the letter should be approximately 180–200 words.

OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

WRITING SUB-TEST: PODIATRY

SAMPLE RESPONSE: LETTER

Dr Robyn Black
Paediatrician
9 Fenton St
Newtown

10 February 2014

Dear Dr Black,

Re: Felicity Brown, 5 years old, cerebral palsy

Thank you for recommending Felicity for assessment of her toe walking. It is more of a concern to her mother than for her mobility and enjoyment of life as a five-year-old with mild cerebral palsy. The mother reported an increase in incidents of tripping.

On examination, I identified the left foot to be in a varus position with equinus. There is an overpowering of the calf muscles. The anterior leg muscles (mainly tibialis anterior) are unable to provide enough dorsiflexion resulting in tripping. The equinus appears to be spastic in nature and has a 'clasp knife' feel. The right foot was normal. Felicity copes very well with this problem.

I have provided the name of a paediatric physiotherapist to assist with exercises for Felicity's left foot and the name of a P&O professional who will be able to prescribe an AFO (ankle foot orthosis) if necessary. With a combined approach, we should be able to see some improvements in the range of motion at the left ankle joint.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Sincerely,

Podiatrist