

Curly toes

ORTHOPAEDIC FACT SHEET 25

Curly toes are where some of the toes curl inwards when the child is standing (**Figure 1**). The third and fourth toes are most commonly affected. The condition usually occurs in young children and often improves without treatment as the child grows.

In many children curly toes do not cause problems. Shoes that provide extra space across the toes may be helpful. In some children, curly toes may cause discomfort or skin and nail changes. Surgery is occasionally considered for these children when they are four years or older.

Consult your doctor if you are concerned your child has:

- pain or discomfort when they are active
- persistent blisters on their toes
- flattening or thickening of the nail on the affected toes.

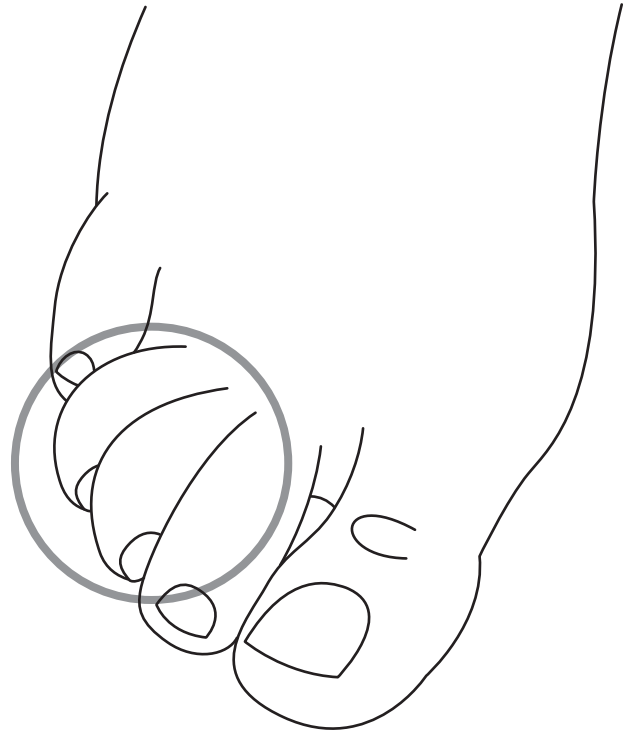


Figure 1. Curly third and fourth toes