Draw First, Then Write: Labeled Picture Prompts for Early Writing

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A child draws a scene with a house, a door, and a window. The label lines read house, door, window. Write a three-sentence paragraph using all three labels.

Answer: The house is small. The door is red. The window is open.

Reason: Each sentence uses one label and is a complete sentence with a subject and predicate. The three sentences describe the scene in a simple order.

Check: Underline each label word in the paragraph and confirm three underlines, one per sentence. Read each sentence aloud to confirm it is complete.

Task 2

A child draws a cat, a bowl, and a mat. The label lines read cat, bowl, mat. Write a three-sentence paragraph using all three labels, then state where the letter c sits on a sentence line.

Answer: The cat is black. The bowl is full. The mat is soft. The letter c sits between the baseline and the midline.

Reason: Each sentence uses one label. The letter c is an x-height letter, so it belongs between baseline and midline under the stated convention.

Check: Confirm three labels appear in three sentences. Point to c on the sentence line and confirm it does not reach above the midline or drop below the baseline.

Task 3

A child draws a bus, a wheel, and a sign. The label lines read bus, wheel, sign. Write a three-sentence paragraph using all three labels, then state where the letter g sits on a sentence line.

Answer: The bus is yellow. The wheel is round. The sign says stop. The letter g sits below the baseline as a descender.

Reason: Each sentence uses one label. The letter g is a descender, so it drops below the baseline under the stated convention.

Check: Confirm three labels appear in three sentences. Point to g on the sentence line and confirm it crosses below the baseline while the x-height letters stay between baseline and midline.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A child draws a boy, a kite, and a cloud. The label lines read boy, kite, cloud. Write a three-sentence paragraph using all three labels, then state where the letter k sits on a sentence line.

Answer: The boy runs. The kite flies high. The cloud is white. The letter k is a tall letter and reaches above the midline.

Reason: Each sentence uses one label. The letter k is a tall letter, so it reaches above the midline under the stated convention.

Check: Confirm three labels appear in three sentences. Point to k on the sentence line and confirm it reaches above the midline while the x-height letters stay between baseline and midline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Drawing has three to five clearly identifiable parts.
- [ ] Each label line contains one word or short name that matches a drawn part.
- [ ] Each sentence is complete and uses at least one label word.
- [ ] Lowercase x-height letters sit between baseline and midline; tall letters reach above the midline; descenders drop below the baseline.
- [ ] Spacing between words is readable and consistent.
- [ ] Valid alternatives in letter style, sentence opening, and label wording are accepted when the checks above are met.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?