Drawing a Toddler: Proportions, Pose, and Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A toddler drawing is 20 cm tall. Using the four-head-unit convention, what is the approximate head height in cm?

Answer: About 5 cm.

Reason: Total height divided by four head units: 20 ÷ 4 = 5 cm per head unit.

Check: Multiply the head height by four: 5 × 4 = 20 cm, matching total height.

Task 2

A toddler figure has a 6 cm head and a torso from shoulder to hip of 9 cm. Does this match the convention of one and a half head units for the torso?

Answer: Yes, 9 cm is one and a half times 6 cm.

Reason: One and a half head units means 1.5 × head height. 1.5 × 6 = 9 cm.

Check: Divide torso length by head height: 9 ÷ 6 = 1.5, confirming the ratio.

Task 3

A drawing shows a toddler 24 cm tall with a head of 4 cm. Is the head too small under the four-head-unit convention?

Answer: Yes, the head should be about 6 cm.

Reason: 24 ÷ 4 = 6 cm per head unit. A 4 cm head is only one sixth of total height, too small.

Check: Multiply 4 cm by four: 16 cm, which is less than 24 cm, so the head is too small.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A toddler has a 5 cm head. The arms reach 10 cm from the shoulder. Is this consistent with arms reaching mid-thigh if the torso is 7.5 cm and legs are 7.5 cm?

Answer: Yes, 10 cm is within mid-thigh reach in this convention.

Reason: Shoulder to hip is 7.5 cm. Hip to mid-thigh is about half the 7.5 cm leg, about 3.75 cm. Total mid-thigh reach from the shoulder is about 7.5 + 3.75 = 11.25 cm. A 10 cm reach is less than 11.25 cm, so it is consistent.

Check: Compare 10 cm to torso plus half leg: 7.5 + 3.75 = 11.25 cm. Since 10 cm is less than 11.25 cm, the arm does not exceed mid-thigh reach.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head is approximately one quarter of total figure height.
- [ ] Torso is short and rounded, about one and a half head units.
- [ ] Legs are short, about one and a half head units, and arms reach mid-thigh.
- [ ] Pose is readable and natural for a toddler.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles are accepted if proportion logic is consistent.

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