Drawing a Child's Face: Rounded Proportions and Feature Placement

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 9 cm by 11 cm oval, mark the eye line at the vertical midpoint, the nose line halfway from eye line to chin, and the mouth line one-third from nose line to chin. State the distances from the top in centimeters.

Answer: Eye line at 5.5 cm from the top; nose line at 8.25 cm; mouth line at 9.17 cm (rounded to two decimals).

Reason: The oval height is 11 cm. Midpoint is 5.5 cm. Halfway from 5.5 to 11 is 8.25 cm. One-third of the 2.75 cm distance from nose line to chin is about 0.92 cm, so mouth line is 8.25 + 0.92 = 9.17 cm.

Check: Add the segments: 5.5 + 2.75 + 0.92 = 9.17, and 9.17 + 1.83 = 11. Confirm each line is below the previous one.

Task 2

A child's face is 8 cm wide. Using the one-fifth guide, calculate each eye width and the gap between eyes. Then state where the eyes sit vertically if the head is 10 cm high.

Answer: Each eye is 1.6 cm wide; the gap is 1.6 cm. The eye line sits at 5 cm from the top.

Reason: One-fifth of 8 cm is 1.6 cm. The gap equals one eye width, so 1.6 cm. For a child, the eye line is near the vertical midpoint of a 10 cm head, which is 5 cm.

Check: Total width used by eyes and gap is 1.6 + 1.6 + 1.6 = 4.8 cm, leaving 3.2 cm for the sides, which is reasonable. Confirm 5 cm is half of 10 cm.

Task 3

Describe how to adjust an adult-style drawing to a child-style drawing using three changes: eye line, eye size, and lower face length. Give one check for each change.

Answer: Lower the eye line to about the midpoint; enlarge each eye to about one-fifth of face width; shorten the nose-to-chin distance. Checks: eye line at midpoint, eye width about one-fifth, nose-to-chin shorter than eye-to-nose.

Reason: Child faces have lower eye lines, larger eyes relative to the face, and shorter lower faces. These three changes address the main proportion differences.

Check: Measure the eye line position, eye width, and the two vertical segments. Compare the nose-to-chin segment with the eye-to-nose segment; it should be shorter in the child version.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You label a drawing with the word 'child'. Define x-height as baseline to midline. If the x-height is 4 mm and the ascender of 'h' is 7 mm above baseline, what is the total height of 'h' from baseline? State the unit.

Answer: The x-height is 4 mm. The ascender of 'h' reaches 7 mm above the baseline, so the total height of 'h' from baseline is 7 mm.

Reason: The ascender height is given as 7 mm above baseline. The x-height describes lowercase letters like 'c' and 'i', not the ascender. The total height of 'h' is the ascender height.

Check: Write the word 'child' with an x-height of 4 mm and an ascender height of 7 mm, then measure to confirm: the lowercase 'c' should measure 4 mm from baseline to midline, and the 'h' should measure 7 mm from baseline to its top. All measurements are in millimeters.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Eye line is near the vertical midpoint of the head.
- [ ] Eyes are relatively large, each about one-fifth of face width, with a consistent gap.
- [ ] Nose line and mouth line are marked and features sit on them.
- [ ] Cheeks and jaw are rounded, with a short chin.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and erased or left faint.
- [ ] Labels, if any, use a defined x-height convention and one unit of measurement.
- [ ] Valid stylistic alternatives are allowed if proportions and placement remain consistent.

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