Practice Drawing Child Proportions with Head-Count Guides

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A toddler drawing uses a 4 cm head height and a total height of 16 cm. The shoulder line is at 5.2 cm from the top. Does this match a four-head toddler guide with a shoulder ratio of 1.3?

Answer: Yes. Total divided by head height is 16 divided by 4, or 4 heads. Shoulder ratio is 5.2 divided by 4, or 1.3 heads, which matches the guide.

Reason: Check the head count first, then divide the shoulder distance by the same head height to compare with the ratio.

Check: Recompute 16 divided by 4 and 5.2 divided by 4 with a calculator or by hand.

Task 2

A pre-teen drawing has a head height of 3 cm and a total height of 18 cm. The knee line is at 13.2 cm from the top. The guide knee ratio is 4.4. Is the knee line correct?

Answer: Yes. Total divided by head height is 18 divided by 3, or 6 heads. Knee ratio is 13.2 divided by 3, or 4.4 heads, matching the guide.

Reason: Confirm the six-head total, then divide the knee distance by head height.

Check: Multiply 4.4 by 3 to see whether it returns 13.2 cm.

Task 3

A child drawing uses a 2 cm head height and a total height of 10 cm. The waist is at 5 cm from the top and the hip is at 6 cm. The guide waist ratio is 2.5 and hip ratio is 3.0. Are both landmarks correct?

Answer: Yes. Total divided by head height is 10 divided by 2, or 5 heads. Waist ratio is 5 divided by 2, or 2.5 heads. Hip ratio is 6 divided by 2, or 3.0 heads. Both match.

Reason: Use the same head height for both landmarks and compare each quotient to the guide.

Check: Multiply 2.5 by 2 and 3.0 by 2 to recover 5 cm and 6 cm.

Practice Drawing Child Proportions with Head-Count Guides

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student draws a child with a 3 cm head height and a total height of 15 cm. The shoulder line is at 5.4 cm from the top, but the guide shoulder ratio is 1.4. Is the shoulder line acceptable within half a head unit?

Answer: Yes. The shoulder ratio is 5.4 divided by 3, or 1.8 heads. The guide is 1.4 heads, and the difference is 0.4 heads, which is within half a head unit (0.5), so the line is acceptable.

Reason: Compute the ratio, subtract the guide value, and compare the absolute difference to 0.5 head units.

Check: Check that 5.4 divided by 3 equals 1.8 and that 1.8 minus 1.4 is less than 0.5.

Practice Drawing Child Proportions with Head-Count Guides

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head height is measured baseline to midline and used consistently.
- [ ] Total height divided by head height equals the chosen head count within half a unit.
- [ ] Landmark order is correct: shoulder above waist above hip above knee.
- [ ] Landmark ratios are within half a head unit of the chosen age guide.
- [ ] Body shapes connect landmarks without gaps or overlaps.
- [ ] Valid alternative proportions are accepted when landmark order and head count check pass.

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