Child's Pose Drawing Exercise: Limb Placement for a Stick Figure

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

With x-height 8 cm, calculate the head radius, shoulder separation, and hip separation using the convention.

Answer: Head radius 2.67 cm (rounded from 8/3), shoulder separation 4 cm, hip separation 4 cm.

Reason: Head radius is one-third of x-height; shoulder and hip separations are half of x-height. 8/3 is approximately 2.67 cm.

Check: Multiply head radius by 3 to recover 8 cm within rounding; multiply each separation by 2 to recover 8 cm.

Task 2

A draft shows the head circle centered 5 cm above the baseline while x-height is 6 cm. Is the head placement consistent with child's pose? Explain.

Answer: No. The head should sit near the baseline between the forearms, not 5 cm above it.

Reason: Child's pose folds the torso forward, so the head rests low near the floor. A head 5 cm above the baseline contradicts the limb-placement guide.

Check: Compare the head center height to the baseline and to the forearm line; the head should be near the forearm line, not above the shoulders.

Task 3

Using x-height 6 cm, a draft has forearm length 6 cm and upper arm length 4.5 cm. The knees are 3 cm behind the hips. Identify the error and state the correction.

Answer: The knees should be on the baseline and forward of the hips by about half an x-height, which is 3 cm forward, not 3 cm behind.

Reason: The limb-placement guide places knees forward of the hips. The arm lengths are consistent with the example values, so only the knee position is wrong.

Check: Measure knee position relative to hips; confirm forward offset is about half x-height and knees lie on the baseline.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Describe how to label a child's pose stick figure so that two different lettering styles both pass the rubric.

Answer: Use labels that clearly point to each joint and segment, such as shoulder, hip, knee, elbow, hand, and foot. Any legible letter style is acceptable if the pointer or placement makes the target unambiguous.

Reason: The convention allows letter styles to vary; the rubric checks label-to-feature correspondence, not handwriting style.

Check: Ask a second person to match each label to its feature using only the drawing; if all matches are correct, the labeling passes.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Baseline and torso midline are drawn, with x-height clearly marked.
- [ ] Head circle radius equals one-third of x-height within measurement error.
- [ ] Shoulder and hip separations equal half x-height within measurement error.
- [ ] Thighs run from hips to knees on the baseline, forward of the hips.
- [ ] Shins fold back from knees toward the heels behind the hips.
- [ ] Arms extend forward with elbows near the baseline and hands ahead of the head.
- [ ] Head sits between the forearms and near the baseline.
- [ ] Labels point to correct joints and segments; letter style may vary.
- [ ] All measurements use consistent units.
- [ ] No realistic anatomy details are added beyond the stick-figure convention.

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