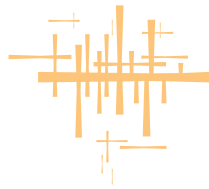# PENCIL DRAWING
PORTRAITS

Learn to draw faces, features, and more with step-by-step pencil projects perfect for beginners

SAMET TÜRKAN

Walter Foster

TODDLER

Drawing portraits of children requires a different approach than adults because children's facial features and expressions are generally softer and more delicate, so the focus should be on rounded and gentle lines rather than sharp ones. Details that determine expression, such as the eyes, mouth, and eyebrows, should be drawn accurately, as children's expressions can be vivid and emotional. Capturing these expressions increases the realism of the portrait. Also, a child's head is often large in proportion to their body, so pay close attention to get the scale right.

TO SUMMARIZE:

- The child has a big head and skull.
- The child has big eyes.
- The nose is small and upturned.
- The jaw bones are underdeveloped.
- The cheeks are full.
- The forehead is high and open.

1

STEP 1

Draw the horizontal and vertical axis lines and mark the width and height of the head on the axis lines.

Study the head size and neck and shoulder attachments. Don't be afraid to make mistakes—these are simply guidelines that you will go over and correct with darker tones. Use lots of guidelines and try to find the right proportions.
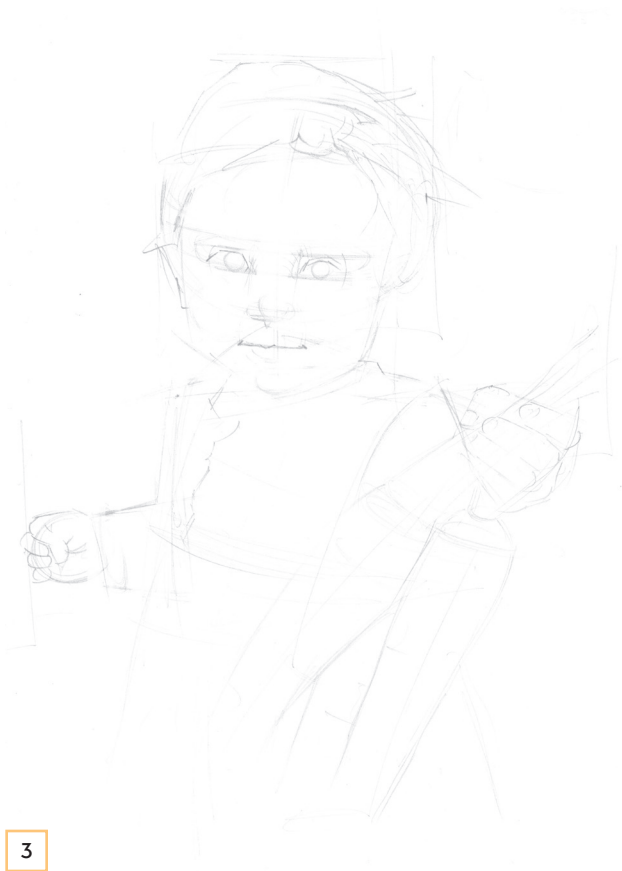
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2

STEP 2

At this stage, determine the location of the eyes, nose, and lips. Make use of geometric shapes. Because children's faces are softer and muscle development is very low, create the outline of your portrait with circles.

3

STEP 3

Now that you are sure you have drawn the proportions correctly, you can erase the guidelines in the portrait. Add some definition to the hands.

4

STEP 4

Detail the basic facial features. The size, shape, and position of the eyes are important to reflect the child's expression. Then draw the nose and mouth. These details determine the character of the face.

5

STEP 5

Once you have correctly placed the elements on the face, you can shape your lines according to your reference.

At this stage, begin to comb out the shadowed parts, revealing the eyes and lips. As you work, you gradually size the portrait.

USING CURVED LINES IN SHADING

As you scan the various areas of the portrait to add shading and create volume, imagine a tennis ball. This ball is a circle, and if you want to shade it and draw it in three dimensions, you must use curved lines. Vertical and horizontal lines will not look aesthetically pleasing, and your drawing will be "flat." Always pay attention to the basic shapes you see in your subject, and make your marks accordingly.

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STEP 6

Use shading and toning to add depth and dimension to your drawing. Identify your natural light source and determine the shadows and highlights by considering how this light falls on the face. Use curved lines to create the rounded face and features.

6

STEP 7

As you continue to develop the tones and values in the face, move on to the child's clothes, accessories, and environmental details. These details complete the character and story of the portrait, but don't get too caught up in the minutiae. Keep the focus on the child's face. It is up to the artist to focus the viewer's attention. Often the face is the most detailed part.

7

8

STEP 8

As you finish your portrait, think about perspective. The most detailed part of any drawing is always in the foreground. When adding background details, add as much detail as you do in the child's face. Use lighter lines in the background to keep the portrait in the foreground.

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