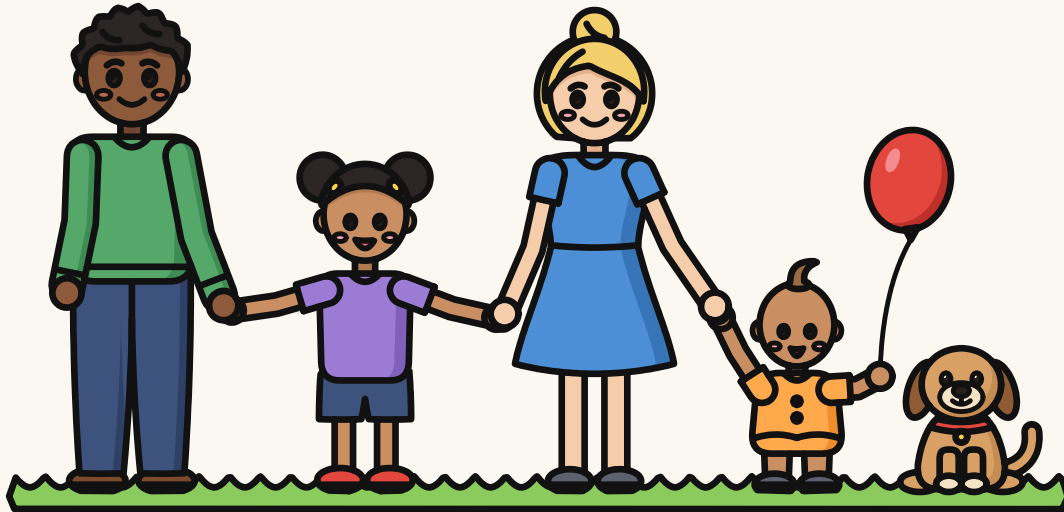


How to Draw a Family

12 easy steps for beginners



blitsy.com

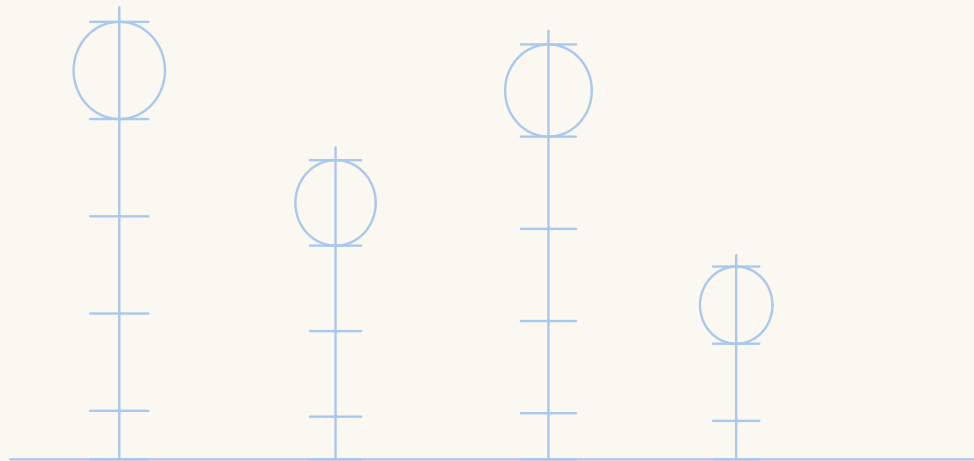
What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or markers
- Paper

How to use this guide

New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

[Read the full tutorial online →](#)

STEP 1 Draw a ground line, four head circles and head marks

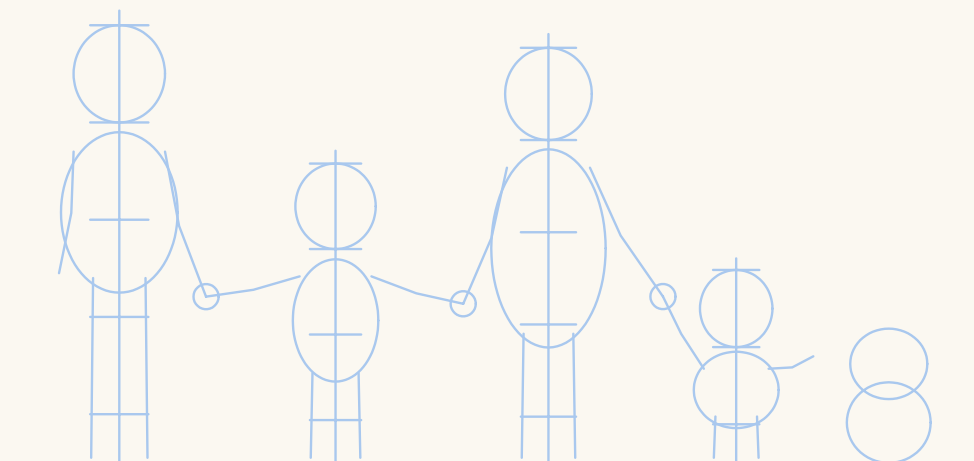
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Draw one long flat line near the bottom of the page. Above it, spread out four vertical lines, one for each person. Put a circle at the top of each line and use its height as that person's ruler: mark it down the line until you touch the ground. The two parents get four and a half heads, the child three and a half, and the toddler only two and a half.

 **Tip:** Space the people about two parent-heads apart; they need room to reach for each other's hands.

STEP 2 Sketch body ovals and stick arms and legs

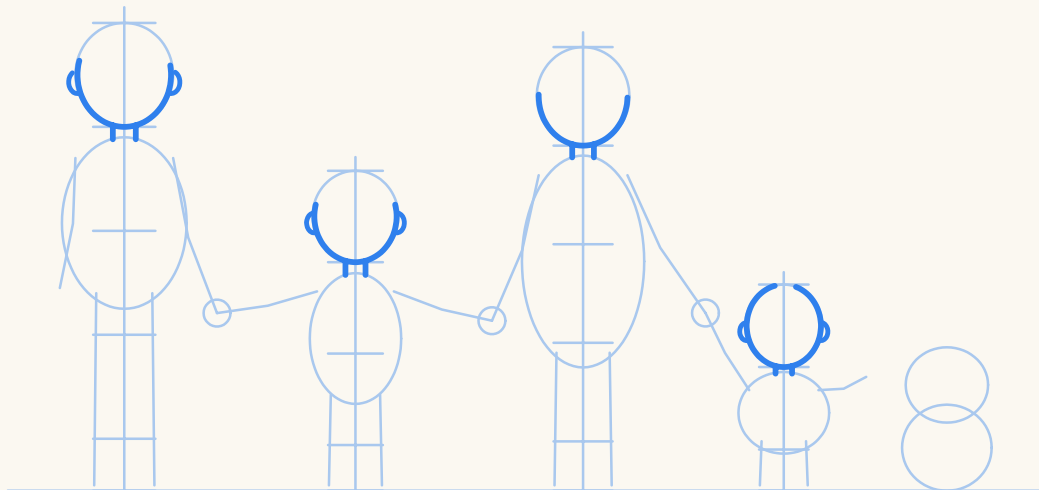
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Hang an oval under each head for the body. The parents' ovals reach a little past the third mark, while the toddler's oval is short and round. Now draw stick arms. Where two people hold hands, both arms run to the same spot, so I draw a small circle there first and aim both sticks at it. Add two stick legs per person and two stacked ovals for the puppy on the right.

 **Tip:** Draw the hand circles before the arms; it's much easier to aim two lines at one dot.

STEP 3 Draw the faces and necks

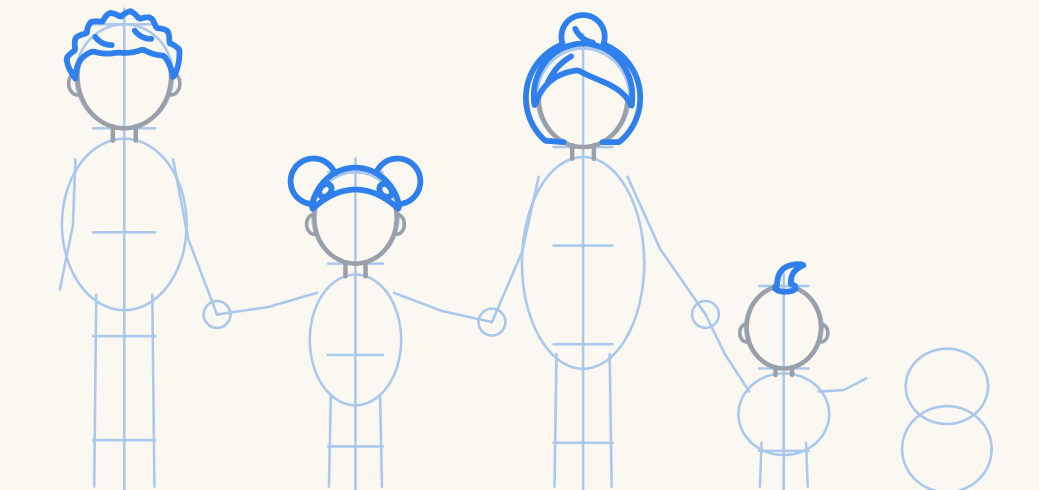
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Go over the lower half of each head circle with a firmer line for the cheeks and chin. Skip the top, since hair will cover it there. Add a small C-shaped ear on each side for three of the four, then two short neck lines under each chin. The toddler barely has a neck, which helps him look little.

Tip: Keep the ears level with the middle of the face; ears placed high make heads look stretched.

STEP 4 Give everyone a different hairstyle

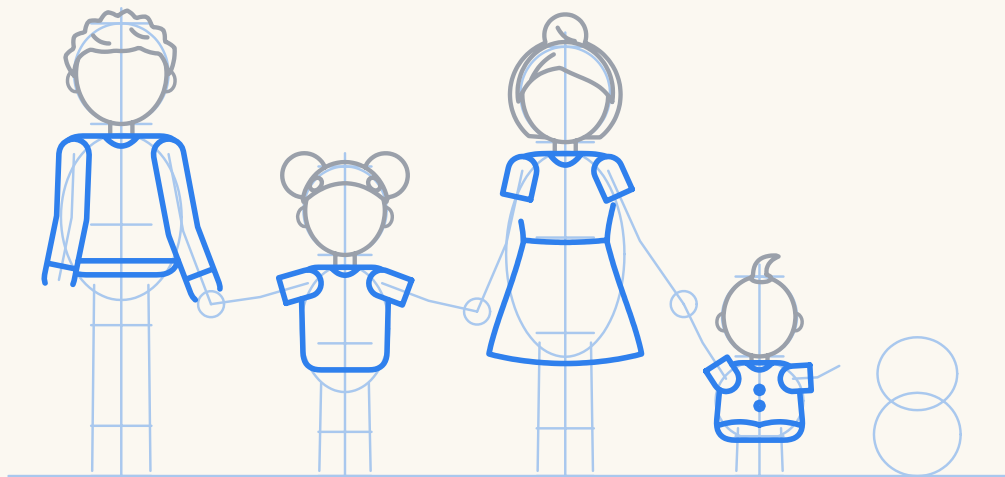
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Hair is the quickest way to tell people apart. The parent on the left gets short curly hair, drawn as a bumpy line just above the head. The other parent has a smooth bob with side-swept bangs and a round bun on top. The child gets two round puffs, and the toddler just one curl sticking up.

Tip: Draw curly hair as small bumps of slightly different sizes; even bumps look like a cloud.

STEP 5 Draw the tops for all four

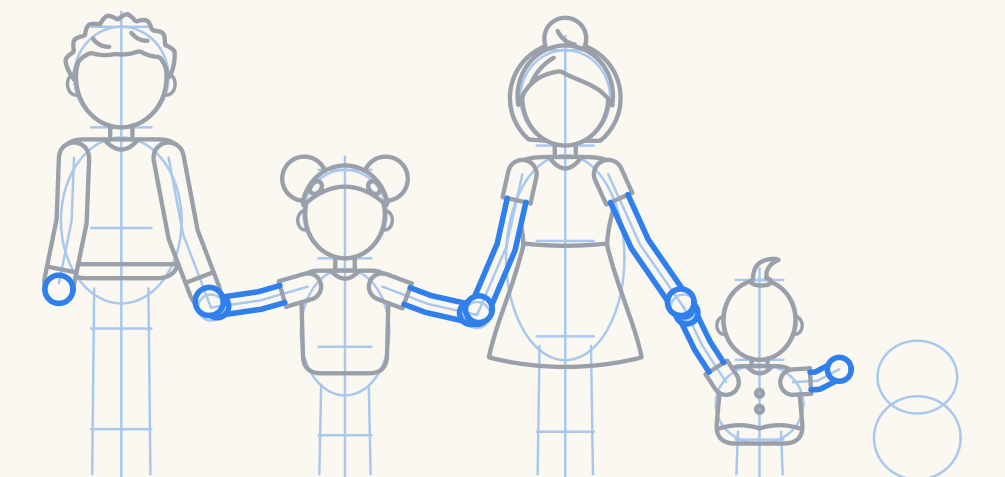
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Each top follows its body oval. The left parent wears a long sweater with a ribbed band at the bottom and sleeves running all the way to the wrists. The child's T-shirt and the toddler's romper have short puffy sleeves. For the dress, draw a fitted top, a waist line and a skirt that flares out like a bell down to the knees.

 **Tip:** Round every corner of the clothes a little; sharp corners make cartoon people look stiff.

STEP 6 Add the arms and the linked hands

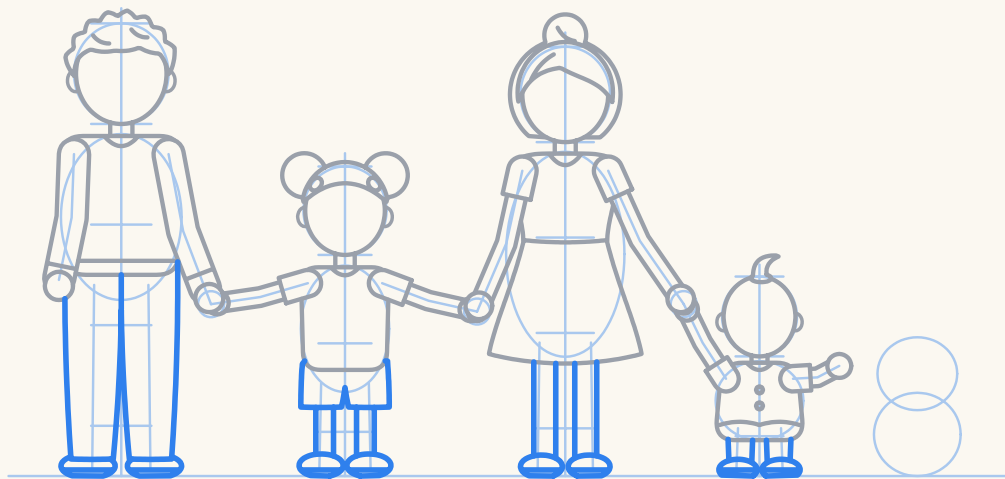
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

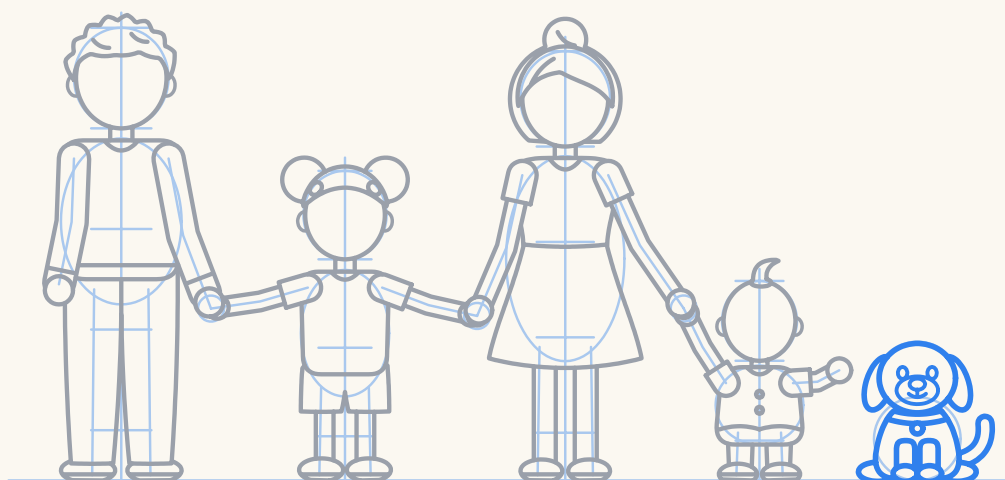
Thicken each stick arm into a tube, a bit wider at the shoulder. For the hands, I use plain circles, like little mittens. Where two people hold hands, draw the grown-up's hand first, then let the child's hand peek out from behind it. That small overlap is what tells the eye that their hands are holding.

 **Tip:** Overlap the two hand circles by about a third; less looks like a high five, more looks like one hand.

STEP 7 Draw the legs and shoes

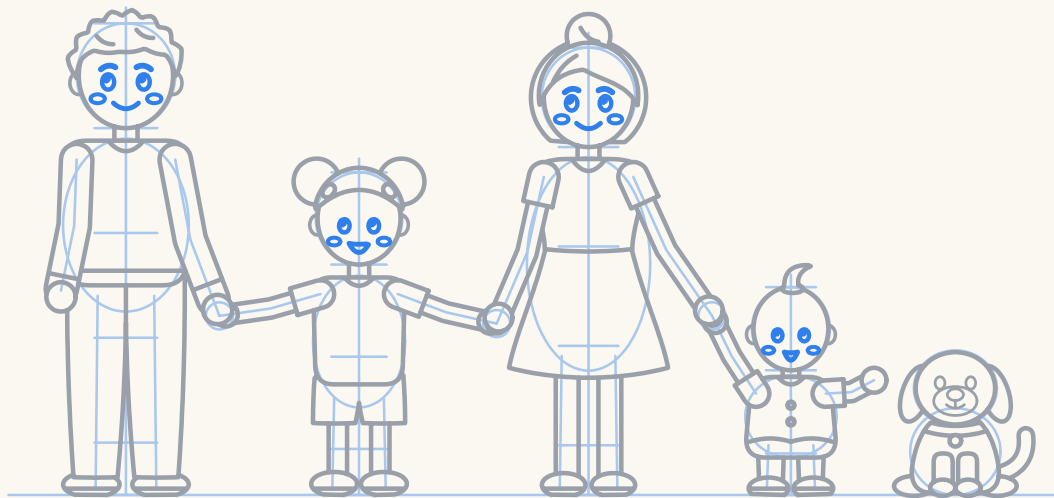
Trousers are two long tubes that start under the sweater and split into a narrow gap between the legs. The child wears shorts, so her legs show below them. Below the dress, two simple leg tubes run straight down. Finish with rounded shoes that sit flat on the ground line.

Tip: Check that every sole touches the same ground line, or someone will look like they're floating.

STEP 8 Add a puppy at the end of the row

Use the two stacked ovals from step two. The top one becomes a round head with long floppy ears hanging down both sides. The bottom one becomes a pear-shaped sitting body with two front legs, a back foot peeking out on each side and a curled tail. Put a small oval muzzle low on the face, a nose and a little curved smile.

Tip: Keep the puppy's head almost as wide as its body; a big head is what makes it look young.

STEP 9 Draw happy faces for everyone

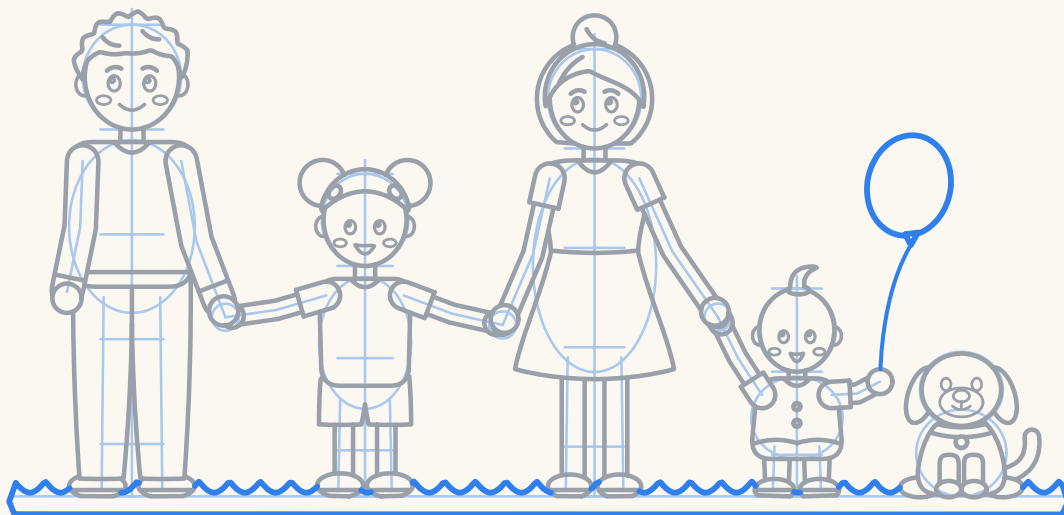
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Put two small dark ovals on each face, just below the middle, with a white dot of shine in each. Grown-ups get short eyebrows and a curved smile. The kids get open smiles, which makes them look excited, plus two cheek ovals each.

Tip: Put the shine dots on the same side in every eye so the whole family looks the same way.

STEP 10 Add the balloon and a strip of grass

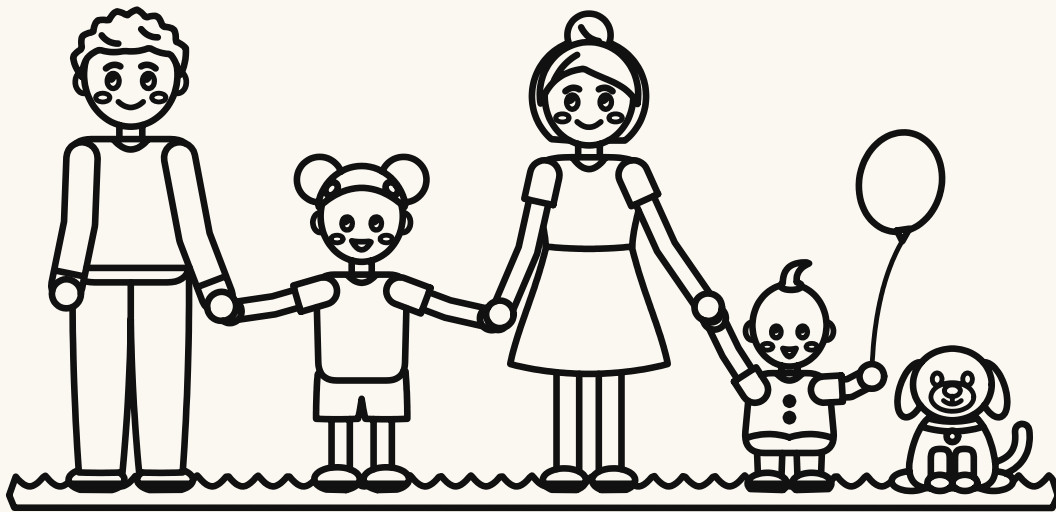
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Above the toddler's free hand, draw a tall oval balloon with a tiny triangle knot at the bottom. Let a thin curved string fall from the knot to the hand. Under everyone's feet, draw a strip of grass with a zigzag top edge, and stop the zigzag wherever a shoe covers it.

Tip: Curve the balloon string gently; a ruler-straight string looks like a stick.

STEP 11 Ink the outlines and erase the guides

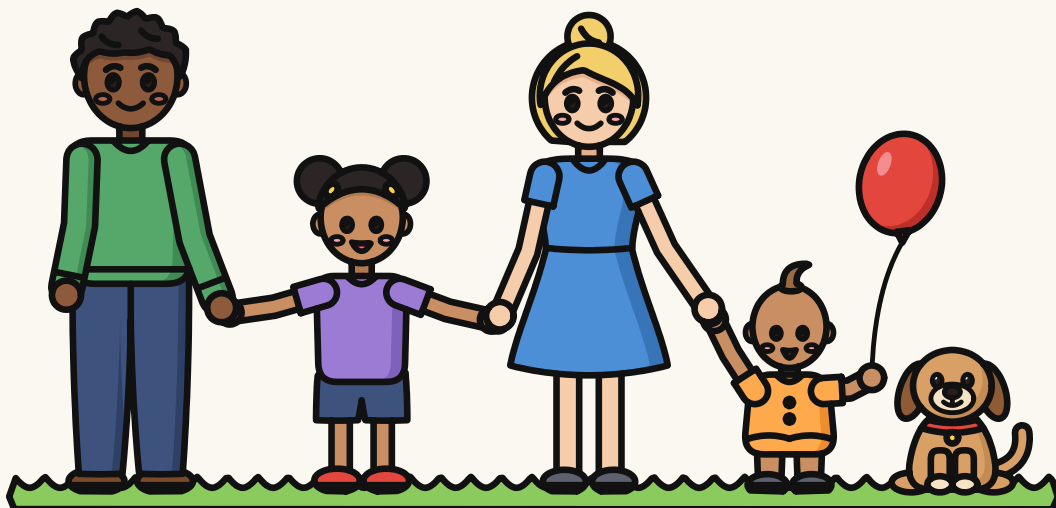
blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Trace every line you want to keep with your black pen. Skip the head marks, the body ovals and the stick limbs. I ink from left to right when I'm right-handed, so my hand never drags across fresh ink. Wait a minute for it to dry, then erase all the pencil lines underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Ink long lines like the trousers in one steady pull; short dashes leave a wobbly edge.

STEP 12 Color in your family

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

blitsy.com

Start with skin tones, since they touch everything else. Then do the hair. The sweater is green, the trousers and shorts dark blue, the T-shirt purple, the dress blue and the romper orange. Finish with a red balloon, a light brown puppy and green grass, and add a darker shade on one side of each outfit.

💡 **Tip:** Shade the right side of every person, so the light seems to come from the left.