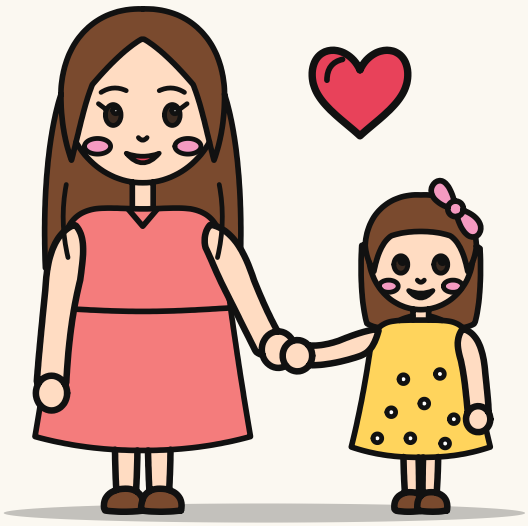
How to Draw a Mother and Daughter

10 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

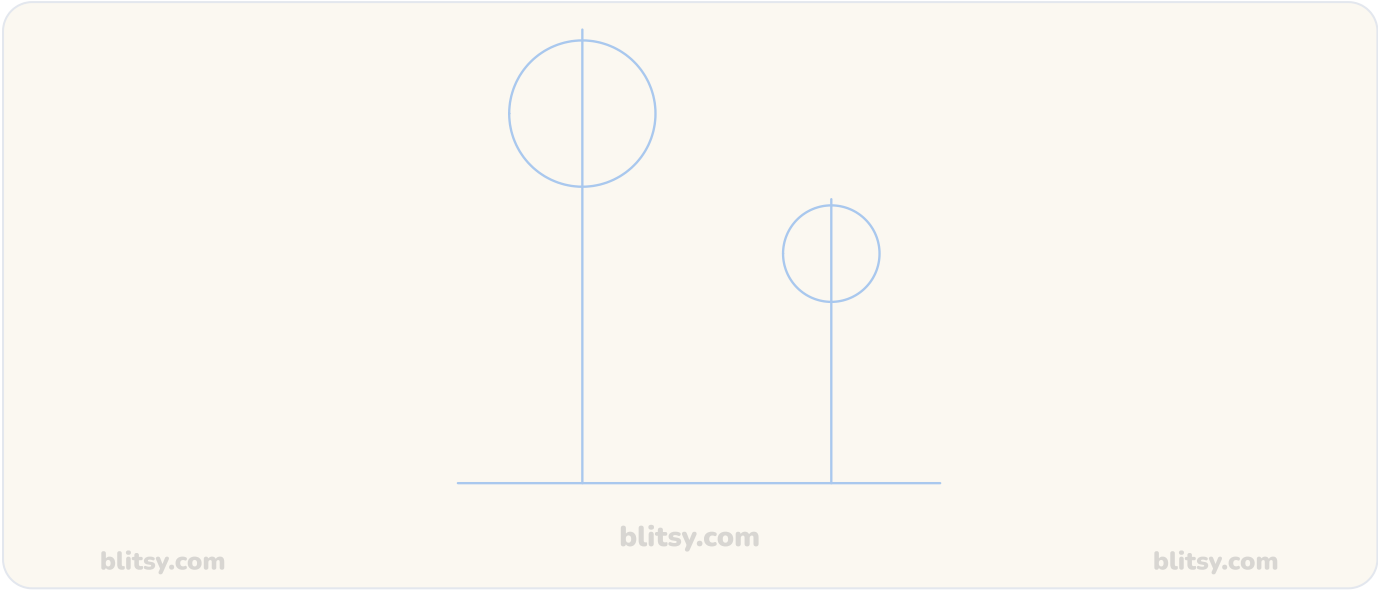
How to use this guide

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 →

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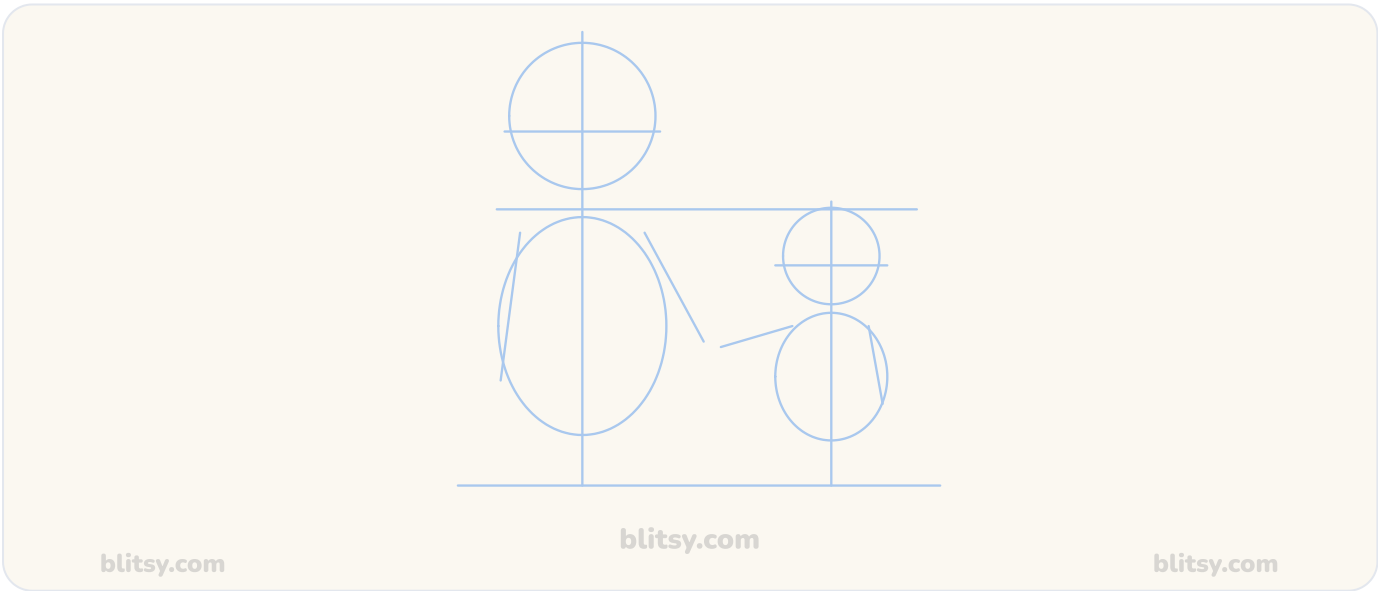
STEP 1 Draw two head circles of different sizes



Start with a long ground line near the bottom of the page. Draw two straight lines standing up from it, one for the mom on the left and one for her daughter on the right. Near the top of the left line, draw a large circle for mom's head. The girl's circle sits lower on the right line and should be about two thirds as wide. When I teach this lesson, this size difference is the first thing I check, because it does most of the storytelling.

💡 **Tip:** Press so lightly that the circles almost disappear. You'll be erasing them at the end.

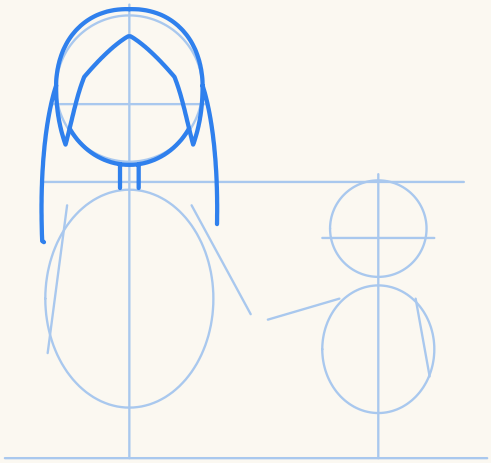
STEP 2 Add a shoulder line, eye lines and body ovals



Draw one long flat line right under mom's head, reaching across to the right. That's mom's shoulder line, and the top of the girl's head should sit just under it. Cross each head with a short line a little below its middle for the eyes. Below each head, sketch a body oval, a tall one for mom and a short, round one for the girl. Add four slanted arm lines, with the two inner ones meeting in the middle.

💡 **Tip:** If the girl's head pokes above the shoulder line, she will look like a teenager. Lower her circle.

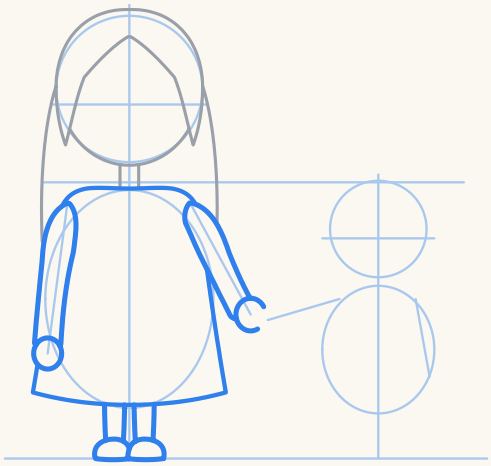
STEP 3 Shape mom's face and long hair



Go over mom's head circle with a steady line, then add a short neck under the chin. For the hair, draw curtain bangs that part in the middle of the forehead and sweep down past each cheek. Behind the head, let the long hair fall in two straight lines down to below the shoulders. The hair should stand a little wider than the face on each side so it looks full.

💡 **Tip:** Leave the forehead uncovered between the bangs. Mom's eyes and brows need that room.

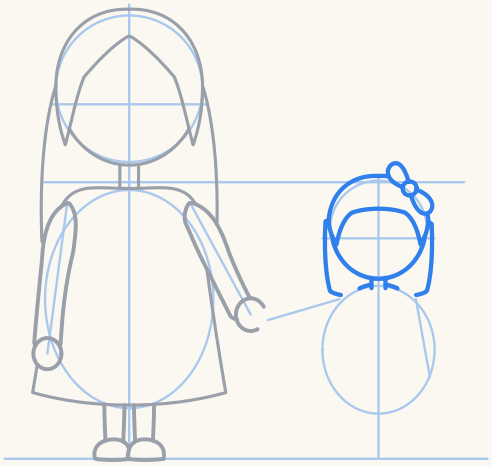
STEP 4 Dress mom and add her arms



Use the big oval to place an A-line dress: narrow at the shoulders, wider at the hem, which stops a little above the ground. Her left arm hangs straight down with a round hand at the end. The right arm angles down toward the middle of the page. Under the hem, add two short legs and small rounded shoes on the ground line. The right hand is left slightly open on one side, because the girl's hand will cover that spot.

💡 **Tip:** Keep both arms the same thickness from shoulder to wrist. Tapering them makes mom look stiff.

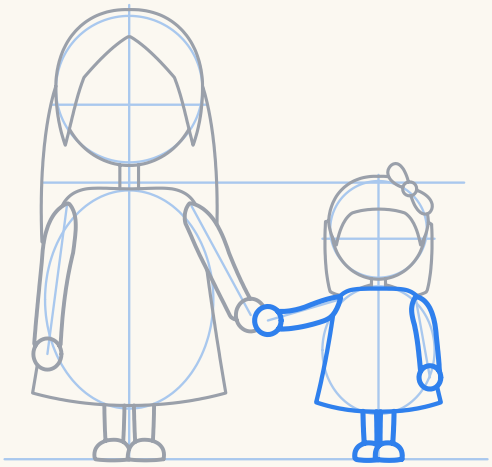
STEP 5 Draw the girl's head with a bob and a bow



Trace the smaller head circle and add a tiny neck. Her hair is a short bob: a rounded cap with straight bangs and sides that end near her chin. Then I put a little bow on the top right of her head, two teardrop loops with a small round knot between them. Tilting it slightly gives her a playful look.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bow last in this step, on top of the hair. Then you won't need to erase hair lines through it.

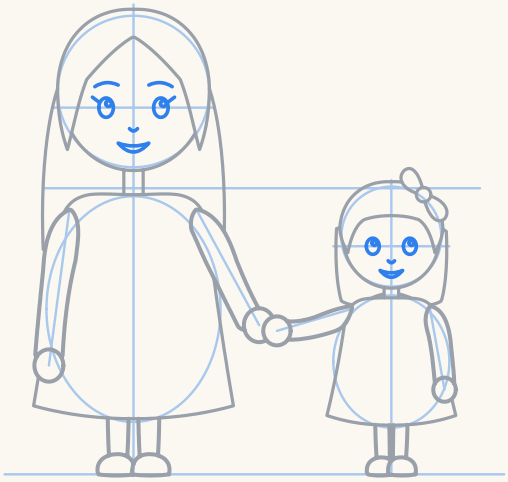
STEP 6 Give the girl her dress and arms



Her dress is a shorter version of mom's, flaring gently to a hem above her knees. Reach her left arm out toward mom and close her small round hand over mom's hand so the two overlap. Her other arm hangs by her side. Two short legs and tiny shoes go under the hem, on the same ground line as mom, or one of them will seem to float.

💡 **Tip:** Overlap the two hands by about a third. A small overlap reads as holding hands, a gap reads as reaching.

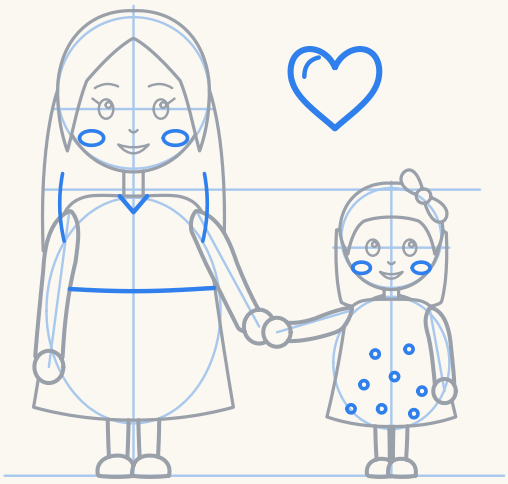
STEP 7 Give them two happy faces



Faces are where most people slow down, and that's fine. For mom, place two small oval eyes on her eye line with a white shine dot in each, a flick of lashes at the outer corners and a soft brow above. Her nose is a short curve, her smile a half-moon. The girl gets the same face in miniature without brows. Matching smiles make them look related.

💡 **Tip:** Check the distance between the eyes on both faces. Equal spacing keeps each face friendly and even.

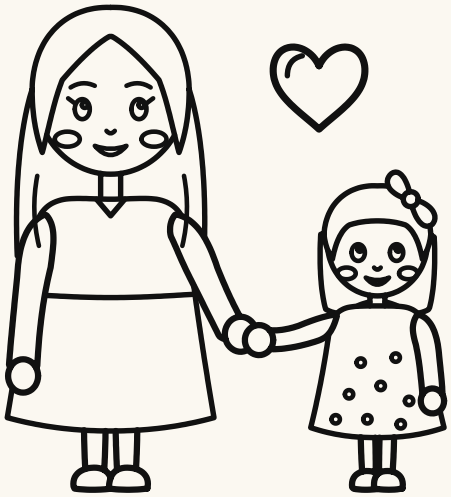
STEP 8 Add the heart and small details



Float a heart in the empty space above the girl, roughly as wide as her head, with a curved shine line inside. Give both faces round cheeks just below the eyes. On mom, draw a little V at the neckline and a waist line across the dress, plus a few long strands in her hair. Sprinkle small circles on the girl's dress for polka dots.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the heart one half at a time, starting both sides from the dip at the top.

STEP 9 Ink the lines and erase the guides

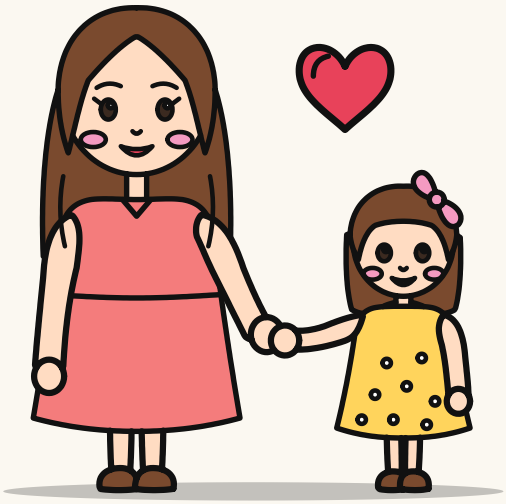


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With the black pen, trace every line you want to keep. I start with the faces while my hand is steady, then move outward to the hair and clothes. Skip all the helper shapes. Wait until the ink is properly dry, then erase the pencil so only clean black lines remain.

💡 **Tip:** Rest the side of your hand on a scrap of paper while inking so you don't smudge the faces.

STEP 10 Color the mother and daughter



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Peach goes on all the skin. Both have brown hair and brown shoes, which makes them look like a matching pair. Color mom's dress coral and her daughter's dress yellow, leaving the polka dots white. Use pink for the bow and cheeks, red for the heart and mouths, and dark brown for the eyes. A light gray shadow under their feet finishes the picture.

💡 **Tip:** Color the skin first with soft pressure, then the hair, so dark brown never smears onto the faces.