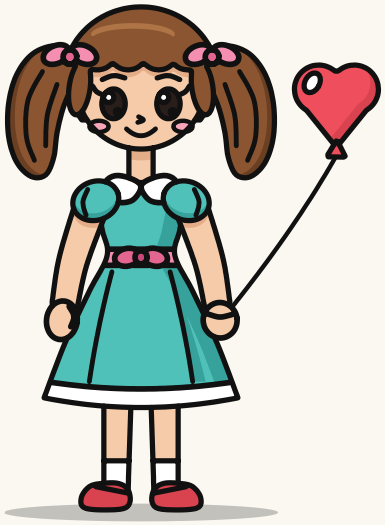
How to Draw a Girl

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

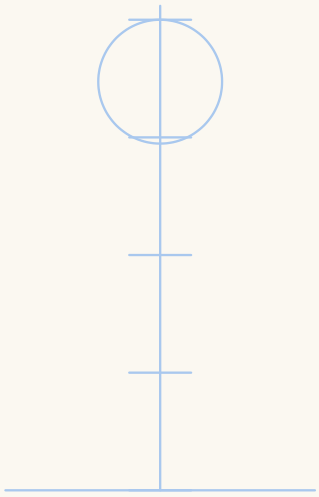
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

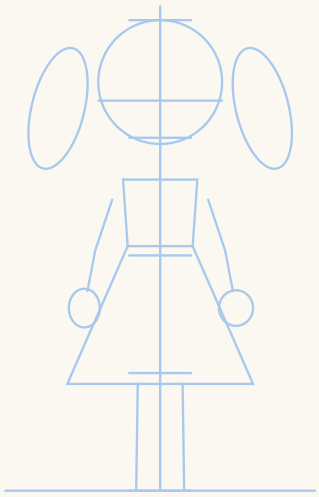
STEP 1 Draw a center line, head marks and the head circle



Draw a light ground line near the bottom of the page and a straight line up through the middle. Split that line into four equal parts with short marks across it. The top part is for the head, so draw a circle that fills it from the top mark to the second one. She'll end up four heads tall, which is a cute, kid-like size.

💡 **Tip:** Press very lightly. Every line in this step gets erased at the end.

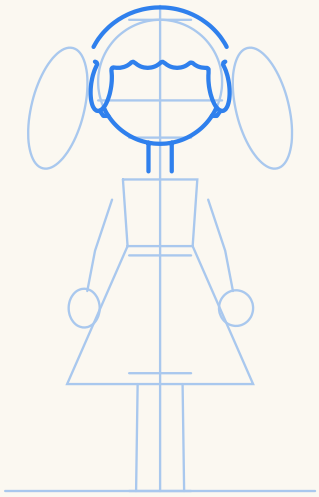
STEP 2 Sketch guides for the dress and limbs



Put a cross line through the head, a little below the middle, for the eyes. Add a tall oval on each side of the head for the pigtails. Under the head, draw a small box for the top of the dress that ends at the third mark, then a wide triangle for the skirt. Stick lines with a bend at the elbow make the arms, with a small circle for each hand, and two straight lines run down to the ground for the legs.

💡 **Tip:** Let the hands reach about halfway down the skirt. Kids' arms are shorter than you'd think.

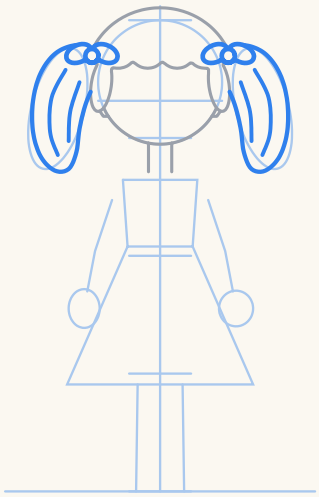
STEP 3 Draw the face, the neck and soft bangs



Trace the head circle with a firmer line and add a short, wide neck under it. Over the top of the head, draw the hair a little outside the circle, then finish its lower edge with four round bumps across the forehead. Two thin locks come down the sides of the face.

💡 **Tip:** Make the neck as wide as the space between the eyes. A thin neck makes the head look stuck on.

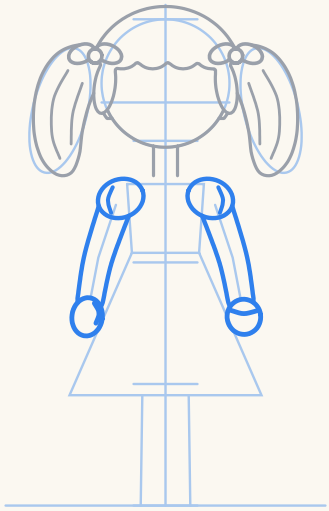
STEP 4 Add two pigtails with bows



Each pigtail starts at the side of the head, just under the hairline, and puffs out into a round shape that drops to about chin height. I draw the outer edge first, then the inner edge. Two curved lines inside each pigtail show the hair strands. Finish with a small bow on top of each one: two loops and a round knot.

💡 **Tip:** Draw one pigtail, then turn the paper upside down to check the second one matches.

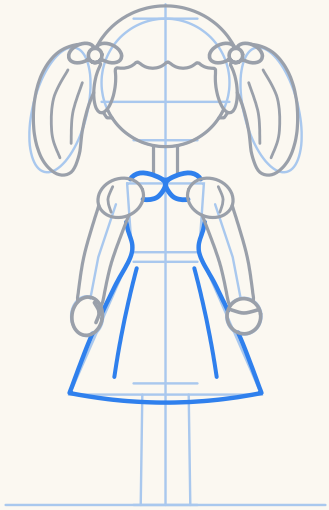
STEP 5 Draw puffy sleeves, soft arms and mitten hands



Draw a round puffed sleeve on each shoulder. From under each sleeve, follow the stick arm with two lines, a little wider near the top. Round the hands like mittens, with a thumb line on one and a finger line on the other, which is curled around the balloon string.

💡 **Tip:** Give the arms real width. Single lines look like a stick figure, not a girl.

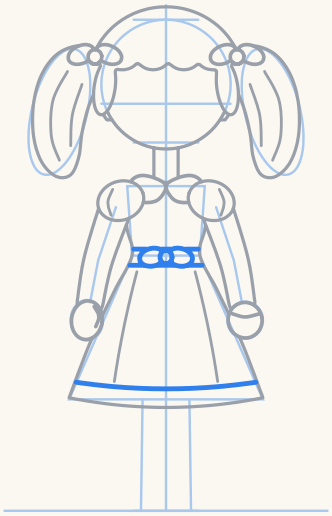
STEP 6 Outline a flared dress and a round collar



Start the dress at the neck with a soft curved neckline. The sides come down fairly straight to the waist and then flare out along the triangle guide to a curved hem just below the fourth mark. Stop the line wherever an arm or a sleeve sits in front. Under the neck, two small rounded flaps meet in the middle for a collar, and two long curves on the skirt make soft folds.

💡 **Tip:** Curve the hem down slightly in the middle so the skirt looks round instead of flat.

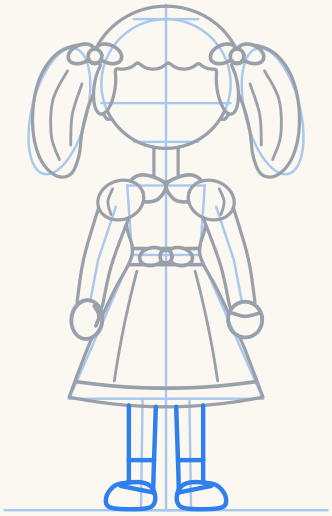
STEP 7 Add a sash and a hem trim



At the waist, two lines across the dress make a sash, with a little bow in the center. Near the bottom, draw one more curve that follows the hem. That band becomes the white trim.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the sash thin. A wide band cuts the dress in half and makes the skirt look short.

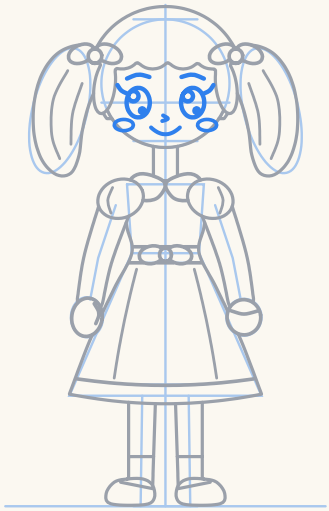
STEP 8 Draw the legs and shoes



Two straight legs come down from under the skirt to the ground, with a small gap between them. A line across each leg near the bottom makes the top of a white sock. The shoes are rounded shapes that point slightly outward, with a strap line across the top of each.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the toes out a little. Feet that point straight down make her look like she's floating.

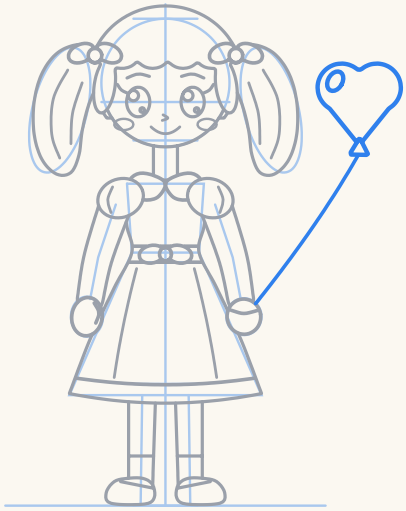
STEP 9 Give her big eyes and a soft smile



Sit two tall oval eyes on the cross line, about one eye width apart. Leave a big and a small shine circle in each. Add a short lash at the outer corner of each eye and gentle brows above them. A tiny hook makes the nose, a simple curved line makes the smile, and two small ovals go on the cheeks.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the smile small and close to the nose. A wide grin low on the chin reads as a different face.

STEP 10 Draw a heart balloon on a string



Up to the right of her head, draw a heart shape for the balloon with a tiny triangle knot at the bottom. Add a small shine oval. Then pull one long, gently curved string from the knot down into her hand.

💡 **Tip:** A slight curve in the string makes the balloon look like it's floating on a breeze.

STEP 11 Ink the drawing and erase the guides

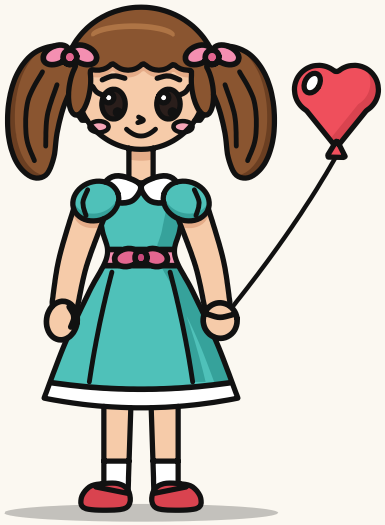


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Trace every keeper line with the black marker. I go over the face first while my hand is steady, then the hair, the dress, and the legs last. When the ink is dry, erase every guide.

💡 **Tip:** Wait a full minute before you erase. Wet marker smears across the whole face.

STEP 12 Color your girl



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Color the hair and pigtails brown and the skin peach. The dress and sleeves are turquoise, with a slightly darker turquoise down the right side for shade. Pink goes on the bows and the sash, red on the shoes and the balloon. Leave the collar, socks plus the hem trim white, fill the eyes black and add soft pink cheeks.

💡 **Tip:** Color the darker side of the dress first, then blend the lighter turquoise into it.