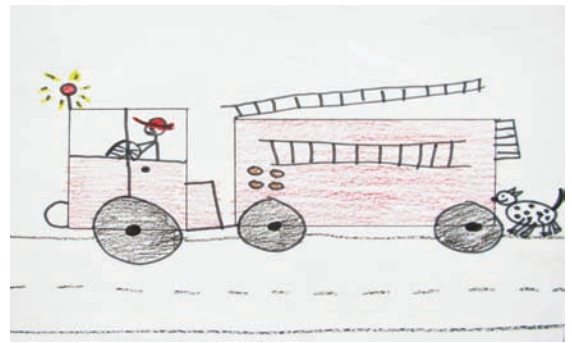


# Fire Engine Guided Drawing Instructions



Here are the instructions to help children draw the fire engine.

\* **Before beginning, duplicate the master provided for each child.** I have found by giving children these starting points, they have a much better chance of being successful with the project. This is because if their first two shapes for the fire engine's cab and trailer are too small or do not wind up in the middle of the paper, they will not be able to continue with the drawing and add the necessary details.

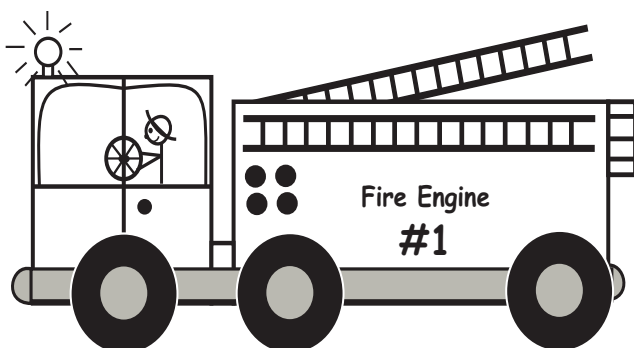
\* **I always use fine tipped black markers for guided drawing** with children because if you give them a pencil they will usually try to erase obsessively over every mistake. So if they make a mistake, they just have to let it go and keep trying, which is of course much better than having everyone in the group wait while one person tries and erases several times until he or she is satisfied with the result!

\* **The children will also need a black crayon handy,** and some other colors of crayons available when they are ready to color the completed drawing. I don't pass out any other crayons while we are doing guided drawing until we are completely done with the drawing, because once the children begin coloring, it is often difficult to get their attention back as a group. So, I don't release them to color until I am completely done giving the group directions. There are always a few children that are not interested in coloring their pictures and will tell me that they don't want to, presumably because they believe I will let them do something else more desirable, such as play instead. I have learned not to offer this as an option unless it is really okay with me that they skip it! Usually, I tell them that coloring is good for their fingers. It makes their fingers stronger and makes them smarter. So we are all going to try and do our best, and keep coloring until I ring the bell to signal when the time is up.

## Instructions:

1. Find the bottom middle of the cab of the fire truck. Draw a large circle for the first tire. Put another small circle in the middle of it for the hub cap and then color it in black with your marker.

2. Add two more wheels on the back of the truck as shown by drawing two more large circles and hub caps as shown.
3. On the cab, draw a lower case letter T to form the doors and windows. Then draw a rainbow to form the steering wheel. Add a smaller circle in the center of the steering wheel, and then some lines coming out from the middle of it as shown. Add a doorknob by making a circle on the door. Later when they color it, you may want to point out that though the doors are red, the windows on top would be clear or stay white.
4. To form the stick figure man, draw a circle for the head. Add a line down the middle of the head as shown to form the rim of the hat. Color it in red. Then add the features of the face, plus a line coming down to form the spine. Then give him two lines for the arms and make them reach out towards the steering wheel. Add a couple of a circles for the hands, and make them holding on to the steering wheel as shown.
5. Draw a light on top of the cab by making a line with a circle on top. Add some lines around the outside of it to show that it is shining brightly.
6. For the bumper, make a capital letter C on the front of the cab.
7. For the connector, (the piece that connects the cab to the trailer,) draw a line from the bottom of the cab to the bottom of the trailer to join the two. Then put a number seven above it to form a box.
8. For the gauges, make four circles above the middle wheel.
9. For the bottom ladder, draw a line going across the top of the trailer for the top of the ladder, and then another underneath it. Then draw lots of lines coming down to form the rungs of the ladder.
10. For the top ladder, first find the top middle corner of the trailer and have the children put a finger on that starting point where the second ladder will begin. Then tell them to draw a "slide" going up to the sky by making one line going up. Then, they will need to draw another slide right above it in the same way. Then add the rungs of the ladder as before.



11. For the cabinet on the back of the fire truck, have the children draw a box on the back and then add some lines going across to form the drawers. Or, just tell them to draw a backwards capital E with lots of extra lines; that usually makes them giggle, and they know right away what to do.

12. For the road, I tell the children to put down their markers and watch me only for minute while I draw. (It usually takes a minute to convince them to put down the markers and **show me their empty hands.**) Then I take a black crayon instead of a marker so that the road will look a little different from the truck. I have them watch as I draw the top line for the road, and I say, "Watch me make a line! I draw, draw, draw, and then JUMP over the wheel! And then keep drawing the line for the road and then JUMP over the wheel! And then draw, draw, draw, and JUMP over the last wheel, and then draw that line right off the road!"

Then I take my crayon and quickly make the dotted line for the middle of the road underneath, and the straight line for the bottom of the road, because at that point, the children are all DYING to grab a black crayon and go through the whole "Draw, draw, draw, and JUMP over the wheel!" routine.

13. As far as the Dalmatian dog is concerned, I usually just let them make their own doggy in their own way, and add some spots. :)

**Note:** The clip art drawing on this instruction sheet has a long bumper, but the one that I do with my students does not; that is why the instructions do not match.



