

Preparing for Your Photoshoot...

The information below is to help you feel prepared for our session so you can be as relaxed and comfortable as possible, and so we can be sure to get the best images of you and your family.

When is a good time to schedule the session?

It is best to choose a time when your child will be lively, awake and playful; often just after waking up from a nap is best. Of course, every child is different with some loving to pose for the camera and others being more reluctant! I like to keep the session as relaxed as possible so that the individual personality of your child can shine through. Before we plan the time for your session, the other thing to think about is the way sunlight moves through your home over the course of the day. We can discuss this further in advance of the session.

Where is the best place to shoot the photos?

I typically work in and around your home so that your child will be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings. As soon as I arrive for the session I will spend some time figuring out the best room(s) for us to work in that provide the optimal combination of natural light and background. I find that rooms with large windows and good reflected light usually work best but I can accommodate a wide variety of lighting situations. If it's a nice day, we might also go outside so it's a good idea to have some blankets ready just in case.

What if I have specific poses or requests for the session?

During our initial consultation we can discuss any ideas that you might have for the session and I will do my best to accommodate them. I am happy to provide suggestions regarding composition and background and can travel with a simple backdrop if that is what you would prefer. If it is a family photoshoot, it is helpful for me to know the combinations that are most important for you (e.g. whole family, siblings) so that we can focus on these during the session.

What kind of clothes work best?

Clothing is an important factor in a portrait and often the simplest outfits work the best. Solid colors work well while logos, cartoon characters and bright stripes can be distracting in a photograph; it's best to avoid them if possible. Shoes are optional and in many cases, bare feet work best. For infants, often just a diaper and a bare tummy work really well. The clothes you pick out for very young children shouldn't be stiff, or complicated. We want everybody to be comfortable and for the focus of the picture to be on the child, not on the clothing. It's best to have some soft, cotton form-fitting clothes in pastel colors (not white) available for very young children (pastels tend to photograph much better than white).

In family photos, you don't have to dress everybody alike unless that's the look you're going for. Solid colors are usually best for adults, again just to ensure the attention is on the subject, not the clothing. Of course these are not intended to be rules carved in stone but rather suggestions. If you're not sure, just select a few changes of clothing and we can pick out the ones that will photograph best.

What if my child has cuts or bruises; should I cancel our appointment?

Minor scratches are quite common among babies and usually there's no need to cancel. Scrapes, cuts and bruises are all par for the course, especially with young toddlers and I'm very used to them! The only

Preparing for Your Photoshoot...

time I'd suggest rescheduling is if the injury has distorted your child's face (like a black eye or a big bump on the forehead). If desired, images can be retouched digitally after the shoot. Runny noses are also very common, especially when new teeth are coming through and I keep plenty of tissues on hand just in case! Of course, if your child is feeling unwell we should reschedule as its important that everybody is as comfortable as possible during the session.