

Tips for Great Family Portraits

Family portraits capture a moment in the lifetime of your family. To ensure that we get the best results possible with every person looking great, here are some tips and suggestions.

1. Choose clothing that fit with the setting of the portrait. Formal clothing suits indoor studio shots while outdoor settings lean more towards casual outfits.
2. Co-ordinate colours. Everyone in the portrait should wear colours that meld well together. Some families choose to match colours exactly. While this is not necessary, you do need to ensure that all the clothing colours complement each other.
3. Choose a standard colour that your whole family will be comfortable wearing. The more comfortable you are the more relaxed and natural you will all look. Suggested colours are blues, greens, earth tones, or black and white.
4. Stay away from wild colours and patterns as these can be distracting. Stripes, checks and logos can also draw attention away from the faces in the photos. Likewise, avoid bright, shiny jewellery and large belt buckles. You want the main focus to be on the family, not the outfits.
5. Basic classics are better clothing choices for your portrait as opposed to trendy styles. This will lead to a timeless portrait rather than one that is dated
6. Pick clothing that fits nicely. It should be neither too tight nor too loose. Clothes should hang on the body well without folding or creasing. V neck tops and shirts are generally more flattering than round neck.
7. Consider clothing that covers the knees and elbows. These areas don't photograph as well as the rest of the body so it may be wise to choose clothing that covers them.
8. Avoid distracting shoes as they will often be captured in the portrait.
9. Have clothing ready in advanced of the photo shoot. All items should be clean and wrinkle-free.

10. Bring a few back-up clothing choices, in case anyone experiences a last minute spill or needs an emergency replacement.

11. Most importantly, wear clothes that you are comfortable in and that reflect something of your individual personality.

12. The most important thing to bring is your smile and sense of humour, contrary to popular belief having your picture taken does not hurt and the end result will be a lot more natural if you are ready to enjoy the experience.