



CHILDREN PORTRAIT SESSION DETAILS

A great portrait of a child shouldn't be rushed! Plan on 60 - 90 minutes for your child's session. This will allow us time for your child to become comfortable with us and build "trust" before we step behind the camera. Depending on the age of the child, sometimes it is best to have a parent in the room, and other times, it isn't. We'll decide that once the session is underway. We will work with and play with the child to get the most natural looking portraits.

As much as you'd like to bring others along to watch the session, we ask that you refrain from bringing relatives and friends to the session. The extra people can serve as a distraction and may not allow us to capture those great pictures you are looking for!

TIPS FOR A HIGH QUALITY PORTRAIT SESSION

The most important thing to remember is to be sure that your child gets lots of rest before the portrait session. Below are some other helpful tips to help make your child's portrait session a great success!

- When planning a portrait session, keep in mind the colors and style of the room where the photograph will be displayed. You can dress your children in colors that will coordinate with your decor. Safe colors (when going neutral) include white, cream and khaki.
- Choose the time of day when your child is happiest and at their very best. Try to avoid scheduling portrait sessions near nap time or mealtime.
- As you select clothing for your child, remember that simple is better! The more complex the outfit the more likely it will be out of place during the session.
- Avoid selecting outfits that compete with your child for attention when you look at the image. Be careful about too much bold color, fluff and frills around the face. These will only detract from the beauty of your child.
- Solid colors work best keeping the attention to the face. Patterns are fine if they are subdued. A strong pattern will compete with your child for attention. Avoid large or bold patterns, wording, checks, stripes and dots as they draw attention away from the face and this is the most important part of the photo!
- You may choose to bring a casual outfit and something a dressier for your little one.
- Soft medium tones (dark red, forest or olive green, indigo blue, plum) and neutrals (white/ivory, black, gray, khaki, beige or brown) work great for outdoor portraits.
- Darker colors tend to be more slimming, and lighter colors tend to highlight. Very bright colors or patterns can work for the "High-Key" (all white) background.
- Shoes are optional. However, if you decide to have your child wear shoes, remember that the bottom of shoes will most likely show in the portrait. Make sure the bottoms are clean! In addition, try to avoid brightly colored characters or decorations on the bottom of the shoe. Try to find a shoe that coordinates with the clothing. And, we may decide to go "shoeless" too!
- If your child refuses to wear something that you have picked out, don't worry! Bring it along with you to the session and we'll try to work it into the session.

TIPS FOR A HIGH QUALITY PORTRAIT SESSION (CONTINUED)

- Different hairstyles are always fun, but try to avoid a new haircut or hairstyle prior to the session. You want your child to look like themselves!
- Please try to avoid giving your child colored juices or candy the day of the session. Red mustaches and green tongues can last for hours!
- We caution you against starting the portrait session with a bribe. A properly placed bribe is a thing of beauty and can be highly effective if done at the right time. For this reason, we have a few bribes that work well. As a general rule, let us bring up the bribes and you can save yours as a last resort – it's typically not needed but nice to know it's there, just in case.
- Don't use up all the smiles! (An infant or toddler who is played with a lot before the session can get tired of being "happy".)
- Relax. It's important for the parents to be calm. The calmer you are, the calmer your child is. Your job is to get them to the session – we'll take it from there!

These are not considered "rules" – they are just suggestions. If you aren't sure about an outfit, bring three to four outfits and we'll help you pick the ones that photograph best.

Glasses

If your child wears glasses all the time, you should plan to have your child wear them in the session, so they look like their usual selves. However, glasses can reflect a glare from light inside the studio or outdoors, which may result in costly re-touch fees. Certain prescriptions can also make the size or shape of your child's eyes appear distorted.

Here's what we suggest: Your child can wear the frames without the lenses—either have the optometrist take the lenses out for the day or borrow a sample pair of frames. If wearing frames without lenses is not an option for your child, we can try to adjust lighting to minimize glare. Finally, we can do hand retouching if glare does appear on the final prints (there is an extra charge for this).