



## Portrait Styles & Preparation

### Memorable photographs take careful planning.

While we will shoot multiple portrait styles at each sitting, please discuss with us in advance the type of images you ultimately want captured.

Contemporary poses - standing, jumping, sitting or laying down - better reflect a child's personality and spontaneous nature. For these portraits it is important to dress from head to toe. Even if you plan for your children to end up barefoot you still need to ensure that their clothes and footwear match.

More traditional portraits are generally shot from the waist up in either a standing or sitting pose.



Maximise the value of your portrait sitting by bringing a few outfits but keep these tips in mind:

- ◆ We favour a “high-key” studio portrait where children are generally surrounded by predominately white tones. Rich, vibrant colours usually photograph best, but white, ivory, khaki or pastels will work with a white background.
- ◆ Often the best portraits are of children in simple and unobtrusive clothes. Denim jeans and a plain t-shirt always photograph well.
- ◆ For family photographs it is important to choose clothing in the same tonal ranges, such as different shades of blue. Light and dark tones together are visually confusing, as one person comes forward in the photograph while the others recede.
- ◆ Avoid heavily patterned fabrics - they are distracting when worn by many people within the same photograph.
- ◆ Avoid clothing with large logos and fad-type clothing that will date quickly.

***If you're photographing in colour you show the colour of their clothes -  
if you use black and white, you will show the colour of their soul.***

*Anonymous*



***A child is a curly dimpled lunatic.***  
*Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher*

Photographing children can be challenging at times, but a little planning can go a long way towards keeping everyone smiling.

- ◆ Think carefully about the best time of day for your studio session. Infants and children are generally at their best earlier in the day. There is little value in photographing children after a tiring day at school or in the playground.
- ◆ Plan to be at the studio or location at least 15 minutes early to give you time to relax. Young children need time to become familiar with the venue and photographer so they can move beyond the smile-on-command phase.
- ◆ If your child wears his superhero or her fairy outfit every single day, let them wear it in a few pictures – after all, you want pictures that capture their true spirit! Besides, after a few superhero or fairy photographs they may be more willing to pose for other styles or portraits.
- ◆ Feel free to bring favourite toys. Not only can they be featured in the photograph, but they also help children feel more settled and can be useful in getting them to look at the camera.
- ◆ Stay calm, patient and happy and trust that we can make your child smile. Please do not ask them to say cheese!
- ◆ Please bring baby wipes, snacks, water, and some simple toys and activities to keep other children busy when not being photographed. We may need your help to attract and hold one child's attention and other children need to be happy and occupied while waiting.