

Guidelines for studio or outdoor portraits

Rule #1

Be yourselves. The best family portraits allow the personality of each member to shine through.

Rule #2 - Simplicity!!

- Keep your look simple. We want to focus on your beauty, not your clothes.
- Wear clothing that reflects you and make sure it's clothing that you like to wear.
- Pants, slacks, or skirts should be darker than your top.
- Clothing should match the season.
- BOLD, solid colors are preferred.
- Do not mix casual and formal clothing.

Now that THAT is out of the way...

- First, choose a color theme that *simplifies* the look of your family portrait. Too many busy patterns and colors are especially distracting in group portraits. While all the clothing does not have to match, the colors should be harmonious.

Coordinate the clothing for all subjects in a group portrait so that one person will not dominate the scene. A family group should choose clothing that blends with each member's attire rather than creating conflicting focal points that distract from the group as a whole. Color coordination lends harmony to the portrait.

- Dark clothing tends to minimize body size, and light tones tend to emphasize body size. Long sleeves are advisable. When there are large amounts of flesh exposed to the camera (arms) it will draw the attention away from the face. This is the second most requested touch up area and often the most difficult to slenderize.
- Shoes and socks are often overlooked as a significant aspect of portrait clothing. They should compliment, not contrast. Carefully consider your apparel from head to toe as a variety of full length and close up poses may be taken.

Dress for Outdoor Portraits

- As a background, the outdoors is very busy. It is important to choose only one or two theme colors, with your subjects wearing shades of those colors. While blues are excellent all year, white, ivory, khaki and salmon are great against lush green foliage. Burgundy, brown, tan and gray are nice late in the season. **Avoid all greens**, as they clash with Mother Nature. The simplicity of two colors help separate family from the scenery. Busy backgrounds and busy clothes result in hard to find faces.

Dress for Small Children

- The most important thing about clothing when you want to get a beautiful baby or child's portrait is that the clothes be comfortable. Itchy, stiff, tight, hot or restrictive clothing, shoes, hats or head bands will only make your child uncomfortable and irritable. You may want your child to wear dressy clothes, but make sure the clothes are comfortable. Play clothes will allow your child to be more natural.
- An outfit that Grandma bought your baby may be really cute, but it won't always be the best to take photographs in. Of course, if you really want to, we can take a few of photographs in the outfit Grandma bought anyway.

Now specifically....(you thought you were done, right?)

For the Ladies

- Touch up your fingernails.
- Go easy on the makeup, especially dark eye liner. Do not wear 'sparkle dust'.
- Stay away from dark lipstick.
- Don't change your hairstyle for the photo. Keep it like you are.
- Earrings, necklaces, and bracelets add a nice touch. Keep them dainty. Bring extras.
- Bring a comb, brush, and mirror for last minute touchups.

For the Guys

- Get a fresh shave usually within a few hours before the session.
- Keep jewelry to a minimum.

And Lastly.....

- No chewing gum.
- No pony tail holders on wrists.
- Check to see that your undergarments, straps, t-shirts, etc., don't show.
- Do not wear black undergarments that will show through your clothing.
- Check your teeth for pieces of spinach.
- If you wear glasses, clean them.
- Facial blemishes are removed during processing unless this has been discussed previously.
- If you want specific moles removed, let me know.