

PREPARING FOR YOUR PHOTOSHOOT

WHAT TO WEAR

Dressing well for a family photoshoot can greatly enhance the overall look and feel of your portraits. Here are some tips to help you choose the perfect outfits:

- 1.Coordinate, Don't Match:** Choose a color palette that complements each other rather than wearing identical outfits. Coordinated colors create a visually appealing and harmonious look.
- 2.Choose Timeless Styles:** Classic, timeless clothing choices tend to age better in photographs. Avoid trendy patterns or overly bold designs that might distract from the main focus – your family's expressions and interactions.
- 3.Comfort is Key:** Make sure everyone is comfortable in their outfits. If kids or elderly family members are uncomfortable, it could affect their mood during the shoot.
- 4.Avoid Logos and Busy Patterns:** Large logos and busy patterns can be distracting. Solid colors or subtle patterns are generally a safer choice.
- 5.Layering Adds Depth:** Layering can add visual interest to the outfits. Think about jackets, scarves, or accessories that complement the overall look.
- 6.Consider the Location:** Choose outfits that suit the location of the shoot. Urban settings might call for slightly different styles compared to a natural outdoor environment.
- 7.Flatter Your Body Types:** Choose styles that flatter different body types and sizes within the family. Certain cuts and styles can accentuate the best features.
- 8.Think About the Season:** Dress appropriately for the weather. Light, breathable fabrics for summer and warmer, layered options for colder months.
- 9.Avoid Neon Colors:** Neon colors can cast strange reflections on skin, so it's best to steer clear of them.
- 10.Shoes Matter:** Don't forget about shoes! They can complement the outfits and complete the overall look.
- 11.Accessories:** Simple accessories like jewelry or hats can add a touch of personality to the photos. Also, try to avoid bra straps that show.
- 12.Hair and Makeup:** Consider how you'd like to style hair and makeup. This can contribute to the overall polished look of the photos.
- 13.Avoid All White or All Black:** While a little bit of white or black is fine, dressing the whole family in all white or all black can lead to lack of contrast and details in the photos.

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Remember, the goal is to showcase your family's personality and connection, so choose outfits that reflect who you are and make you feel confident. When in doubt, consult with your photographer for additional guidance based on their experience and the specific vision for the shoot.

WHAT TO BRING

1. Any personal appearance touchup items you might want, including things like lipstick, hairbrush or a mirror.
2. Snacks on snacks on snacks, and if necessary, treats to bribe kiddos with! (However, it's best not to tell kids about the treats *before* the session; wait until the kids start getting fatigued before you pull out treats! They'll usually perk right up then!) Also, make sure the snacks/treats won't stain lips or fingers!
3. Walkable shoes. We will probably be walking short/moderate distances on unpaved trails, possibly with hills. Walkable shoes are a must! If you just *love* your wedges, bring them to change into before we start shooting.
4. Clothing changes! You might want to have a different look or two during the shoot. Also, kids tend to get a bit dirty sometimes. As a photographer, I love when kids interact fully with their surroundings, and I'm thrilled to photograph them playing in water or running through the grass. As a parent, you might not be too keen to let them back into your car, covered in mud. Feel free to bring a change of clothes or shoes. Maybe even a towel. You never know!!
5. Props and whatever you want to have with you. Bowties, suspenders, hats, flower headbands, chunky scarves, beautiful flowing dresses and skirts—these create visual interest and movement in your photos, and really help the images stand apart. If the kiddos have a favorite toy or something they can't be apart from, bring it! Happy faces is what we're after.
6. Please take bulky items such as phones, keys, etc. out of pockets before we start shooting.
7. BRING SMILES AND HAPPY FACES!!!





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POSING

1. Let's avoid "Cheese-y" photos! We are hoping for natural interactions and unposed moments. I strive to capture and encourage authentic expressions. No need to coax your children into fake smiles!
2. On a related note, children around the ages of 5-10 will sometimes try to "cheese" in the photos, because that's what they've been conditioned to do when they see a camera! Help me create more candid shots by interacting playfully with your children. (I'll give you prompts.)
3. Laugh, play, tickle, and snuggle. This is how we'll capture the REAL moments.
4. Not everyone has to be looking at the camera. Actually, I usually encourage the guys NOT to look at the camera. (they seem to prefer that, as well!) I like to especially encourage my dads to focus on their partners and their kids.
5. When in doubt, just smile and look at your family lovingly.
6. Stand close together. Actually, as close as possible :)
7. Relax, slow down, and don't force anything. Don't feel pressured to make everything perfect! Just be present with your family and I'll do the rest. And don't stress if any of the kids get fussy! We'll make it work. 😊
8. Expect me to move you around to different spots to capture images. The more variety we get, the bigger your gallery and the more great shots we have the opportunity to create together!
9. If you have had a chance to look at some ideas online, let's try them! The crazier the better!



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SPECIAL NOTES FOR SENIORS

1. **Outfit Changes:** Bring multiple outfits that reflect your personal style. Consider a mix of casual, formal, and trendy options.
2. **Accessories:** Hats, scarves, jewelry, and other accessories can add variety and personality to the photos.
3. **Props:** Bring along any props that are meaningful to you, such as sports equipment, musical instruments, books, or items related to your hobbies.
4. **Personal Items:** Include sentimental items like a childhood toy, a letter jacket, or a favorite jacket to add a personal touch.
5. **Grooming Kit:** Bring hairbrushes, combs, makeup for touch-ups, and any other grooming essentials.
6. **Water and Snacks:** Staying hydrated and energized is important, especially during longer photo sessions...
7. **Extra Clothing Options:** Accidents can happen, so having extra clothing options on hand can be a lifesaver.
8. **Friend or Family Member:** Having someone you're comfortable with can help you relax and enjoy the shoot even more.
9. **Poses or Ideas:** Bring along a list of poses or photo ideas you'd like to try, or discuss them with me in advance.
10. **Positive Attitude:** The most important thing to bring is a positive attitude and enthusiasm for the shoot. Your energy will shine through in the photos!