

# Tips for Parents

## Getting Ready...

It's best to come into the studio for a brief consultation before having your son or daughter photographed. I'd really like to create something special that you will cherish for a lifetime. Discussing ideas and clothing will ensure that this extra effort beforehand will be well rewarded with an outstanding portrait. Generally photo sessions with young children and babies are shorter in length but plenty of time is allowed if children or babies need a break to play or be fed. The nature of children can be unpredictable during photo sessions and every effort will be made to make for a comfortable experience. It is up to the judgment of the parent to decide what is the "best" time of day for their child to be photographed.

## Clothing, colors, styles

**Colors:** Reds, bright blues (sky blues) photograph well. A child dressed in white photographed against a white background draws attention to the child's face. Avoid busy fabrics that will detract from your child's face. Solid fabrics or small prints (calicos or small stripes) are good. For the casual outdoor portrait, jeans, overalls and sundresses look wonderful.

**Style:** Make sure clothing fits well. Clothing with a little interest around the shoulders works well (smocking or collars). Avoid abundant lace or frills; in portraits they tend to overpower the child. The fancier the child's clothes, the simpler the background should be. Simple comfortable clothing that fits well is best. If a lot of time is spent fixing laces, bows or parts of clothing that won't stay put, the child will also grow short on patience.

**Shoes:** Use well-shined black or coordinating colored shoes with the outfit the child is wearing. Match socks to pants and anklets or tights to skirts or dresses so they won't stand out in the portrait. Make it a cute, casual portrait by not wearing shoes. No shoes or socks works well with newborns and babies under walking age.

**Hair:** Hair should be trimmed neatly. Simple hairstyles are best. Keep barrettes or ribbons small. It is not necessary to have the child's hair cut the day of or before the photo session.

## Siblings, Parents & Family

Although the portrait session may be for your child, it is suggested that mom, dad, or guardian also dress in coordinating colors so that they may slip into one of their child's portraits.

It is also suggested that all members of the family dress in similar colors (not necessarily the same outfit) for group portraits. Coordinating clothing colors will enhance the quality of your portraits. You may choose to all dress in lighter colors or to dress in darker color clothing. Casual or formal? Decide whether this is a casual or formal portrait when making your clothing choices. Because velvet material absorbs the light, the color of the outfit may be different in the finished portrait. Long Sleeves are more flattering for both male and female adult subjects. Keep jewelry simple. Big or flashy jewelry may be distracting. Manicured nails are flattering in the finished portrait on both male and female subjects. Again, keep the hair manageable and simple, especially for outdoor portraits. Please bring appropriate brushes, combs, hair spray, lip balm, and change of clothing if needed.



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