



# Family

WELCOME GUIDE

# PLANNING *Ahead*

All too often people spend the day before their photo session running around with last minute preparations, turning what is meant to be a fun, memorable event into a panic-inducing nightmare. We understand how important this experience is to you, so we want to help you plan in advance to avoid any unnecessary stress. Below are a few tips to help you prepare for your session.

## TALK TO YOUR KIDS BEFOREHAND

Kids are smart and they love feeling grown-up and informed. Get your children interested and involved by explaining the plans for the day. Show them the outfits you have picked out or let them be involved in the clothing selection process. Tell them a professional photographer is going to take their picture and that's it's going to be a lot of fun! Convey as much positivity as possible to minimize the stress of new people and new things that can overwhelm small children.

## DECIDE ON A REWARD?

We're not above a little bribery to make sure things go smoother during your session. If you would like to try an extra incentive, choose a reward beforehand and let us know what it is. That way, we have an extra bargaining tool with the kids when they need to smile more, sit still, or pay attention. Please leave any messy or food related rewards until AFTER the session to avoid messy clothes or mouths.

## ENSURE EVERYONE IS WELL RESTED AND FED

I know it is easier said than done with littles, but try to have everyone get as much sleep as possible the night before our photo session. We are also more than willing to schedule around a little's naptime in order to have the best chance at a happy kiddo! Make sure everyone has eaten before the session as well. Please choose foods that do not stain mouths & faces. (Avoid food dyes, spaghetti sauce, and brightly colored baby foods)

## TRUST US

We know how stressful it can be for a parent to get a family portrait done, but we do our best to mitigate that stress as much as possible. With three crazy kiddos of my own, and over a decade of experience with children's portraiture, we've got this. If the kids get a little wild, we run with it and capture their true personalities. We can take breaks and calm any tears. We're here to guide you through the process and make sure it's a memorable - and painless - experience for the whole family.

# WHAT TO *Wear*

Not sure what everyone should wear during your family portrait session? We've compiled some helpful tips to make the process less daunting and help you and your family look your best!

## BE TIMELESS

Clothing can easily date your portrait. For that reason, we often suggest simple wardrobe items with timeless cuts and style. Avoiding large logos, characters, and text that doesn't apply to the theme ("Big Brother" on your toddler for a pregnancy announcement shoot is perfectly fine!) will also help create clean looking portraits. Classic shoe styles are also preferred over athletic sneakers.

## COLOR & STYLE

Instead of choosing the same outfit for everyone, decide on a color scheme that works for the whole family. Different hues of the same color family, or complimentary colors work great together. Ideally, keep your clothing selection within the same style (dressy, casual, themed) For a timeless look, choose neutrals, pastels, or jewel tones. Want to showcase the fun and spunky side of your family? Incorporate bold accents. Busy patterns can detract from a portrait but if you would like to incorporate something bold and patterned, consider pairing it with solids.

## ACCESSORIZE

Scarves, hats, bows, bow ties...they can all add personality to your portraits. Accessories are also a great way to coordinate looks between family members.

## LAYERING

Layers will not only provide more visual interest in your photos but they will also allow a lot more variety in your shots and poses. Layering also lets you easily and quickly vary your look: simply add a sweater, jacket or hat and you have an entirely different look.

## GO FULL PINTEREST

Lay out your family's clothing choices side by side like you see on Pinterest. Add, subtract, and swap out items until you are happy with your family's look. Need a little inspiration? Visit our family wardrobe boards at: [Pinterest.com/wravendesign](https://www.pinterest.com/wravendesign)



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