

Michael Fotheringham Portraits

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Preparing for your children's portraits

The following suggestions are not strict rules, but provide some ideas to consider for your children's and babies' portraits.

Children's Portraits and Babies' Portraits

Children look great whether they are sparkling clean or have cake smeared on their faces. The best advice that can be given is to let children be themselves. I always try to photograph children laughing and having fun, as well as more serious expressions. That not only ensures getting some dramatic and often humorous photos, but it is often the way to get those angelic photos parents love most. Light rich colours give the impression of youth, humour, and happiness.

Consider what to wear to best capture both age and personality. You will also want to consider bringing in personal items that have special meaning or highlight the occasion. It's a good idea to bring several different outfits for kids — different clothes give the impression of different moods in the portraits, so a couple of quick changes can give you much better value from your photoshoot!

Choose a time and day that considers your family's schedule and habits. Be sure to try on any selected outfits the day before the session.

Favourite toys or possessions that are meaningful to the young ones are a great way to make the kids comfortable, and create great memories to treasure.

Even if you don't plan on taking family portraits, be prepared to get your portrait taken on the day too — if your child is unsettled, sitting with your child, cuddling, or reading a favorite book while I snap portraits of the interaction between you is a great way to get your child comfortable (and get some great photos at the same time). I don't just give up on the portrait if your child is not ready for a solo portrait sitting! Sometimes children just need the extra security of having you with them during the toddler years.

Family Portraits

If you have a group or family portrait, it's a good idea to try and ensure that everyone wears complementary colours or tones. The outfits don't have to be identical or all the same colour to look good; however, you don't want everyone in light blue and one person in bright red. Clashing outfits like horizontal bands and vertical stripes tend to detract from the portraits, too.

What to bring:

- Wardrobe choices
- A brush or comb
- Any significant possessions that might help tell a personal or family story.
- Some toys or books for children

Consider your hairstyling and cosmetics needs.