

Tips For a Successful Photo Shoot

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PHOTOGRAPHY

- Give your child a healthy snack (and drink) 30 minutes before the session. Well fed kids are happier and more cooperative.
- Try not to talk to your child about your upcoming session in details for days on end. While picture day can be exciting, it can also be stressful and kids can get anxious in anticipation of a big event. Mention it once or twice so they are prepared and then leave it alone until the day of the session. When picture day rolls around, remind them that photos are fun and that it's not a huge production that they need to be nervous about.
- Be on time or come early. This will help ensure you have a few minutes for your child to get comfortable with your photographer. These few short moments are more important than you realize. This is helpful for adults as well. It's just as important for you to have some time to connect with & get to know your photographer before jumping in front of their lens. Besides, children pick up on your stress if you're running late, so they'll be much happier if travelling to the session is a calm experience.
- Stay out of your photographers way. Let your photographer call the shots and direct you. Your job as a parent & subject is to smile at the camera and be ready for the moment the photographer has your little one smiling.
- Bring bribes & motivation. Provide incentive for your little ones to cooperate! Kids generally have a maximum cooperation time of about twenty minutes depending on age. Make the most of that time...or attempt to extend it by providing things they aren't given every day...whether it be chocolate chips, lollipops, goldfish...something they aren't normally allowed to have...at the end of your session. Providing little perks along the way like snacks or candy is helpful in keeping kids motivated.
- But most of all...have fun! Natural smiles are a result of a good time. Enjoy the time spent capturing the memories and smiles of your family! The photos resulting are what you will look back on and enjoy.

Helpful things to bring along:

- Favorite stuffed animal (if you don't mind it in photos)
- Yummy incentives (see above)
- Baby wipes (for messy faces)
- Hair brush
- Spare clothes in case of accident/spill