

families
YOUR COMPREHENSIVE
SESSION GUIDE



TOP 3 TIPS

for an amazing session

what to wear?
YOUR CLOTHING GUIDE

HOW to display your amazing portraits





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TOP *three* TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1) FOCUS ON THE LOVE

It may sound cliché, but after all, your love for your family is probably the reason you wanted family photos in the first place! In the end, it's not about what clothes you wore, or what location you chose, or how much you weighed. It's about capturing what life is like right now. It's about snuggling, tickling and playing. It's about showing your children how much you love them so that they have these memories 20 years down the road.



2) DON'T OVER-PLAN

Nothing spoils a child's good mood faster than too many clothing changes, too many locations, and too many props. We know it's tempting to get caught up in those perfect Pinterest photos, but the best images happen spontaneously as a result of your unique family relationships. When we're not working off of a checklist we'll have more time to create organic images that you'll love.

3) LET GO & TRUST

On the day of the session, it's normal to be nervous (it means you care!). However the best way to love your portraits is to let go of those nerves and trust the process. Know that you've planned and prepared to the best of your ability, and now we're here to take the reins and create family portraits that you'll love. For an hour you don't have to be the one to make all the decisions...enjoy it while you can! :)





Life isn't perfect but it does have perfect moments



WHAT SHOULD YOU WEAR?

More than any other question, clients always ask what they should wear to their family session. Coordinating your outfits can be a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be! Here are some tips to help you with styling.

WHAT TO WEAR? *Start here!*

STICK TO ONE OUTFIT

Don't make things more complicated than they need to be! All you need for an awesome family session is one outfit for everyone. Changing outfits will take time away from your shoot and can put your kids in a grumpy mood.

CONSIDER YOUR HOME DECOR

If you're planning to hang your images in your living room that's decorated in all white, you probably don't want your clothing to be dark. If you're hanging them in a colorful nursery, then wear vivid outfits.



PLAN FOR THE WEATHER

Nothing is worse than being miserably uncomfortable in a perfect outfit. If you're planning a session in July, think about coats, gloves, and hats. In the summer, dress in layers that you can easily take off if you get too hot.

DON'T FORGET SHOES!

These are often the forgotten last element, but they can really make or break your outfits! If you can't find shoes you love, consider going barefoot (just bring walking shoes to get from point A to point B). Steer away from athletic shoes and bright white sneakers.



START WITH ONE PERSON

It's way easier to visualise the whole puzzle once you know what one piece looks like! Try starting with mum or daughter, since women's clothing tends to have more colors and prints.

COMPLEMENT, NOT MATCH

The days of all white shirts and blue jeans are long past! We want colors that generally complement each other: so for instance, soft colors (light blue, gray, blush) or warm colors (brown, orange, burgundy). If you want colorful images, then you should choose a more vivid color scheme for your outfits!



LAY YOUR CLOTHES OUT

The best way to see if your outfits go well together is to lay them out on a bed well in advance of your session. If something isn't quite right you will have plenty of time to update the wardrobe.

LET THE KIDS HAVE INPUT

If your daughter hates wearing dresses, don't force her to wear one for the session. If your son thinks that bowtie is uncomfortable, ditch it. Happy kids make for happy photos!



"Picked up my art mounts yesterday and I just wanted to say thank you so much. They are gorgeous and I am so happy with how they turned out. Pete and Beth were so patient with my boys during the session and managed to get some amazing shots (which I was very surprised at seeing as how the little one was acting up lol). They were professional and friendly during the session and afterwards when I was trying to decide which pictures I wanted! Thank you so much. Highly recommend Fifth Lane Photography!!" - Sarah

SAY *yes* TO:

COMFORT

Above all, if you feel good, you will look good! Choose clothing that gives you freedom of movement, keeps you warm/cool, and won't require a lot of maintenance throughout your session.

TEXTURE

Add some visual interest to your images with unique fabrics. Some examples: lace, cable knits, chambray, tweed, herringbone, faux fur, wool.

PATTERNS

Don't be scared of patterns and prints! They can work great in moderation. Try one statement piece (for instance, a colorful floral dress for mum) and one subtle pattern (maybe tiny polka dots for baby girl), and then keep the rest of the family more simple.

LAYERS & ACCESSORIES

These are the quickest way to take your outfits from average to amazing! Think scarves, blazers, cardigans, belts, jewelry, fun socks, and hats.

FITTED CLOTHING

We don't want your clothing to be too baggy or too tight. Properly fitted clothing looks put together and will show your shape. For women, your upper half and lower half should be balanced: so for instance, blousy shirt + skinny pants, or tight shirt + flowing skirt.

CLASSIC CHOICES

Try to steer away from current trends, since they'll date your photos 10 years from now.

SAY *no* TO:

FORMAL CLOTHES

Let your clothing match your surroundings. A tuxedo or formal dress will look out of place in a casual setting.

BRIGHT WHITE OR RED

If you love white, try off white or ivory instead. Lots of solid red tends to lose detail in photos.

NEON COLOURS

These create skin tone/color cast issues.

LOGOS & TEXT

Words will draw attention away from your faces.

ATHLETIC SHOES

Self-explanatory!

TINY PLAID & COMPLICATED PATTERNS

These don't always translate well in-camera.

TRANSITION LENSES

If you wear glasses every day, please wear them in your shoot! However, lens glare and shaded lenses will keep your eyes from being seen. You can have anti-reflective coating added to your lenses or wear just the frames.



"We had the most fun afternoon with Peter! Very professional and made the whole family feel so comfortable. Just love our photos. Thanks again Peter." - Ange



CLOTHING CHEAT SHEET

mum

SAY YES TO:

maxi dresses, fitted tops tucked into long skirts, a-line dresses/coats, skinny jeans, cardigans, blazers, scarves, ankle boots, riding boots, fitted tunics.

SAY NO TO:

strapless, sleeveless (unless you love your arms), low-cut shirts, baggy clothes, chunky knits, cheap/flimsy fabrics.

dad

SAY YES TO:

blazers, chino pants/shorts, button-downs with sleeves rolled up to elbows, jumpers layered over collared shirts, dark jeans, leather shoes/boots, cardigans

SAY NO TO:

baggy shorts/pants, athletic shoes, white t-shirts

girls

SAY YES TO:

everything listed for mum, plus these optional accessories: headbands, hats, bows, rainboots

SAY NO TO:

visible nappy/underwear (try shorts for under dresses), neon, athletic shoes or character shoes

boys

SAY YES TO:

everything listed for dad, plus these optional accessories: suspenders, bowtie, bowler/derby hat, high-top sneakers

SAY NO TO:

tank tops, neon, visible nappies, athletic shoes or character shoes (Disney, etc.)

tip:

A trip to kmart or our favourite kids clothing shop Lellow Kids in Braddon is fabulous to coordinate and accessorise the family!

HOW TO *display*

Printing and displaying your portraits is the most important part of the process. This is the part where you preserve all the beautiful memories of your kids growing up. Where you show your children “we love you and you’re part of this family”. It’s a beautiful, visual reminder of that - everyday!

Here are some of the ways you can display and preserve your portraits. Every product is professionally printed to the highest standard in Australia!



CANVAS GALLERIES

Wall galleries are sets of ready to hang canvases. The sizes vary slightly from our standard print sizes as they are designed to sit neatly together on your wall with perfect symmetry.

We work with you to design your favourite images into a storyboard to fit on your wall, whether in your lounge, play room or bedroom. Together we will design something that will make your face light up each time you walk into the room.

CANVAS

Our canvas' products are printed on professional photo grade archival canvas and the quality is divine! They are stretched, framed, wired and ready to hang so as soon as you get home you can pop them straight up on your walls.

We have faith in the amazing quality of our canvas' products and as such we know they will hold the pride of place on the walls of your home for many, many years to come. (Our supplier guarantees them for 75yrs!)



CRYSTAL

Fifth Lane's Crystal collection is the ultimate in modern beauty. Professional archival print, sandwiched between two sheets of acrylic, dimond cut and hand polished.

It gives a striking finish that looks clean, punchy and a wonderful addition to your home. You won't be able to take your eyes off it!



YOUR PORTRAITS

FRAMED PRINTS

Framed art is for those very special portraits that just beg to be shown off on their own.

Printed on archival photographic paper and meticulously framed, portraits come ready to hang.

The classic presentation of a professionally framed portrait gives a timeless and elegant look.

Guaranteed to last a lifetime!



BOX COLLECTIONS

Box collections come complete with either 10 or 20 matted prints and are the best way to get all those funny, quirky and intimate photographs that show the love you have for each other. They are also a brilliant way to gift a few photos to grandparents.

Place your matted print on an easel, pop them into a standard frame size or leave on the coffee table for when visitors arrive - you will be the envy of your group!



CIRCULAR WOOD PRINTS

For those looking for a more 'organic' look and feel, circular wood prints certainly fit the measure.

Mounted on 20mm marine grade ply with an extra laminate for protection, the circular geometry offsets right angles beautifully.

Hang as a set of three to showcase your family's story or individually as a stand alone piece in a bedroom.



STANDING CRYSTALS

These irresistible display options are the perfect products if you're low on wall space!

Like their wall cousins, standing crystals have that absolute wow factor. Prints are mounted to 30mm thick acrylic and have an amazing 3D appearance. They are heavy and solid.

Standing crystals come in three sizes and are equally beautiful on their own or as a collection.

A photograph of two young girls standing in a field of tall grass, holding hands and looking towards a bright sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that silhouettes the girls and fills the sky with soft light. The girl on the left is smaller, with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a white sweater and a dark skirt. The girl on the right is taller, with long hair, wearing a white sweater and a dark skirt. They are both looking away from the camera towards the horizon.

closing thoughts

We hope that the tips we've covered will help as you prepare for your session. However, please know that you do not have to be an expert at modeling when you show up to your session! All you have to do is love your family, and we'll coach you through the rest. **YOU'VE GOT THIS!**

If you need any more help before your session, please feel free to reach out!

**Pete & Beth
Fifth Lane**