WHAT TO WEAR

FAMILY PORTRAIT GUIDE



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CLEARYcreative photography



What to Wear

A Guide For Family Portraits

Why would you not want to show off what you've created? You have crafted and are living your dream – O.K. maybe not every day because if your family doesn't fight or have bad days, you probably aren't human. None the less, you have more good days than bad and being able to display the beautiful candid moments that take place when your family gets together is one of the best way to preserve that feeling.

We hope that this short guide will give you some peace of mind on the day of the photo shoot because there's nothing quite like looking at a photo and remembering the good times and not all the things that went wrong that day.





General Don'ts & Their Solutions

WRINKLED CLOTHES

The easiest way to avoid this is by doing just a bit of pre-planning. Once you know what everyone is going to wear, lay it out the night before. This way, if you notice that the shirt that's perfect for the theme but it's been in the back of your closet on the floor for example, you have plenty of time to iron it...

BUSY PATTERNS

We really want you to cherish and show off your family portraits... we don't want you to end up in one of those "embarrassing family photos" joke books or emails because your family is wearing a total of 10 patterns yet there's only three of you. Our advice is to stick to solid print anything. If you have a favorite pattern there are tricks to incorporate them in, without it overwhelming the eyes. This rule also applies to logos on shirts! Nothing is worse than looking back on family photos and realizing you let your son wear his Wu-Tang shirt that year.

WAITING "DAY OF" TO CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION

Dan has worked everywhere in the Miami Valley. North, South, East and West. Before the portrait Dan can meet you to scout a location. Maybe this is at your house or at a park. This pre-portrait planning is extremely necessary to make sure we get a great portrait.



General Do's

COORDINATING COLORS

It might sound daunting but trust us, it's easier than you think! Neutral colors are an easy go to; navy blue, tan, or white seamlessly creates a classic look. Is your family a little more bold? Picking colors like dark red – especially if you're shooting in the fall – creates a dramatic contrast the changing foliage.



BE PREPARED

Whether your shoot has props, multiple outfits or you have a two year old – having everything you need eliminates the possible stress of you being stranded at a location and you forgot to bring the favorite blanket or the tea cups were never packed.

INCORPORATE FAMILY MEMORABILIA

Has there been a necklace that has been past down from generation to generation? Whatever it is, if it has meaning, we can always find a creative way to incorporate it into your family picture, without it taking away from the true focus of the picture.



Considering Body Type

We want everyone to feel and look his or her best during the shoot and to look at it fondly once it's adorning your wall or lovingly placed in a photo album. Making sure to consider everyone's body type when creating outfits is just as important as coordinating colors. A little unsure where everyone exactly falls or you might have an idea but not a clue what shirt would look best? Let us be your guide!







Male Body Types

SKINNY

A "skinny" body type has noticeable lean muscle mass and they might find it hard to gain weight, no matter how often they eat. (Often you hear an elderly family member telling them to eat more or they question why YOU don't feed them more) No matter the number of hearty meals this person consumes, their fast metabolism will never reveal the evidence.

The trick for dressing a skinny bod is to not wear "second-skin" thin shirts but also not choosing something that will completely drown the guy in fabric.

What to look for: Button down shirts that fit their shoulders and fall a little looser from the top. Straight leg jeans as opposed to skinny jeans, and jeans with a classic or lighter wash, as dark wash jeans create a slimming illusion. Layer like boss: choose chunkier knit sweaters or tailored jackets.

MORE MUSCULAR

Their nickname might be Mr. Muscles or they have a hard time finding a shirt that doesn't make it look like they bought it at Baby Gap. Either way, they have more defined muscles and a rectangular shaped body and have no problem gaining muscle or fat.

Keep in mind that they already have an intimidating stature, so you'll want to choose items that don't add to the intimidation factor. Avoid skinny/slim fit jeans and pants and try straight cut styles instead. To find shirts that fit, you should be able to fit a finger between your neck and the collar of your shirt. There shouldn't be any tightness of fabric across your chest/shoulders/upper back.

MORE TO LOVE

They have a more "stocky" build and tend to be a little softer and rounder than the family member who does his laundry on his washboard abs. They gain muscle and fat just as easily but their muscles just aren't as defined.

Try wearing: Vertical stripes, jackets with structured shoulders, crew neck tees really any stiffer, solid fabric that compliments your body type. Avoid wearing fitted polo shirts, bright colors and busy patterns, horizontal stripes and boots – especially if you're on the shorter side.

Female Body Types

STRAIGHT

With a straight body, their shoulders and hips are relatively the same width and their waist doesn't have a noticeable definition to it. The general rule of thumb for this body type is to look for pieces of clothing that really help create the illusion of a more "shapely" figure.

Try wearing: Snug clothes, not skin tight clothes – like a button down blouse that's slightly tailored at the waist could be a simple way to achieve this look. Color blocking is also a quick trick.

Avoid: Shapeless, flow-y tops and dresses. With a straight body type, it's easy for the body to get lost in fabric.

HOURGLASS

If you have an hourglass figure, the waist is very defined while the hips and shoulders are relatively the same size. Top hourglass figure is also a term – the bust is slightly bigger than the width of the hips but the waist is still clearly defined.

Try wearing: Since the waist is where the attention should be look for shirts with v-neck-lines or that are more form fitted. Pencil skirts are an easy and classic way to play up the waistline.

Avoid: Wearing baby doll tops, a shirt with a high neckline, and loose fitting clothes.

PEAR

Also known as a triangle body shape. The hips are distinctively wider than the shoulders and the waist has declared itself present and noticeable. Being mindful of what parts of the body to play up and others to tone down is surprisingly easy.

Try wearing: A-line dresses, higher cut tops, and bottoms that bring more attention to the upper body.

Avoid: Anything that brings attention to the hips – flared skirts, baby boll style shirts that flare at the waist.

Female Body Types, Continued

INVERTED TRIANGLE

This body type has wider shoulders in comparison to the waist and hips. It might seem a bit like a balancing act at times but creating a look that sculpts this body type can be easily achieved.

Try wearing: Pieces that play down the shoulders while simultaneously adding definition to the hips. It's as simple as pairing an A-line skirt with a simple fitted shirt.

Avoid: Bringing attention to the shoulders – i.e. shirts or dresses with high necklines.

OVAL

In general, with this body type, the waist is equal (sometimes even a little more) in width to your hips and shoulders.

Try wearing: Deeper v-cut dresses or shirts and add a belt to create definition around the waist.

Avoid: Skin tight clothes that don't do the body justice. It's easier to create a defined body shape with loose fitting clothes, than to start with tight fitting pieces.



Dress For Your Skin Tone

NEUTRAL

Neutral skin tones tend to be the most common, so it's fairly easy to find colors that look great on you. Your typical go-to shade could be dark navy with whites or tans. If you're feeling bold and want some color in your photo, try green.

WARM

Warm skin tones tend to be most complimented by darker hues. Any color that you could really associate with fall – dark reds, burnt orange, etc. should be your go-to colors.

COOL

If you're dressing for a cool skin tone, try choosing shirts that have a lighter, almost pastel hue to them. Light blues, greens, purple even! Got blue eyes? Pastel blue will be your best friend.





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