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Family Photo Session Clothing Tips

What you are wearing in a portrait is just as important as all the other details such as: lighting, location, and posing. Poorly selected clothing can take away from an otherwise great photo. Here are some helpful tips that will help you choose clothing that will enrich your portraits.

Coordinate but don't match

Gone are the days of everyone wearing a white shirt and matching. Instead, pick a couple of colors and choose clothes that will fit in this color scheme. It's often best to pick one outfit and build the other family members around it.

Maintain your style

Is your home filled with bright colors? Do you like Neutrals? Since you will be hanging these photos in your home, you may want to make sure the clothes will match the color scheme of your home.

Accessorize

Accessories not only add to your outfit but they can be fun to use in photos. Have the man wear a tie for the woman to hold. Necklaces for the kids to play with or hats to hide behind.

Be comfortable

We all like that fun picture of a child with a tutu or a hat, but if your little one is not comfortable in the clothes they are wearing then you are in for a miserable session.

Limit patterns

A little texture or patterning can be good, but multiple patterns can be distracting.

Keep your location in mind

In some occasions, coordinating your clothing colors with the scene can help maintain a natural color palette, but avoid totally blending in or completely clashing.

Plan in advance

You may think certain clothes will fit your kids or that one dress is clean. If you wait until the day before you may run into an issue of clothes not fitting, being dirty or need to be dry cleaned.

Say no to characters

Yes, your little one may love their Toy Story shirt, but just like patterns, characters on shirts can be very distracting. If it might be a fight, you can always bring the crown or animal and keep it for at least one crazy/silly/funny face photo, make the Princess photo one of the last ones you do.

Avoid all white or all black clothing

If you are wearing an all white shirt then it is easy to lose the detail in the portrait. Same can be said with all black, it's easy to have clipping on black clothing and the detail is lost.

Add textures and layers

Clothing textures and layers add depth and interest to portraits. They are especially important for soft or neutral clothing. This can be accomplished by adding layers with different materials and accents – tweed, crochet, embroidery details, lace, ribbons, ruffles etc.

Think Timeless

These photos will be lasting memories on your walls for years to come and past down as part of your family's heritage. By choosing simple, classic clothes you will help give your images a timeless feel.