



Family Portrait Clothing Tips

Portrait Style

First select what style of family portrait fits your needs. The style will help determine the background selection for your portrait. The background selection will also be determined by the number of people in the portrait, as well as your clothing selection. The style of your portrait should reflect your family's personality.

Formal Portrait Style

This style may be displayed in a more formal room of your home. Dress for this style of portrait will be dresses, skirts, or dress slacks for women, suits & ties for the men. Usually the formal portrait is photographed with a dark background.

Casual Portrait Style

The casual style may be displayed in great rooms or family rooms in your home. Sweaters, blouses, knit shirts (as they do not show wrinkles in the fabric) with khaki or blue jeans work great for this style.

Clothing Selection

Consider the style of portrait which you prefer, formal or casual. Many times clothing colors coordinate with the

room in which the portrait will be displayed. Keeping the clothing simple is our most important recommendation. Coordinate for balance, harmony and color. You may select a few colors and have the entire family wear the same colors, or you may want to wear different tones of the same color. Textures of clothing may be different as long as the color tones match. Prints & plaids tend to draw attention away from the faces in the portrait so we suggest solid colors. Long sleeves, slacks, or long skirts are better than short sleeves, shorts, or short skirts. Dress for full length photography by including socks and shoes in your preparation.

Colors for Formal Portraits

Medium brown to dark brown
Medium blue to navy
Medium green to dark green
Medium burgundy to dark burgundy. Slacks or skirts should be dark (brown or black). Matching the lower half of the outfit works best.

Colors for the Casual Portraits

Off white to beige, light khaki to medium khaki, light to medium pastels, slacks or skirts should be of lighter or medium color, again it's best to have everyone match on the lower half.

Outdoor Portraits

Spring/Summer Sessions
White shirts and blues jeans
White or beige shirts and khaki pants light to medium tone.

Pastels toned shirts; again either all family members can have the same shirt or



different tones of the same color. Short sleeves to medium in length. There are times when we will have the family just kick off their shoes but remember to dress for full length.

Fall/Autumn Sessions
Dark rich colors
Sweaters, long sleeve shirts.

The above colors pertain to outer garments such as sweaters, blazers, suits, slacks, dresses, and skirts. Women's nylons should be dark for the darker colors and light for the lighter colors. Since women are usually seated, short skirts are not advisable. All other clothing such as shirts or blouses can be a lighter shade that would complement the outer garment.

For example: shirts or blouses should be a soft color (beige, off white, light blue, taupe or white). Ties and scarves add a splash of color. Jewelry should also be kept simple. Wide gold & silver necklaces will glare in portrait light.

Glasses

Glasses without lenses are a must! Lenses create glare and distortion if worn for a photograph. Please visit your optical center and borrow a pair of frames without lenses. Additional artwork can be very costly to remove glare from glass glare.