

# Clothing Guidelines for your Children's Portrait Session

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## A Portrait On The Wall

*It seems as though time slipped by so quickly.*

*We went from having toddlers in the house, to the needing of new sneakers, braces, prom dresses and miraculously they were soon off to college.*

*We were always on the go and the changes slipped by so quickly.*

*Yesterday I had a few moments to myself and stood by quietly remembering our family's growth. And there on the wall over the fireplace were the "scrubbed clean" faces of so long ago.*

*The children were so full of energy and there in the one single portrait, came back all the memories.*

*The portrait, that at the time seemed so much of a challenge, today is so precious and irreplaceable.*

*That portrait will keep those memories of our family together, forever young.*

*Author: Unknown Mom*

*Decide which room or rooms you would like to hang your portraits.*

*Your portrait should be an artistic addition to the décor of the room.*

*What accent colors are in this room?*

*Select your clothing to compliment the colors of your décor.*

*Do not 'coach' children how to smile.*

*The photographer needs to illicit an expression, but if a child has been coached then they will "perform" their smile, which is not natural looking.*

## Clothing

*Select appropriate clothing for the age of your child.*

*Dress babies in light-weight, soft, stretchy material. Do not dress them in heavy material such as heavy denim or corduroy. The heavy material will hide the baby features that we love so much.*

*Classic cuts and styles will bring everyone's attention to your child's adorable features.*

*Stay away from busy outfits that compete for attention in the portrait.*

*Shoes are optional ... In most cases we prefer bare feet and so do the children. Simply put, you'd much rather see cute little toes than the bottom of a shoe.*

*Socks-only are a great option. The color of the socks should be similar to the color of the pants.*

*Bring a special toy or blanket or memento.*

*A favorite stuffed toy, grandma's heirloom quilt, a little rocking chair handcrafted by great-grandpa, or even your little one grinning gleefully wearing dad's old basketball jersey are among the items you could bring from home that add a more meaningful dimension to your session.*

*Don't let your (young) child know that you've brought the toy. We will take it out when we are ready to use it in the portrait session.*

*Engage your children in the decision-making process.*

*Convey an upbeat attitude. Let your child know how excited you are to have their portrait in your home. Talk about where the portrait will be displayed and the enjoyment you will have while viewing it on your wall. Ask them for their input.*

*Ask him/her if there are any questions. Talking about what will occur and answering questions will encourage participation and calm fears.*

*When a child has been involved with the process they do not feel as pressured to 'perform' for their portrait. **Keep Calm.***

*Mom is often filled with anticipation the day prior to and the day of a portrait session. Stay calm and enjoy your family. Your mood will affect your child's portrait session. Bribes to encourage a child to come to a session are not recommended. Likewise 'putting your foot down' will not yield good results if a child feels he is being dragged against his will to a place or forced to participate in an activity.*

***Create memories.***

*Share a special meal with one another or share time together doing a family hobby. Each portrait represents the stories of your family. As your children look at your portrait over the years what stories will be represented in that image?*