

Cake Smash Sessions

Everything you need to know about your cake smash

Cake smashes are scheduled with up to an hour of studio time. This gives us plenty of opportunity to let little ones get used to their surroundings and settle in before starting with their photos. A typical session lasts around 45 minutes, but if our birthday boy/girl is a little shy and needs longer there's no hurry and no pressure to get started.

We always begin with some 'clean' shots on the birthday set before introducing the cake and I always attempt at least one shot with the cake still pristine and intact before things start to get messy.

If you've opted to add on a white background mini session or hot air balloon add-on, these will both take place at the start of the session before moving to the birthday set. If you've opted to include a "splash" (bath) add-on, this will take place at the end of the session as part of the clean up.

Please note that each add-on adds approximately 15 minutes onto your session time, so that's something to bear in mind when thinking about little ones' attention spans and how much you want to include on the day.

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- *Set Dressing*



Your set will be prepared ready for your arrival at the studio and will include bunting, balloons, wooden letters and other decorations to match your chosen colour scheme.

We kindly ask clients NOT to bring along extra balloons or props of their own. We have carefully selected items of set dressing that we know photograph well and adjusting the set on your arrival may delay our start and reduce the time available for your shoot.

If you'd like to add a simple motif, such as the sunflowers pictured on the left, please tell us about it because small additions can often be incorporated into our standard sets at no extra cost.

If you've opted to hire a themed backdrop, we'll have a full consultation with you about set dressing and theming prior to your session.

- *Cake*



All cakes are handmade to order and require 1 week's notice to be delivered in time for your session

Our current cake styling consists of a 'drip cake' coloured to coordinate with the colours picked for your set dressing.

Some children get stuck straight into the cake while others may only pick at it, so to help encourage interaction, all cakes are topped with a variety of fruit, wafers, biscuits or sweets.

The exact toppings will vary from session to session depending on colour schemes, seasonality and availability.



Allergy Advice

Our standard cakes contain eggs and dairy products and are prepared in a bakery which may have traces of nuts or soya present. Unless specified otherwise, cakes also contain a raspberry jam filling and could feature a fresh fruit topping. A full detailed list of all ingredients can be provided ahead of your session if required.

If your little one has a known allergy or intolerance, please let us know so that we can work together to find a suitable alternative. Dairy-free, gluten-free and completely vegan cakes can be ordered on request or if you'd prefer, we can even keep the cake smash theme but swap the cake out for something else entirely. This might be a pancake stack, a giant watermelon slice or something else food related that we decide on together.

- *Clothing and Accessories*

What to wear

We prefer you to bring your own clothing if possible and strongly advise you to try on new outfits at home first to ensure you have something that's a good fit. If your little one is fussy about clothing changes, we'd also suggest arriving already dressed in the clothes to be worn for the photoshoot to avoid any dramas after you arrive.

Please choose clothing in either whites/creams or in colours to match your colour scheme.

We recommend NOT purchasing clothing that features text such as "I am One" or large logos. Kids won't stay perfectly still and outfits have a tendency to twist with movement which obscures the lettering.

Studio Wardrobe



There's a risk that either fruits or coloured cake frosting may stain clothing, so we also carry a small range of age one outfits which you're welcome to use if you'd prefer.



One year olds do vary quite a bit in size though, so we're unable to guarantee that clothing will be the correct fit or available in your preferred colour scheme.

Accessories

We have a variety of birthday crowns, hats and other accessories available for use during your session, but please feel free to bring your own if you'd prefer.



- *What to bring with you on the day*

All birthday packages are 100% all inclusive, so there's no need to buy anything extra or bring anything specifically for the session.

However, there are a few things that you might want to pack for the day.

Cake Smash Checklist

<p>Familiar toy to use as a soother or attention grabber. You may also choose to include this as a prop in some of the shots before the cake comes out.</p>	
<p>Drink / snacks for your little one – particularly if your appointment is close to a meal time or you have to travel a little way in the car.</p>	
<p>Clean change of child's clothing for after the cake smash.</p> <p>If you've opted for family photos on the white backdrop add-on, you may also want to bring a change of clothes for yourself to avoid getting cake or frosting on your photoshoot clothing once we move onto the cake smash.</p>	
<p>For Clean up.</p> <p>We provide warm water, wash cloths and fresh towels to clean up after the cake smash, but you may like to bring your own wipes or towel along with you.</p>	