



# Preparing for your family session

## ❖ Before your Session

Prior to your session, start having a think about the type and style of photos that you'd like.

The best place to start is often with the location. The largest group I can accommodate in the studio is approximately 6 adults plus 6 children. Outdoor sessions are a good alternative to accommodate larger groups and having your photoshoot at a place with special meaning for your family can add a personal touch to your final images.

### Family Session Checklist

**Content :** How many family members (and of what ages) do you want to include in your session?

**Groups :** What groupings of family members would you like to include?

**Themes :** Is there a theme that you'd like to incorporate into some of your shots?

**Style :** Do you have a preferred style for your photos? Eg : posed, informal, fun and casual

**Essential photos :** Are there any 'must have' shots that you'd like to get out of your session?

## ❖ Planning your photoshoot

Once you've decided on the style and type of photos that you want, we'll discuss an outline plan for your session so that you have an idea of what to expect.

What you wear for your photoshoot is completely up to you and depends on the style and type of photos that we've decided on. Wherever possible, you should each try to choose clothing that won't clash in terms of style or colour. It usually works better if the whole group is consistent in choosing to dress either casually or formally – although it can sometimes add a unique twist if everyone dresses in their individual style so that we capture their personalities in the final images.

Heavily patterned garments and clothing featuring large logos or text are best avoided in favour of larger blocks of plain colour. For more polished posed photographs, you may also want to choose a single accent colour such as blue or red that features somewhere in everybody's outfit or all agree to wear a similar coloured top. Black or white are the two staples that work in almost all circumstances and suit anybody's style, but there are no hard and fast rules when it comes to which colours to choose.

For studio sessions, dark coloured or black clothing tends to work best with black backgrounds and light coloured garments work well with white. There are always exceptions though and sometimes a strong contrast between clothing and background colour can be just the look that we want.

## ❖ On the day of your session

If people will be arriving separately for the session, make sure that everybody knows where to meet and at what time to ensure that we can start on time.

Family groups often include young children, so try to plan your appointment for a time of day when they're least likely to be tired, hungry or otherwise distracted.

It's often a good idea to have some favourite toys or games to hand as distractors or attention grabbers if required.

I recommend allowing an hour and a half for your family session, although the time required will depend on the style of photos and number of people in your family group.

For more information and examples of family photography, please visit :

[www.sarahleephotos.co.uk/family](http://www.sarahleephotos.co.uk/family)