

Family Session



Family photo sessions are all about telling your family story, which means capturing photos that show your genuine connection and the love you have for each other. Having said that, there are some things you can do before your session that will help put you and your kids at ease, and allow me to capture your family at their absolute best!

Day of Session

I highly suggest not making too many other plans that day. Having a busy, active day could make the kiddos extra tired. If you scheduled a golden hour session and your kids still nap, do late naps that day. I also suggest an early dinner that night. It is super important to have kids with a happy, full belly. Nobody wants to be hungry for family photos!



What to bring

There always ends up being a piece of hair that falls out of place, hands that get dirty, and if we are taking photos in warm weather, there most likely will be bugs. So bringing these extra items help with the unexpected things that could come up!

- Diaper bag & essentials for babies / toddlers
- Safety pins
- Snacks and water
- Hair brush and bobby pins
- Bug spray
- Stroller
- A special “non messy” treat like fruit snacks. Sometimes, as a last resort, offering a special treat can help a kiddo sit with us who otherwise would be running full speed into the field in the opposite direction. With that being said- you know your child so bring what you think is best!



What to wear

This can be one of the most stressful parts of planning for your photo session! Ultimately, I want your clothes to reflect your family. Some families love a more casual feel while others like to get more dressed up. I always let my clients know we will be doing some walking, taking a few sitting shots, and I may ask you to do some playing with your kids so wear something you will be comfortable in. Long gone are the days where families wear matching white shirts and khakis. I recommend choosing a few complimenting colors and work around those. Or, if you have one outfit you love, plan around that outfit. I always recommend layering outfits and adding accessories like scarves and hats. They create a beautiful depth to your photos! I also created a Pinterest board with a variety of outfit ideas that I send to my clients to help plan as well!



How to prepare your kids

I am ALL about setting the expectations for our kids. They thrive when they know what to expect, so I always encourage parents to tell their kids before our session that this is going to be FUN. We will play some games, run around, look for flowers and bugs, and they might even get tickled. By letting them know this will be a fun time together, they will be more likely to listen because they are excited about what we are going to do next!



Squeeze in close!

Right away I tell my families that if you feel like you are standing awkwardly too close to the person next to you, then you are exactly where you need to be! Expect to do lots of hugging and holding hands and sitting almost on top of each other. Any sort of space between people in a photo doesn't look great, so be prepared to squeeze in close during our time together!



Be prepared to PLAY and have FUN!

I know this tip is listed last, but it is by far the MOST important. The more relaxed and go with the flow you as the parent are, the more easy going our session will be. I have four kids, so it won't catch me off guard if your 3 year old has a meltdown or doesn't want to sit or smile. I expect for those situations to happen so I have lots of fun things planned to help kids to open up. I also understand that kids might need a snack or a minute to just snuggle with their parents. And if that's the case, we will simply take a break (and I may sneak in a sweet photo of your kiddo in your lap). My goal as a photographer is to tell your family story and each session is different. So the more you interact and have fun with your kids, the more beautiful your photos will be because they will show your genuine smiles and connection as a family.

