

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL PORTRAIT SESSIONS

IT'S OKAY IF  
THEY DON'T  
SMILE :)

HOW TO KEEP  
PARENTS STRESS  
FREE ON PICTURE  
DAY  
& MORE...

KIDS  
JUST  
WANNA  
HAVE  
FUN!!!

PHOTOS BY ME'CSHELL

CLIENT GUIDE



Well, *Hello* there, new friend! My name is Me'Cshell and I am a self-admitted photography junkie. I love absolutely everything that has to do with photography. Documentary on a famous photographer? Better add it to my queue. A giant, glossy coffee table book loaded with stunning pictures? Oh, my heart! A local meet-up with fellow photogs? Count me in!

Whether I'm snapping pictures, editing photographs from a session or talkin' it up with clients old and new, my life absolutely revolves around my camera (and my family, too, of course).

It all started about seven years ago when I got my first purple, Vivatar 110 Camera. I took photos of any and everything. In the beginning it was a lot of pictures of my fingers, lol. I eventually got better. Since that very moment, I always had a camera in my position.



From that moment onward, I was 100%, hands down hooked on photography. With my husband's insistence and a healthy urging from family and friends, I dove right into the realm of professional photography. I'm not going to lie: it was scary to focus solely on taking pictures, but it was something I was so passionate about and something I mulled over for several years that I knew it was the right choice.

It's been a few years since I "went pro" and my life has taken a major turn for the amazing. Day in and day out, I spend my hours meeting with incredible clients, heading to gorgeous on location sessions and then editing the pictures that we took. My favorite part, though? The reactions of my clients when they get their photographs. Knowing that I helped them preserve a moment in time for the rest of their lives and for future generations is a feeling that will never, ever get old.

Anyway, enough about me. I'm so glad that you're here, flipping through the pages of this welcome packet. I specialize in a variety of different photography sessions and am absolutely willing to work with you to create an unforgettable session. Don't hesitate to reach out with questions when you're finished. Let's do this!

*Your Photog Friend,  
Me'Cshell*

# HOW TO PICK THE RIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOUR CHILD...

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Choosing a senior photographer can be a big decision, as your senior photos will be a lasting memory of your high school years. Here are some tips to help you choose the right senior photographer for you:

**Look at their portfolio:** A photographer's portfolio is a collection of their best work. Look at their portfolio to get a sense of their style and whether it matches what you are looking for. Pay attention to the lighting, composition, and overall quality of the photos.

**Read reviews:** Look for reviews of the photographer online. Check their website, social media accounts, and review websites like Yelp or Google. Pay attention to what people say about the photographer's personality, professionalism, and the quality of their work.

**Meet with them in person:** Schedule a consultation with the photographer before booking your senior photo session. This will give you a chance to meet them in person, ask questions, and get a feel for their personality and communication style.

**Consider their experience:** Choose a photographer who has experience with senior photography. They should be able to guide you through the process, make you feel comfortable, and help you choose the right poses and outfits for your photos.

**Check their availability:** Make sure the photographer you choose is available on the date you want to schedule your senior photo session. Also, ask about their turnaround time for delivering the final photos.

**Consider the cost:** Senior photography can vary in price depending on the photographer's experience and the package you choose. Consider your budget and what is included in each package before making a decision.

Ultimately, choose a senior photographer who you feel comfortable with and whose style matches what you are looking for. They should be able to capture your personality and create photos that you will cherish for years to come.

KIDS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!!







Parents often have a vision of the perfect family portrait - everyone smiling, looking perfectly posed, and dressed to impress. They may have spent hours coordinating outfits, choosing the perfect location, and preparing their children for the photo session. However, kids have a different idea of what makes a photo session fun. They want to run around, play, and be their silly selves, completely uninterested in sitting still and smiling for the camera.

When these two desires clash, it can lead to frustration and tension during the portrait session. The parents may be constantly reminding their children to sit up straight, smile, or stop fidgeting, while the kids may be rolling their eyes, making goofy faces, or refusing to cooperate. This can result in forced and unnatural-looking photos that don't capture the true essence of the family's personality.







To avoid this conflict, it's important for parents to strike a balance between their desire for the perfect picture and their children's desire to have fun. One way to do this is to let go of the idea of perfection and embrace the imperfections that make the family unique. Encourage the kids to play and be themselves during the photo session, knowing that these candid moments will be the ones that are most cherished in the years to come.





Parents can also make the portrait session more enjoyable for their children by incorporating fun activities or props into the shoot. Whether it's blowing bubbles, playing with a favorite toy, or dancing to their favorite song, allowing the kids to have fun and be themselves will result in more genuine and memorable photos. Ultimately, the goal of a family portrait session should be to capture the love, joy, and connection between family members, rather than striving for perfection. By embracing the chaos and letting go of expectations, parents can create a truly special and meaningful portrait that reflects the true spirit of their family.





## IT'S OKAY IF THEY DON'T SMILE.....

Leave them babies alone!!!!!! Natural expressions are beautiful! Encourage kids to relax and be themselves. Genuine moments often make the best photos. Whether they're lost in thought, laughing, or showing off their serious side, these authentic expressions capture their true personality. Reassure them that it's okay to be themselves and that not every photo needs a smile to be perfect.



# WHAT YOUR KID SHOULD WEAR ON PICTURE DAY

Choosing the right outfit can make a big difference in your child's back-to-school portraits. Comfort is key, so opt for clothes that your child feels good in. Solid colors and simple patterns work best, avoiding busy prints and large logos that can be distracting. Many parents prefer school uniforms for a classic, timeless look, or cute costumes that showcase their child's personality and interests.

## Add Layers and Accessories

Layers can add depth and dimension to photos, so consider adding a cardigan, jacket, or vest. Accessories like hats, scarves, or bows can provide a fun touch and enhance the overall look. However, make sure these items don't overpower your child's face.

## Coordinate, But Don't Match Exactly

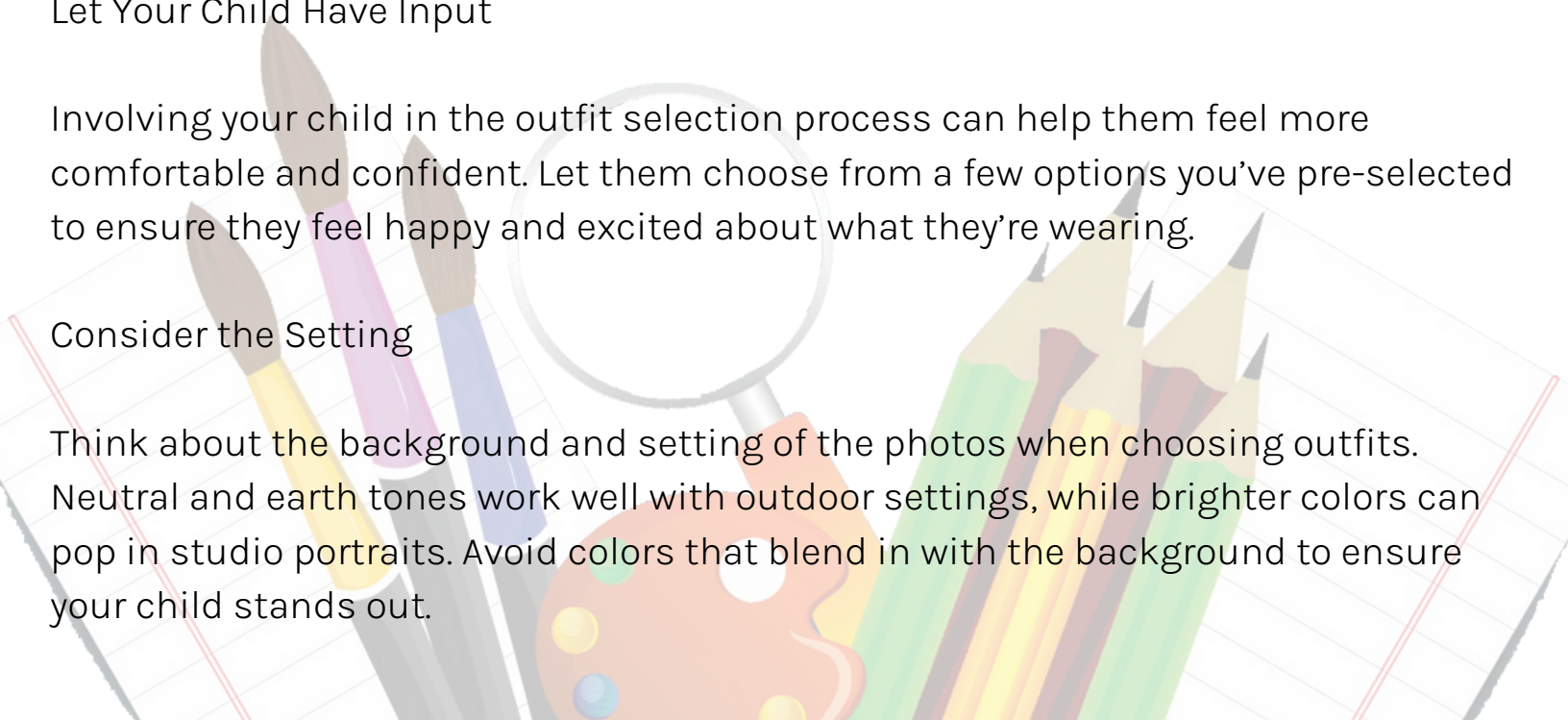
When coordinating outfits for siblings, choose colors that complement each other without matching exactly. This allows each child's unique personality to shine while maintaining a cohesive look.

## Let Your Child Have Input

Involving your child in the outfit selection process can help them feel more comfortable and confident. Let them choose from a few options you've pre-selected to ensure they feel happy and excited about what they're wearing.

## Consider the Setting

Think about the background and setting of the photos when choosing outfits. Neutral and earth tones work well with outdoor settings, while brighter colors can pop in studio portraits. Avoid colors that blend in with the background to ensure your child stands out.





## Bring a Change of Clothes

Bringing a backup outfit is always a good idea. Accidents happen, and having an extra set of clothes on hand can save the day. It also allows for different looks in the same session, providing more variety in your photo collection.

## Stay True to Their Style

While it's tempting to dress them up in something fancy, it's important that they still feel like themselves. Casual, everyday clothes that reflect their personal style can result in the most genuine and cherished photos.

## Final Touches

Ensure that clothes are clean, wrinkle-free, and fit well. Pay attention to small details like shoes and socks, as they can appear in full-length shots. A quick check for any stray hairs or smudges on the face can make a big difference.

By considering these tips, you'll help your child look and feel their best, resulting in beautiful, memorable back-to-school portraits.







# HOW TO KEEP PARENTS STRESS-FREE ON PICTURE DAY



Keeping calm and positive is crucial for a smooth photo session. Plan your day to allow plenty of time for getting ready and traveling to the session. Stay flexible and patient, and remember that it's okay if things don't go perfectly. Trust your photographer's expertise and let them guide the session. Your relaxed and positive attitude will help your child feel at ease and enjoy the experience.

## Plan Ahead

Planning ahead can significantly reduce stress. The night before, lay out outfits, pack any necessary items, and ensure everyone gets a good night's sleep. On the day of the session, allow extra time for getting ready and travel to avoid feeling rushed.

## Communicate with Your Photographer

Talk to your photographer about any concerns or special requests. They are there to help and can offer advice and reassurance. Knowing what to expect can ease your worries and make the session more enjoyable.

## Bring Comfort Items

Bring along any comfort items your child might need, such as a favorite toy or blanket. These items can help soothe any nerves and keep your child happy and cooperative during the session.

## Stay Flexible

Children can be unpredictable, and that's okay. Be prepared for some spontaneous moments and go with the flow. Sometimes, the best photos come from unexpected situations. Keep an open mind and embrace the experience.

## Focus on the Moment

Try to enjoy the session and focus on the fun of capturing memories. Your positive energy will be contagious, helping your child to relax and have a good time. Remember, these photos are about capturing your family's unique