

*The*

# FAMILY SESSION GUIDE



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PHOTOGRAPHY





DESERT BOTANICAL  
GARDEN, PHOENIX

WHAT EVERY  
*Family*  
NEEDS TO KNOW

I'M SO EXCITED FOR YOUR FAMILY SESSION! I feel so honored to capture this special time in your life and cannot wait to document this stage you are in. This guide was created to help you get the most out of your session, and by the time you read through this, I hope all of your questions will be answered and you will feel more than prepared. The most important thing I want you to remember is to have fun, laugh a lot, and enjoy the moment because as the saying goes, 'the days are long, but the years are short'. These photos we create together will be something you cherish forever!





## *Choosing a time & date*

I AM A NATURAL LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER BECAUSE I BELIEVE that natural light, from the sun and it's reflections creates photographs that feel timeless and truest to you. I begin portrait sessions 1-2 hours prior to sunset during the "golden hour" when the light is the dreamiest. To get the most out of your session, it is helpful if you plan a buffer when getting ready so you can arrive a few minutes early to your session and be ready to start on time. I am only able to shoot when natural light is in the sky, so we will want to take advantage of every minute.



## *Note:*

I typically do not shoot family sessions during weekends due to wedding bookings. However, if you are unavailable for a weekday session, contact me and I will add you to a weekend waitlist if I have any openings.



A photograph of a young child with light hair and blue eyes, smiling and looking towards the camera. The child is wearing a dark green plaid shirt with red and white accents. They are standing in a field of dry, brown leaves, with a blurred background of trees and foliage. The text "Session Tips" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

*Session Tips*

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# FOR THE FAMILY



## COORDINATING *the crew*

As you are coordinating your family outfits, I recommend that you avoid thinking about “matching” and instead think of what “fits”. The goal for coordinating outfits is essentially to break up the colors and shades so that you are not all wearing the same color on top and on bottom. I encourage you to think about planning each outfit with “dominate colors” and “accent colors” in mind. A dominate color is a color that you see most in an outfit, while an accent has a smaller piece of visual real estate. When choosing the colors for your outfits I always suggest going with neutral earthy and/or soft tones. You’ll want to compliment the environment, not clash with it. I love olive green, navy blue, burnt orange, black, cream, maroon, mustard yellow, etc. Textures are always a good idea... lace, raised patterns, fringe etc. Lastly, it’s best to avoid all logos and wording on clothing. It draws the eye immediately to the logo instead of your gorgeous faces!

### *Quick tip*

Mixing up different pieces of your family’s wardrobe will bring a great visual interest to your photos. So, don’t feel like you have to put all of your children in the same type of outfit. For example, one of your daughters could wear a dress and flats, while the other could wear a skirt and boots. Or, one of your sons could wear a bowtie while the other wears suspenders.







*Session Tips*

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FOR HER

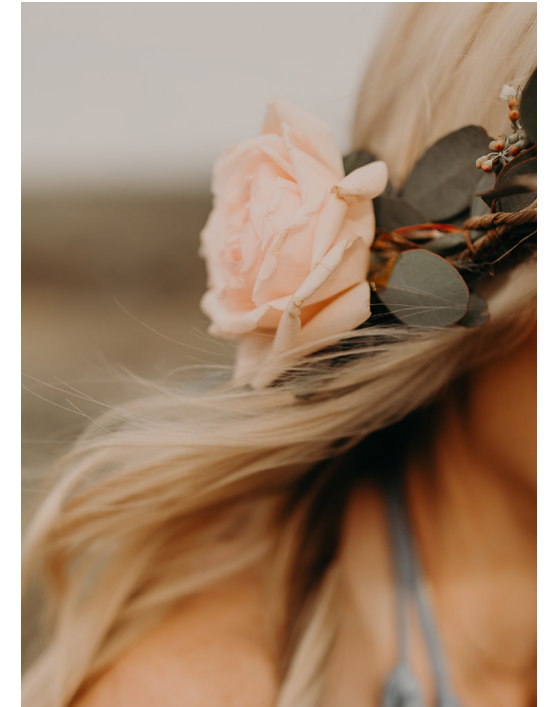


SUNSET POINT, AZ



## Quick tip

Incorporating a flower crown or headpiece is a really fun way to add a unique visual element to your photos while also making you feel like the goddess that you are!



## *for your growing belly*

BEING PREGNANT IS A BEAUTIFUL THING AND YOUR PHOTOS should reflect the beauty and grace of motherhood. You are growing a perfect little human being and this is the time to show off the hard work you have done and that gorgeous pregnancy glow! Wearing a maxi dress or floor length gown will create the best silhouette and highlight your bump.





*Session Tips*

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# FOR HIM







# GQ STYLE

## *to rock your session*

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Long fitted pants and closed-toed shoes are the most sophisticated and masculine looks for men. They draw attention away from his legs and feet and place it where you want it, on his handsome face! So, for your session, it is best to leave the shorts and sandals, at home as well as anything loose or baggy. Solid shades of grey or navy are strong compliments to most

women's outfits, whereas pinstripes or plaid patterns tend to distract the eye. When grooming before your session, don't do anything drastic. Haircuts and shaving should be a style you are used to and looks familiar to your family. For an extra touch, wear your most stylish watch. This will be a family date you won't soon forget!

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### *Layered Looks*

Layers on men always look good on camera, so even if it's warm outside, trust me, it's worth it to feel a little uncomfortable for great photos you will cherish forever. Adding another layer will bring extra dimension and visual interest to your photos. Blazers and coats up the level of any look. Don't be afraid to get a little creative!

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A family of five is posing for a photo inside a large, arched greenhouse. The father, wearing a maroon shirt, is holding a young boy on his shoulders. The mother, in a yellow shirt, stands next to him. Two young girls are in the foreground, one in a white shirt and the other in a floral shirt and denim shorts. The greenhouse is filled with various desert plants, including tall saguaros and prickly pears. The structure has a high, arched ceiling made of glass and metal frames. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

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## *one final note...*

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This guide was created to help make your family session experience something you will look back on fondly for years to come. At the end of the day, though, the location you chose and the outfits you select won't matter nearly as much as the memories you make together. Your future memories are the most important thing to me, and I want your session to be a time for you to just be yourselves and enjoy it! Have fun together, laugh a lot, and I'll take care of the rest!

See you soon,

*Taylor*



