

### HELLO

Thank you for allowing me the honor of creating beautiful photos for your family. It is my hope that together we craft not only awesome memories, but gorgeous, timeless images as well.

My style is a mix of posed shots and photo journalistic. I love capturing families playing, snuggling, being goofy, and just loving on each other. I will always do my best to get that desired shot of everyone looking and smiling at me, but I will also encourage playing, snuggling, giving piggyback rides to your kids, having little ones giving moms and dads hugs and just overall fun.

We will find a perfect outdoor location and time that allows for variety of pictures and also matches your family's personality and style. Lighting is best first thing in the morning or in the afternoon or evening closer to sunset. However, we can work with your family's time frame as much as possible.

Please take some time to read through the following information as you prepare yourself and your family!

I am Looking forward to meeting you and your family!



### PRIOR TO YOUR SESSION





#### Kids:

Preparing your kids for our session as much as possible often takes the timidness out of the session. Please make sure kids know that this is FUN! No threats, as they usually bring tears and added stress. Don't bother telling them to smile or "be good". My goal isn't to get a picture of your child "being good" or just "smiling" but instead having fun and interacting. Some kids who have been coached to smile for the photographer get so nervous that they are fighting laughing and relaxing because they are so worried about having their picture taken or making their parents happy!

Instead, I'm a huge fan of bribery. Ice cream after is always a great idea for the ones who need a little extra encouragement! However, please don't bring sweets for bribing *during* the shoot. They tend to end up being a distraction. I usually bring a few treats to help during the session if needed.

#### Dads:

Moms, I'm speaking to you. Does your husband love football? Then don't plan your session while his favorite team is playing. Is your husband feeling less than thrilled about your upcoming photo shoot? A little bribery seems to work well for them too (though maybe something better than ice cream)! But seriously, let your husband know that the shoot will be relatively painless and to try to focus on having an hour to play with the kids, hold your hand and just savor the moment!

### STYLING: WHAT TO WEAR.

Ah, the age old question always associated with photo shoots. Here are a few hints.

Make sure you are comfortable and look like yourselves (so don't choose something you would normally never wear). Stay away from things that are super trendy or that will go out of style quickly.

Coordinate- Don't Match: White shirts and jeans are out. Instead imagine your family as being a complete piece of artwork. Pick a color palette of 2 main colors and then choose colors that accent the main palette. Mix and match patterns and solids. Brighter colors are always nice (especially for accents) and help you stand out from the background. See my Facebook page, website or my Pinterest boards for additional ideas.

Think Layers and Textures: This is probably the biggest difference between sessions that look great and sessions that look wow! For little boys think a t-shirt, with a button up or vest over it then throw on a fun hat (bowler, fedora, stylish ball cap) and you're set! For little girls: leggings, a fun skirt, tank with a sweater and a tasteful (not too big and overwhelming!) headband.





Don't forget to accessorize: necklaces, scarves, coats, hats, mittens, hair bows and cute sock and shoes help to add a pop of color.

**Mom**: Make sure you feel beautiful in your outfit. We tend to be most critical of ourselves in pictures so make sure you choose something you love and feel comfortable in and then plan the rest of the family around you.

**Examples:** Instead of everyone wearing the same shade of blue - think about what accent colors might look nice with said blue. Perhaps blue plaid shorts for your son with a t-shirt, vest and hat. Pull some of the colors of his plaid shorts to find a great skirt or dress for your little girl. Dad can wear some jeans and a shirt that coordinates with the plaid shorts and skirt on your daughter, and finish it off with a cute jacket. Mom will round the entire family out with some great boots, leggings and darling dress that (again) coordinates with the family color story.

### MORE ON STYLING

Ladies: This is your chance to dress up and buy that new dress you have been eyeing. Think about doing your nails and having your hair and make-up done in a beautiful and natural way. It will take the stress out of getting ready and make you feel your best. If you are concerned about your arms, don't wear spaghetti or narrow straps. Instead wear a sweater over them or opt for a longer sleeve. It will make you feel more confident. Also, heels elongate your legs giving them nice shape. Just remember to bring some flip flops for walking long distances. Big statement necklaces are much better than dainty jewlery which can get lost in the picture. Plan your outfit first and then style the rest of the family to match you. Remember, the better you feel the more confidence you have and that is where the real beauty comes from! To save some money, look in your closets! I bet you have quite a few pieces you can pull together for the family with clothes that you already own.

For your girls: Think about flowing dresses or skirts that have movement and are soft or made of tulle. Floral crowns are a beautiful touch and add elegance to the session. If you have one girl in a dress, think about putting the other one in a skirt with boots. Mix it up!

For boys: Layer, layer, layer. Next time you are in a store, look at the male mannequins. They are layered. Pair a plaid shirt with a solid bowtie or suspenders. Put a vest over a button down shirt to add texture. If you have two boys, layer them in different things. Don't match them perfectly.

For your man: The same goes for your man as for your boys. Layer them up! Make sure that they are wearing pants that are well fit and not baggy as that can look sloppy. Avoid shorts and flip flops and go for a little more sophisticated look.





## STYLING CONTINUED

**Head To Toe**: Remember to dress from head to foot. No scuffed Reeboks for boys, but fun shoes like Converse, "boat" shoes, or cowboy boots. Same for girls: no Dora crocs, but cute sandals, Mary Janes or boots work best.





What NOT To Wear: Remember the Olan Mills look of everyone in khakis + white button down shirts? That isn't the kind of matching I'd like you to do. Again, think coordinating without matching perfectly.

Dads: instead of defaulting to a plain old polo - look for fun colors, stripes or plaids. Texture helps photographs go from good to

amazing. Get creative!

Helpful Tip: Head into your local GAP (or the like) and mention you're styling for family photos. They are happy to direct you - and free of charge! No need to pay a stylist when you have knowledgeable sales staff right there in the store. Need a second opinion? Shop with a sister or friend or you can always email or text me photos. I am here to make sure your photos are spectacular! You can also head to my Pinterest boards to see more ideas for styling (https://www.pinterest.com/LiLoPhotography/).

\*If you wear transition glasses, you might want to bring an old pair instead so they aren't dark in the sunlight!!

### INFORMATION: FOR ME AND YOU\_\_\_\_\_

Most sessions last about 45 minutes. That is about all the kids can usually handle before meltdown and crankiness begin, especially for the little ones. I try to take my time and allow the kids to feel comfortable with me, while also moving the session along to ensure we get all of your desired pictures. Don't worry if your kids are a little cranky or out of sorts. I will work hard to make them laugh and smile and I usually can get a smiling picture even out of cranky kids.

Please let me know ahead of time if you or your kids have specific needs. Do you have a "best side"? Are you self-conscious of your arms? Does your child have a disability or are they on the autistic spectrum? Do you want some romantic pictures of you and your spouse? Are you going to be framing your pictures in all vertical frames? Telling me these things ahead of time helps me to make the session most successful and ensures that you are happiest with the photographs. The more information I have, the better I can tailor the session and pictures to your family!





# THE DAY OF YOUR SESSION

During the shoot, if you are not in the picture, please let me interact with your children, unless I ask for help! If you stand behind me trying to get your kids' attention it tends to distract them from looking at the camera. I like to give the little ones a chance to play with me, so it's okay if they aren't giving big smiles right off the bat. Trust me and trust the process.

Mom and dad, as you focus on your children, don't forget about yourself! Keep good posture as well as ensure your chin doesn't pull in. These allow for the most flattering images. Something else to keep in mind is to be watchful of your own expression as you're trying to get baby to smile. Remember you are in the photos as well! Let me get the kids' attention and you keep your focus on me.

Rest assured I'll be watching all of you and will definitely let you know if I see something out of place.

Once you get to the session the hard part is over! It is time to relax and have fun with your kids. Let the stress of getting to the session go and enjoy our time together.

#### Weather:

A quick but important note: if the weather turns out warmer/cooler than you anticipated when putting together outfits, *please* adjust what everyone is wearing. Doing a session when it's sweltering and kids are over dressed is *never* fun. Likewise, if a cold front comes through unexpectedly, please put sweaters on your children. I can't photoshop out goose bumps and blue lips so I will most likely cut sessions short if the kids are too cold/hot.

In case of rain, I will be keeping an eye on the weather. If it doesn't rain, but is overcast, we will still continue with the session. Clouds make for nice, even lighting so no worries!

#### Illness:

Just as important as the weather is that everyone being photographed is feeling 100%. There isn't anything worse than an unhappy and sick child - they especially do not want to be in front of a camera and can be more shy than normal. Let me know if we need to reschedule (the first reschedule is free).

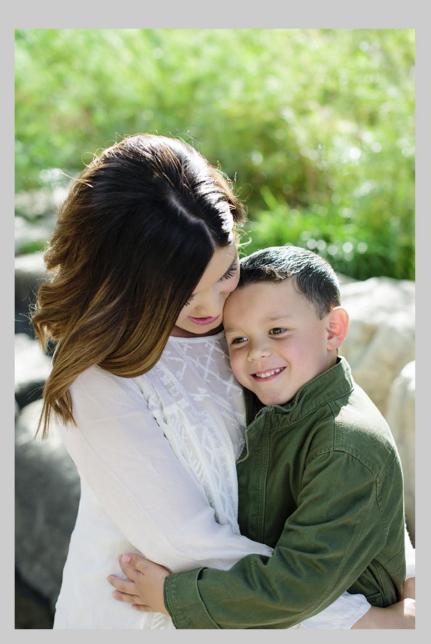
#### Bring Happy Kids:

Feed your kids before-hand. Kids get cranky when they are hungry. Make sure their tummies are full!

Stay calm. Kids can sense your stress! Don't over schedule your day and make sure they don't skip naps or stay up late the night before. During the session take off your parent hat and just have fun. Try not to threaten them, but instead have a code word for the incentive you are offering.







# WHAT TO BRING AND ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

#### What To Bring:

Water: We might be hiking or walking around a fair amount and the kids always get thirsty. Don't bring anything that will stain clothes or mouths.

**Happy Kids:** Make sure your kids get plenty of sleep and have full bellies. We don't want hangry, tired kids during the session.

**Props:** Do you have a favorite quilt, family heirloom, hats, gloves or favorite toys that you want to remember or want in the pictures? Let me know and bring them!

It is my pleasure to be able to photograph your family and I look forward to the fun we will have! Thanks for taking the time to best prepare for your session, it will be amazing!

\*Be sure you know where we are meeting and give yourself enough time to make it to the session. You don't want to be stressed on your way there. Session Fee payment of cash, check or Venmo is due at the time of the session. Instant gratification is the best so be on the lookout for a preview from your session within 24 hours. Your online gallery of images will be ready within 2 weeks of your session. Ordering and viewing appointments are available for no extra charge.



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