



Family Session

PREP GUIDE

Hey there!



LET'S MAKE SOME MAGIC TOGETHER

I'm so glad you chose me as your family photographer!!

By taking this first step, you have invested in your family legacy by creating memories that will be cherished for generations to come.

This guide will address everything you need to know to make this family session a low-stress and enjoyable experience for you and your whole family. Because making memories shouldn't produce frown-lines!

I can't wait to showcase the unique story of your family.

xo Addison



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Before

YOUR FAMILY SESSION





What to wear

COORDINATE, DON'T MATCH

Choose a palette of about 3-4 coordinating colors that are represented across all of the family's outfits. Feel free to mix it up. You just don't want one person standing out more than the others.

Your photos should look **timeless and classic**, so start with one or two neutral shades (think white, cream, gray, beige), and then add some pops of color. **Consider:**

- **the session location** - you don't want to blend into the background
- **the season** - ivory is classic in all seasons... pastels are great in spring/summer, while deeper hues or gem tones are nice for fall/winter
- **your decor** - would you want that outfit/color choice hanging on your wall? consider which tones would look best printed large for certain spaces.

Start your planning process with an outfit that Mom feels fabulous in, and then build the outfits of the rest of the family around that. Above all, choose outfits that are comfortable and will allow you the freedom to move and play, maybe even spin!

Color Palettes

IDEAS FOR EVERY SEASON

SPRING



SUMMER



FALL



WINTER



SAY

yes

- Earthy, muted colors
- Solid colors
- One outfit with a pattern
- Boots, sandals and nice sneakers
- Barefoot is sweet too!
- Comfortable fitting clothes

SAY

no

- Neon colors
- Logos, words or characters on shirts
- More than 1 busy pattern
- Athletic runners and ballcaps
- Too tight or too baggy fits





IT'S ALL IN THE *Details*

SHOES

Don't forget that shoes are part of your outfit! Forego the runners and heels, and choose boots, sandals and sneakers that are both practical and matches the setting. Consider going barefoot too!

LAYERS + TEXTURES

Layers like jackets, cardigans, and vests provide depth. Textures like knits, lace, denim and cords add interest. When used together, its a winning combination!

ACCESSORIES

Complete your look by adding hats, headbands, jewelry, scarves, belts, etc. It's a great way to show off your personality, without taking over the focus.

HAIR + MAKEUP

Get haircuts at least a week before, and keep makeup on natural side, but Yes to mascara and lip gloss. Better yet, get your hair and makeup done professionally. The confidence boost and no-stress is worth it!

HANDS AND NAILS

Your hands will be holding, hugging and gently stroking in many of your photos, so make sure everyone has clean and trimmed nails with no chipped nail polish. Reminder, have natural nail / or the nail color you want captured in each photo.



The Day Of

YOUR FAMILY SESSION



What to expect

WORKING WITH ADDISON

My goal is to capture your family as it is in this moment. The joy, the connection, and the love ... and yes, even a bit of the chaos! As a mom of two boys myself (see image to the right), I understand that some ages are just harder than others, and any day can be challenging. Together, we've got this. My goal is to make it relaxed and fun and keep things moving.

I want you and your kids to have fun in our time together. I might ask you to play, to hug, to joke, to chase, to tickle, to laugh. And as your love for each other plays across your faces, I will be there to capture the magic.

I can help guide you every step of the way by positioning you in flattering light, and with gentle prompts to get the candid interactions started. And of course, we will get a few formal family photos for the holiday card as well.



xo Addison

Activity Ideas

ADDING A SPRINKLE OF FUN



- A picnic by the river or at the park
- Skipping rocks and wading into the water
- Gathering wildflowers or looking for bugs in a field
- Cuddling and reading favourite books on a blanket
- Have a ranch with horses? I'm all in.
- Want to include the family pet? I love animals.



- A drink and a treat at your favorite urban coffee shop
- Playing at a kids' play park
- Snowball fight
- S'mores and hot chocolate around a campfire
- A visit to a seasonal attraction (pumpkin patch, apple orchard, tulip fields)
- Running through a sprinkler
- Blowing bubbles

Let them be kids

GO EASY ON THEM (JUST FOR THE DAY)



(DON'T WORRY. THIS WAS WHAT
MOM WANTED FOR THEIR SESSION)

I'm sure you want for your children to be on their best behaviour. But that often leads to stern words, which in turn lead to tension, frowning faces and even tears. Make sure to feed them right before we start taking photos. Hungry bellies lead to sad faces.

My goal for these sessions is to photograph your children exactly as they are. They will only continue to grow and change. I love to photograph as they run and climb a bit, or be a little silly. Because those lead to natural expressions, authentic smiles and giggles, and real family connections, which is always what I aim to capture.



Furry Friends

BECAUSE THEY ARE FAMILY TOO



It is incredibly special to capture the pets who will be part of your children's first childhood memories, and so you're welcome to bring your pet to the session, provided they can be controlled and they are allowed at our chosen location.

I strongly recommend bringing a friend or pet sitter along to handle and hold your pet while they are not in the shot.

And don't forget a leash, water, a collapsible bowl, and plenty of treats for your furry friends.



Get Ready!

WHAT TO DO

- Leave enough time to get ready, and navigate traffic, without rushing and stressing.
- Try to make sure everyone is rested - an extra nap (for adults too!) can go a long way.
- Come with full bellies - hungry kids are unhappy kids. But don't leave dinner for the car ride over and have to clean up kids in the parking lot.
- Plan a special treat for sometime after the session - ice cream, a toy, or a special outing can keep everyone motivated to keep going!

WHAT TO BRING

- Lots of mess-free snacks that won't stain mouths or spill on clothes
- Water for everyone
- A brush, hairspray and/or gel
- Makeup for touch-ups
- A change of clothing, especially for kids
- Jackets/sweaters for when temperatures drop later on
- Bug spray
- PJs for the car ride home (they may fall asleep!)
- A relaxed, playful and come-what-may attitude. It will show in your photos!



After

YOUR FAMILY SESSION



After the session

SNEAK PEEK

1-2 days after your session, I will post a little teaser image from our session on social media so you can share the excitement from your session with your friends and family.



THE BIG REVEAL

About 2 weeks after our session, I will present you with an online gallery of the best photos taken during our session. You will be able to make your print and digital selections from this gallery, depending on the package you chose.



PRODUCT DELIVERY

2-3 weeks after placing your order for prints, albums, or wall art, I will deliver your gorgeous products to your door, ready for you to proudly display in your home.



Print your photos

PRINTING GIVES LIFE TO YOUR IMAGES

While capturing these emotion-filled moments with your family and scrolling through them on a phone or computer is enjoyable, there is nothing quite like tracing your fingers over a printed image of the smiles and faces so dear to you.

Hard drives fail, and digitals get forgotten. The best way to make these memories something you can cherish every day is to keep it where you can connect with it every day - display it on your walls, make prints to pass around, and page through an album filled to the brim with all the moments that make up your family's story.



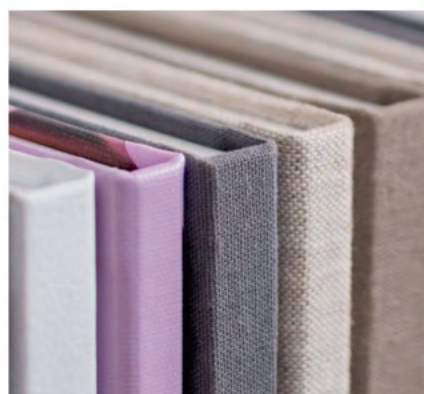
PRINTS

Prints are a perfect way to display a bunch of your favourite images, whether you pass them around or show them in small frames around the house. Superior color reproduction and fine art papers make a luxurious product to swoon over.



WALL ART

Whether you choose a classic frame or a modern canvas, these pieces of art are crafted with superior materials to provide an archival product that will be a statement on the wall that will take your breath away every time you pass by.



ALBUMS

Heirloom albums are meant to be passed on from one generation to the next. Album pages are printed on thick pages rich with color and are perfect for little hands to page through year after year as they see their family story unfold.



Frequently Asked

WHAT IF IT RAINS?

We can usually work around a light sprinkle, but if it is really pouring down, we will reschedule. Please keep the week after our scheduled date open and flexible in case we need to reschedule for weather.

WHAT ABOUT BEDTIMES?

The most flattering light for photos, and the light that is represented in my portfolio, all happen during the hour before sunset, or the hour after sunrise, when the sun is low enough in the sky to not cause harsh shadows on your faces, and you are bathed in soft, warm, golden light.

In the summer, this means that our session will probably start close or even after your children's bedtimes. In order to accommodate the late start, most of my clients adjust the day's schedule a bit to include an extra late-afternoon nap. Because our sessions are fun and kids will be kept busy being active outdoors, they won't even notice bedtimes passing (but they will pass out on the car ride home for sure!).

If you can't extend their bedtimes for this one day, please consider booking a sunrise session, or a late fall or spring session when the sun sets a bit earlier.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS SHY?

It is perfectly normal for children to feel a bit apprehensive when meeting a stranger. Reframing the photo session as a fun adventure along with a friend who will be taking photos will go a long way in easing anxious feelings.

At the session, there is no expectation for children to "perform". They can take their time warming up, and if they want to be in your arms all the time, that is fine too! I will be my extra silly self all along, and chances are they will be relaxed and smiling at my antics in no time!



A little love

KIND WORDS FROM KIND FOLK

“

I cannot say enough great things about Addison Studios!!!! She is so talented and thoughtful in the way she photographs. She photographed our newborn son and our family portraits and blew us away with the photos she got. Addison will make the entire experience easy and stress free. We love Addison Studios!!!! - Molly M.



Addison is amazing and so sweet! She has been photographing my family for 5 years and my kids love her! I have three little kids and she always captures the best pictures no matter what mood they are in. -Torrie H.

”

“

I am so glad I found Addison!! She has done family, newborn, and milestone sessions for our growing family! She's AMAZING at what she does! She's calm in the chaos and makes everyone feel so comfortable. We are always in LOVE with the photos she sends us! I recommend her to everyone! -Katie B.





Get in touch

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