

North Elm
PHOTOGRAPHY

HOW TO PREPARE
FOR YOUR FAMILY
PHOTOSHOOT



WHAT TO EXPECT

on the day

If you're reading this, chances are you've booked us to capture this amazingly special time in your lives. This is our jam, my bread and butter, our absolute passion. Thank you for trusting us.

Let us start out by saying, first of all, that your shoot is going to be awesome. 99% of the time the first 10 minutes of any photoshoot can feel a lil' awkward until you and your family can relax into it and feel confident in front of the camera. We will help you guys do this! Trust us, we do it everyday. We'll always prompt and direct you and never ask you to do something that feels wrong or weird or leave you hanging with no idea what you should be doing next.

We'll cycle through a few different prompts, but there will be lots of room for you to express yourselves too. It'll feel like play – the perfect way to reconnect with each other in a time when most of us lead such busy lives.

We'll be sure to provide you with specific directions to find the location so you don't get lost. We promise it will be fun and by the end of the session you'll be total pros in front of the camera. But our objective isn't just to take pretty pictures – it's to capture this exciting stage in your lives, exactly as it is now and give you enjoyable experience along the way.

WHAT TO WEAR

ideas

Look, we get it. Getting yourself ready is tough enough then add in kids and possibly your husband, things can get a little complicated! DON'T fret. We do suggest booking hair and makeup. It helps alleviate some of the stress and it has been a lifesaver for us for our own family sessions.

But the number one thing we want you to remember is that we are here to help every step of the way. As our client you have access to a beautiful client closet with clothing to style the ENTIRE family. As well as an incredible online styling tool if you want to do some shopping of your own. We will make sure you have the proper mixture of textures and tones to create those gorgeous dreamy images.

When selecting the right footwear, think about what's appropriate for the location, and what presents the lowest risk of a sprained ankle.



HOW TO PREP

In the leadup to the shoot, get the kids excited about what's to come. Show them some photos that we've taken, let them know that you're really excited, that we'll be playing lots of fun games, and there might even be delicious snacks on offer. This brings us to our next point...

Bring snacks. There are lots of variables in family shoots that are beyond our control. When photographing kids, we've learned relatively quickly that every plan is contingent on their mood. But snacks are an almost entirely failsafe mood booster for the little ones (and lots of adults we know, too!). Packing a stash of treats to bust out right when the kids need that slice of motivation buys us a lot of precious time and cooperation! Other forms of bribery might include a special treat like a movie or a trip to the ice cream shop after the shoot to get them looking forward to the entire day.

If you wear them and the location calls for it, bring some cute jackets or hats or other items that reflect this time in your life. Jewelry is another wonderful addition to your session. It's all in the details.

TIMING

If you have time the day before the shoot, get all of your things ready and have them in the car so that in the morning of the shoot you and your family have some moments to unwind together doing something that you love. Give yourself lots of time to get to the location so you don't feel frazzled and rushed on arrival. When a family shows up to a shoot having had to drive illegal speeds to get there, it sets the tone for a rushed and disorganized session. Give yourself the gift of a relaxed session, allow plenty of time for showers, baths, grooming, and forgetting things.

Remember evening hours are the best for the gorgeous dreamy lighting!



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.

If you already know where you want to shoot, that's amazing – We are always up for discovering new places. If you're not so sure, then don't you sweat it! We've got our own little index of locations for almost every scenario and we can go through them together.

Are you drawn to the beauty of trees?

Do you love the idea of have a river location?

Is there something about the movement of tall grasses that speaks to your soul?

We have many beautiful locations that will be perfect for your session!



Keep in mind that we're looking for somewhere where there aren't too many distractions, where the light is soft, and where there's enough space for us to move around without breaking anything.

We know we'll find the perfect spot and lighting for your photoshoot!

family CONSTELLATIONS

We'll be sure to take some photos of you all as a family, as well as different combinations to capture all angles of the family dynamic. Let me know if there are specific combinations that you'd like to see captured and We'll make sure to prioritize based on what's most important to you guys. We've got tons of poses and prompts up my sleeve for any scenario, so all you have to do is relax and go with it!



KIDS WILL

be kids...

If you walk away after reading this and only remember one thing, let it be this: have zero expectations. Embrace what comes – the wind, the rain, the laughter, whatever unfolds. Every shoot is unique, and we have no set shot list to tick off on the day. It's all about YOU and capturing your life exactly how it is on the day of your shoot. We're not here to mimic the shiny perfect families you see on your feed, we're here to tell your unique story as it shows up on the day of the shoot – wrinkles, tears, joyous abandon, and all. Throw your checklist out the window and know that magic will naturally unfold. When it does, I'll be there to capture it.





THANK YOU