

## Family Portraits – Preparation Guide

Family photos create valuable memories and so before endeavoring in the family portrait photography session, here are a few things to consider.

- What is best time to get the family together for the session? Some folks simply are not morning people, so take this sociability factor into consideration.
- Are children going to be in the photograph? Young children are usually more cooperative when they are fully rested and fed.

### **Coordinate Clothing Color and Style**

Attention must be given to all details of your entire outfit, even if you think it won't show in the final portrait. Choose clothing with solid colors and/or very small patterns. Burgundy, blue, brown, rust, and green work well. Darker colors bring out skin tones better than lighter colors. Coordinate everyone's attire from head to toe. You may want to take some full-length shots. If you are planning an outdoor session, be sure to wear weather-appropriate attire.

### **Would you like a formal or casual feel?**

Formal does give a more classical look, yet informal tells a family's story. Is your family into a particular sport or activity? Discuss this with family members beforehand and to inform the photographer if an outdoor setting is preferred.

### **Hair & Makeup**

For your portraits, you want your hair to look its best. We recommend that you don't try a new hairstyle just before your session, but do plan to have it cut two weeks beforehand. This gives it a chance to grow out and look natural.

### **Skin Problems**

Try not to worry too much if your teen has acne or blemishes. Retouching works wonders!

### **Facial Hair**

A fresh shave is a must! If you have a beard or mustache, make sure it is trimmed before your session.

### **Glasses**

Light reflected from a flash in eyeglass lenses can create white spots and glare, leading to extra retouching charges. And tinted lenses cannot be lightened. To reduce this occurrence, you can check to see if your lenses have a glare resistant coating. Ask your optometrist for a set of loaner frames similar to the ones you usually wear.