

Think that getting family portraits done is stiff, boring and an hour of being embarrassed by your kids' behaviour? Not when you book with me! Below is a step-by-step guide on what to expect from first point of contact through to receiving your final products. Please also refer to the FAQ section on my website.

CONSULTATION

At our initial consultation we will grab a coffee and talk about your family, so I get a feel for what kind of a unit you are. We will also discuss what kinds of products you are interested in, and look at the products I offer as well as the packages to find something that suits. This helps me create a better picture for the day of the session, allowing me to capture the perfect shots to fit with your needs. We will compare diaries and find the best time to meet up for the session.

PREPARATION

You are about to immortalise your entire family into a beautiful series of images. For ladies, this means putting on a dab of makeup, but don't over-do it. Even if you don't normally wear any, a swipe of lipstick can make a small but impactful difference. Men, this is the time to ensure all your grooming is up to date and those shoes are polished. For kids, a pretty hair accessory for girls, and a smart vest for boys can also add that magic touch.

If you are unsure on what to wear, please refer to my What To Wear Guide which you will receive when you make your booking. It has helpful tips for the whole family, but the basic points to remember are to avoid being super matchy (ie no white shirts, blue jeans for everybody), and avoid loud designs or patterns that fight for attention. Plan, light colours are best.

SESSION

Once we meet up at the shooting location, I will scope out the best spots to start photographing. To begin with, we do a series of family and group shots while everyone is still fresh and willing. We will move about to get different backdrops and set ups. Expect to have guidance from me the whole way through. I may at times be vague, and at times very specific. If I don't say a lot, you can be assured you are already looking perfect! And when I start to squeal you know that I have just caught some AMAZING shots!! This pretty much always happens.

Once we have all the main combinations, I basically allow everyone to completely relax and ignore I'm even there (unless I call out to you!). It is then that I will keep photographing as you go about exploring or faffing around amongst yourselves.

All of a sudden things will come to an end and when I am confident that we have a good variety of images, we can call it a day!

FOLLOW UP

After approximately two weeks we will meet up at our pre-booked Ordering Session and you will get the chance to oooh and aaah at all your fully edited photos! I will then guide you through the sometimes overwhelming job of narrowing down to your absolute favourites, and put together a plan of which images you wish to have printed, and in what format.

How many photos can I choose from?

Following our photoshoot I will have between 30-50 images to show you at the ordering session.

How long until I can see them?

Please allow up to two weeks for me to fine-tune each image and have them ready to present back to you.

How do we book a session?

Drop me a line! If you are looking to book a photo session, please either email or phone me anytime. I am available on certain days of the week and also on weekends, so we can negotiate a time by phone.

What should we wear?

I'm glad you asked! Please check out my What To Wear Guide.

I only want a couple of digital files, is this possible?

Unfortunately this is not a service I currently offer. Whilst I understand that the digital image is very popular and easy to share among friends and family, I am all about the tangible product to enjoy and share throughout future generations. However with each order you will receive a social media file of the image purchased.

When do you hold sessions?

The light is best early morning, or leading up to sunset. Therefore I do not encourage midday sessions as a rule. I am available on certain days of the week, evenings and on weekends. Please email me your number or phone me to negotiate a time.

What happens if it rains on the day?

Depending on your preferred location and/or the severity of the rain, we can easily reschedule to another day or simply take it indoors. I have a couple of indoor spots where we can still get a variety of images if you are happy to go ahead.

Do you photoshop images?

Yep. I have CCH syndrome (Crooked Camera Holder) and this necessitates that I have to open up and straighten every single photo. While I am there, I will do minor retouches, so rest assured that the pimple that appeared overnight will not appear in any photo. I will also remove that fly on your dress, the bird poo on the seat next to you and the branch sticking out of your son's ears in that very quick, no-time-to-recompose-image! However, I will not make you slimmer, remove wrinkles to excess or change your wardrobe.

My kids are tired/unruly/bored/unco-operative...

Hmmm, this is the fun part. I have a few tricks up my sleeve to help with this. Firstly, I always do the posey group shots first up while everyone is looking and feeling fresh and co-operative. With the younger kids, things go downhill pretty fast after that. I simply ask that you listen to me during this time. This mostly means once in place, ignore the kids and parents look at me! Some parents build up a huge list of things that the child will get 'for behaving' once the session is over, but I can save you hundreds by letting me 'have a go'. It is basically impossible to ask a pre-schooler to keep sitting in the right spot and smiling sweetly at me, so we take our time, we will ALL spend 10 minutes adoring a snail if that's what has gotten her attention, then reel 'em back in for another set of photos. Once the important group sets are done, I will simply allow everyone to relax and take a load of candid shots for the remainder of the session. Easy!