

*Everyone wants to look great in their portraits.
Here are some simple suggestions to help you look your best.*

CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS FOR GREAT FAMILY PORTRAITS



PHOTOGRAPHIC *Walsh* DESIGN

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CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS FOR TIMELESS FAMILY PORTRAITS

Begin with a neutral theme

For a classic look, start with solid fabrics. Add a little pattern and splashes of color with the children's outfits and accessories on the adults (scarf, shawl, cardigan, hat, etc.)

Do not mix dark and light tops and bottoms, especially in larger groups. Mixing darks and lights creates a busy look. Keeping the entire group in darker tones or all in lighter tones simplifies and draws attention to the faces.

To slenderize

Dark clothing tends to slenderize, especially against darker backdrops. Long sleeves and dark stockings also slenderize and simplify.

For a Natural Look

Sweaters and other long-sleeved knits help you look relaxed. Layered tops add depth and dimension. Jeans are great because they allow us to sit people on the ground. For outdoor portraits, autumn colors, or jewel tones work better than pastels.

For a Formal Group

For a stunning formal portrait, start with a blend of rich, understated colors, not too "matchy". Add a little dark-on-dark pattern in accessories. Don't be afraid to spice it up with a color splash, over-the-top fabrics, necklines and jewelry. Darker tones work well to simplify the overall look.

Try this: Lay out everyone's clothing together in the room where your portrait will live. Replace outfits and add accessories until you achieve a fresh and exciting look for that room.

For Black and White Studio Portraits

Black and White studio portraits place emphasis on the face and the relationship between the subjects. We suggest that you wear dark clothing such as black, gray, or dark blue. Please avoid white or bright colors which will draw attention away from the face.

LOW CONTRAST CLOTHING FOR FAMILY PORTRAITS

Faces in a family portrait should be the very first thing you notice. But clothing sometimes competes for the viewer's attention. Clothing that simplifies a group portrait is usually made up of all lighter tones, or all darker tones, not a mix of the two.

A common mistake is mixing dark tops with light bottoms, or visa-versa. This can create a high contrast, "busy" scene, especially with larger groups.

We suggest a mix of medium light to light outfits. For even more thinning and flattering portraits, choose a blend of dark colors. Darks de-emphasize the bodies and feature the faces in the family.

Save strong patterns and contrasting colors for areas you want to feature, like young children in the group. Otherwise choose solid fabrics of slightly varying tone.

Add interest to the clothing by choosing fabrics with dramatic texture, sheen or cut... we're not suggesting the portraits be dull!



Good Low Contrast
Clothing (lights)



Good Low Contrast
Clothing (darks)



High Contrast
Clothing

BREAKING THE RULES WITH PATTERN

Bold use of pattern-on-pattern is a current trend and can make for an exciting portrait. Like most trends however, these highly colorful images will become dated more quickly.

BEACH



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

CHARCOAL



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

CLOUD



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

COCOA & CREAM



(WITH TEAL)



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

— COLOR SPLASH —



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

— EARTHY —



— EARTHY (WITH A TWIST) —



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

FOREST



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

JEWEL TONES



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

SKY



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

STONE



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

— SUMMER —



Dress in one of the swatch colors above and avoid strong patterns for a cohesive family portrait.

NOTES

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