

# Newborns

A newborn baby is the central focus, wrapped in a white, textured cloth. The baby is wearing a light blue plaid bow on their head. They are nestled in a dark, rustic-style basket filled with white, fluffy pom-pom-like material. The basket is surrounded by a variety of flowers and greenery, including eucalyptus leaves and pink and purple blooms. The background is a soft, light pink color.

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Kate Buckles Photography

your guide to a  
*stress free*  
photo session

# welcome

I am so excited to work with you and your family. This is such an amazing season to capture and I know you will be so glad you took these for years to come! The goal of this guide is to make sure you know everything you need so your photo session is stress-free and easy!

Once your baby is born, reach out as soon as you can to schedule your session! Ideally, we will do the photos within 2 weeks of birth!







## TODAY

In your booking confirmation, there is a newborn questionnaire. This will help me be able to be prepared for your session so when you arrive we can start right away!

## BEFORE YOUR SESSION

- Wash the baby's hair (no need for a full bath, but sometimes hair can get a greasy look!)
- 1-2 hours before the session keep baby as awake as possible, don't worry about baby falling asleep in the car!
- Dress baby in a button/zip-down sleeper for easy taking off when sleeping!
- Make sure baby is well fed before you arrive. We will of course take feeding breaks if needed, but having a full tummy to start will help us get the best photos!

## WHAT TO BRING

- If you use a pacifier/bottle please bring it! Sometimes it helps to soothe the baby without moving, no worries if this is something you are not using!!
- Most families do not bring anything with them for their session! If you have booked our traditional package and you have special props or outfits, you are more than welcome to bring them as well and we can incorporate into your session! Things that work well are blankets or small signs with babies name.
- I would highly suggest not planning on doing outfits for the baby, but using the wraps we have. Often outfits for newborns look frumpy in photos and not the sweet clean look we aim for! Again, the traditional newborn session has the option for outfits that we provide!

## WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- If baby is sleeping in their carrier please feel free to leave them there and I will get them out when we are ready to start. The less we move the baby around the better.
- The studio is designed so that your baby is as happy as possible, and with hundreds of babies each year I have learned all the tricks to get the best photos! **Don't worry or stress about your baby being fussy,** here are the things we have done to help the session be smooth! The studio is set to 75 degrees, warm babies are happy babies! We also play soft music as well as have a sound machine if needed that will help your baby be calm and relaxed! Lastly, your baby will be in a base swaddle and we will put the different colors on top so we are not moving them as much!

## GETTING STARTED

Once you are in the studio the fun starts! This is what you can expect for the time we have!

My goal is to get as many photos as possible while understanding that we have a limited amount of time a baby will put up with photos. In my experience, 2 hours is the absolute maximum amount of time we will take photos for! Baby being happy is top priority! Typically sessions are 1 - 1 1/2 hours long! We will take breaks as needed for feeding and changing!

If you have booked a mini newborn, we will spend a maximum of an hour together!

### Traditional Newborn

- We will choose 3 wrap colors - 2 will be used for the baby alone and the 3rd will be used for the baby alone as well as for family photos! I have a large selection of headbands/hats as well. I suggest we choose one for each wrap color we use, and I always take photos with it on and off so you get the best variety of looks and photos.
- We have time for one outfit/tutu or naked that you can choose as well.
- Family/Sibling photos can be done before or after the baby and we can discuss when you arrive what works best for your family!

### Mini Newborn

- Before your session, please make sure you fill out the questionnaire. I will choose the colors based on your preferences for babies wraps! The mini-session will include 3 changes in wrap color.

Once we have chosen the colors, your job is over and mine begins! Please make yourself as home in my studio, there is coffee and water and a cozy couch to relax on!



# getting the best family photos



The family photos are such a special part of your session. Even if you don't feel amazing right after having a baby (though you should!) these photos are so precious and I know in the years that come you will be so glad you have them! If you choose not to do them, no worries!

If you bring other children, please make sure you are supervising them while we are taking photos!

While I do everything I can to make the studio kid-proof there are a few things that are easy to break. If you are able to have two parents or a helper with, you are welcome to take the kids for a walk, go to the park (there is one less than a block from the studio) or play in the studio!





4 steps for a

*stress free*

Newborn session (with  
older kids!)

As any parent knows, making sure your kids cooperate and behave for a time is no easy task! Family photo sessions can seem a bit daunting, but with some preparation, and a lot of patience, your family photo session can be an enjoyable experience for the entire family. Here's how you can make sure your photo session is stress-free.

### **PREP YOUR KIDS IN ADVANCE**

Tell your kids about the photoshoot well ahead of time. Tell them what to expect. Let them know how much you're looking forward to it and why your family is doing it. If you're excited, they'll definitely catch your enthusiasm!

### **LET THEM BE INVOLVED**

Include your children in the planning process. Ask them what colors they think the family should wear. Help them pick out an outfit, either from their closet or at the store. When children feel involved, they're much more willing to participate.

### **BRING BACKUP**

Make sure you're well prepared for photoshoot day. Bring along a change of clothes, plenty of snacks, water, diapers, etc. That way, even if the unexpected happens, you'll be ready for it! I would also suggest with young children to not dress them till you arrive! Since we do family photos at the end of the newborn session, you will have plenty of time to get them ready! This will keep those unexpected spills or wrinkles in their clothes from happening!

### **MAKE IT FUN!**

Make photoshoot day a special occasion! Bring along snacks and toys to keep their energy up. Plan on doing something fun after the session so they look forward to the outing all day.



# tips on what to wear



When it comes to family portraits, one of the most common questions we get is, “What should we wear?” It’s a tricky decision! Since these photos will last a lifetime, you want to make sure your entire family looks as good as possible. But at the same time, you also want them to look like themselves — not wearing stuffy clothes that make them feel uncomfortable. We always recommend wearing clothing that makes you feel and look your best, which can be different for every person. Here are a few other wardrobe suggestions that photograph beautifully.



## **WEAR COORDINATING (NOT MATCHING) OUTFITS**

Make sure your outfits coordinate well with one another. Stick to a color palette of one or two colors. Matching outfits can look a little dated — coordinated outfits look harmonious and pretty. To make sure all of your outfits go well together, try laying out everyone's photoshoot outfits together the day before.

## **LET YOUR KIDS HAVE A SAY**

Ask your children what they'd like to wear. Asking their opinions will help to make sure they feel comfortable and involved. (Just make sure they know their picks are subject to your final approval — otherwise, you might have a little Spiderman in your family portraits!)

## **A FEW DON'TS:**

While what you decide to wear is ultimately up to you and your family, there are a few things that tend not to photograph well.

- Patterns: one or two family members wearing a pattern is okay, but too many patterns tend to clash and draw too much attention.
- Large logos: graphic tees tend to distract from the most important part of the photo — your beautiful faces!

# whats next?

Once we have taken your photos... this is what you can expect!!

You will receive your photos via email 7-10 days from our shoot! During busy seasons like fall, it may be a little longer, but I will make sure to communicate that with you at your session!

You will get TWO emails. The first will be an email letting you know to look for your gallery. Every now and then a gallery goes to junk mail, so I want to make sure you don't miss them! This email also has important information on your gallery, make sure to read it all!

The second email is a link to your gallery of photos... YAY!!!

Everything in your gallery has been edited and is fully ready for your use. Make sure to download ALL the photos!

Your gallery has a print option as well, and has the most beautiful options as well as GREAT prices! I highly suggest using this option for printing your photos! They will ship directly to you and are typically very fast in printing! If you are going to print through a different printer (ex. Walgreens, Walmart, etc.) they often do not have calibrated printers, meaning the colors and quality will not do your beautiful photos justice! We highly suggest not using a printer like this! I always have a large number of clients each year share with me their regrets in not using a professions printer ;)



# Thank you!

I am looking forward to your session! If there are other questions that come up before then, I would be more than happy to answer!

SEE YOU SOON!

Love, Kate



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