Kate Buckles Photography

YOU GUIDE TO

1ST BIRTHDAY

photo sessions

YAY! LET'S SMASH CAKE!

Yay, I am so excited to help celebrate your little one's 1st birthday! Whether you are doing a smash cake or not, we will have a lot of fun capturing fun photos to remember your little one's first birthday! I made this guide so you can have the best session and feel prepared going into it! If I missed any questions, just let me know!

WHAT TO WEAR

Most families bring two outfits, one for before the cake smash that we take photos in, and then one for smashing the cake! A tutu or bloomers with suspenders is always an adorable look! Bring what you love!

WHAT TO BRING

Many choose to style their session with the theme of their first birthday! This is a great way to use your decorations more than once as well! I highly suggest doing a quick Amazon search and you will probably find exactly what you are looking for quickly and cheaply! I also have simple props I am thrilled to use!

ALL THE TIPS...

Scheduling: If you'd like to use your portraits to display at baby's birthday party I recommend having your session take place when baby is 11 months old. This will give you time to make prints and order any products that you'd like to display.

Bring snacks: Bring some puffs or small snacks that baby likes! This is a great little trick to help us get some great images even if baby isn't interested in smashing... we just stick them right into the back of the cake! Also, have a sippy cup or bottle nearby in case baby gets thirsty or needs a break.

Be prepared to participate! Some babies don't quite get the hang of the smash right away so you may need to get your hands into the cake to help them get started.

This is going to be messy...really messy. So be sure to bring an extra outfit for baby and possibly for yourself!

Avoid getting a chocolate cake. It looks... gross. And that's all I'll say about that, lol! I also suggest avoiding cakes with a lot of red icing.

Cake prep: If you're picking up your cake the day before your session please remember to take it out of the refrigerator a few hours in advance so that the icing can soften. A hard, cold cake is no fun to smash!

Clean up: I do have baby soaps and towels at the studio to help you clean baby after the cake smash, but if there is a particular soap that you prefer to use on your little one please feel free to bring that with you. Icing can be very greasy so soap is almost always a necessity!

WHAT YOU PROVIDE

The cake
Baby's outfits and headpiece
Any personalized decor
Puffs or other small treats that baby likes
A water cup

WHAT I PROVIDE

The background and white floor (see below for your options!)
A cake stand (if desired!)
Small pieces of decor like floral or other banners for behind your child.
Other small neutral props!
You can see an entire list of props available to you here! www.KateBucklesPhotography.com/props

WHERE TO GET YOUR CAKE!

Anywhere that sells cakes! I have had clients get simple bakery cakes from the grocery store to boutique cake shops! Just make sure it is a soft icing so that your baby can dig in!

MILK OR BUBBLE BATH?

While all babies are not always a huge fan of smashing a cake, most babies are thrilled for some splashing! If you have added on a milk or bubble bath, we will do that after the cake! Feel free to bring a towel for after!!

NOT A CAKE FAN?

I have had everything from cake, to watermelon to little ice cream cones or donuts! Have fun, be creative and do what you know your baby will love!

JUST A FEW THINGS TO AVOID!

When choosing your decorations, I always suggest going a little smaller than you would expect! LARGE balloons or decorations often are so big they eclipse the baby! I would stay less than 12" on any prop!

BACK DROPS!!

We have a fun selection of backdrops for your smash session! If you can, just let me know beforehand what background you would like to use so I can be ready for you!!

Wild One

Teepee Balloon Arch

Donuts

World Traveler

Pink Flowers

Blue/Green Balloon Arch

Classic Ship Lap

Pink Flower TeePee

Rustic White Brick

Avaition & Clouds

Solid Light Pink

Rustic Red Brick

Blush Glitter

Fiesta

Sky Blue

Light Gray

Christmas Kitchen

White Sequins

Tan

Thunder Gray

Trendy Brown

Bold Black

Pure White

Bone White

Textured White

Swirly Brown

Snowy Wood

Classic Lockerroom