



Newborn/Children Sessions: *Dressing, Decorations and the Details*

If you are reading this, you have booked a private photography session with Paige Madison Photography, YAY -- **electronic high five!** Let me take a moment to thank you in advance for your business, it is greatly appreciated. ☺ In an effort to maximize our limited time together, listed below you will find helpful tips to make sure you are looking and feeling your *very best*. I hope this helps you prepare for your session.

Questions? Email me or call me, I am happy to help.

The Little Ones:

Newborns -

Helpful Hints:

- ✓ A baby with a full tummy is a happy, sleepy baby ;) Please be prepared to feed baby a few times during your session. If you live close to the studio, feed baby before you leave home and hopefully he/she will be in a nice deep sleep upon arriving at your session.
- ✓ Play and interact with your baby lots and lots, in the time leading up to your session. We want baby to be nice and sleepy during the session, not ready to play.
- ✓ Make an effort to loosen your babies' diaper or remove tight clothing as early as possible (if possible, 1 hour before shoot). This prevents lines and marks that easily show on sensitive baby skin.
- ✓ Lotion, Lotion, Lotion!

Props and Baby Clothes:

Textured blankets, bowties, knit hats, tiaras, tutu, booties, and baseball, football, or basketball *Contact me regarding a selection of props I already own.

Toddlers & Children:

Helpful Hints:

- ✓ Clean, clean, clean – clean nails, clean hair, wipe away eye boogers, clean feet (sandals on kids = black feet!), wipe snotty noses, fresh-scrub teeth and lots of lotion. The cleaner the kid, the better their photos will turn out.
- ✓ If your child is still in diapers or pull-ups, tuck'em in or wear bloomers.
- ✓ If your child is still of napping age, make sure they nap before the shoot. Well-rested kids make my job *much* easier.
- ✓ It is perfectly okay to bring bribes to a photo shoot –Cereal, Smarties or other candy that won't stain teeth can help a short photo shoot go smoothly.
- ✓ Avoid colorful drinks or lollipops within 24 hours of your shoot, don't let them eat or drink anything that will stain their face, teeth or mouths.
- ✓ I always recommend two adults to join me when taking their little one's photos. I can always use help cracking jokes and making silly faces.
- ✓ Though there is SO much information, remember that this photo session's goal is to capture your child(ren) being "them" so make sure to try your best to remain calm in the day(s) following up to and of the shoot. When mom and dad are relaxed and happy, the kids usually follow suit.

Dress Up Time:

- 1. Dress your kiddos in clothes that fit perfectly, not with room to grow.** Even if you child may only wear the outfit for a few months, it'll look much better than putting them in something that they still need to grow into. Go a size smaller in jackets, cardigans or blazers. A too-big jean jacket, blazer, sweatshirt, sweater or hoodie will not compliment shape.
- 2. Shoes are a very important part of wardrobe.** If you have the cutest little trousers and button down for your son to wear for pictures, but slap his

favorite pair of Disney tennis shoes on him, it makes the whole look lose cohesiveness. Stay away from character shoes, flip flops, crocs.
Recommendation for shoes: Boots, leather sandals (just say “no” to Old Navy flip flops), Converse All-Stars, Toms, Sperrys, Joyfolie and Mary Janes.

3. **Coordinate sibling’s outfits, but please stay away from matching.** More on color recommendations and coordinating tips below.
4. **Layering, layering and more layering!** Hats, glasses, vests, bow ties, cardigans, tights or leggings under a skirt are always great ideas. I do recommend making the outer layer (blazer, cardigan, jacket) fit snugly.
5. **It is all in the details.** Bringing along hats, bow ties, hair bands/bows, scarfs and leggings will bring the entire outfit together. Plus, who can resist a little one in a mini-sized bow tie or dainty headband that brings out her beautiful blue eyes? Just remember that these items need to fit snugly and ultimately, not aggravate the child.
6. **Last but not least, bring choices!** Weather changes quickly, children decide they not longer like their shoes, changes in locations, etc....Kids will be kids, which makes the best photographs, but prepare for the mud, tears, or the good-ole, ever-changing Michigan weather. When in doubt, bring it!

The BEST Colors on Camera: Look to stay away from whites and blacks, these colors wash out faces and distract the camera’s internal sensors. Consider shades of the primary colors (blues, reds, even pinks). Neutrals are always a good place to start, try adding a “pop of color” from a tie, shoes, cardigan, etc. When unsure, try to choose colors that complement eye color and skin tone. Mixing patterns or textures can be good too, as long as it does not distract from the main focus – YOU. Check out sites like Pinterest for ideas.

Don’t forget those favorite friends or fantastic props. Bring along your child’s favorite stuffed animal, pair of boots, or that superman cape they have been wearing for days. That light pink, be-dazzled tiara your 4yo will not take off, bring that too! Another idea if your child doesn’t have a “favorite” something to consider-- PROPS! Crowns, Little Red Wagons, balloons, colorful wooden chairs, tea sets, giant lollipops, sunglasses etc.

If you contact me with ideas regarding props, I will make every effort to obtain such item(s). ☺

Need help styling your little Divas and Dudes? Check out websites like Gap.com, hm.com, Mak-rose.com, lecoxaboutique.com, www.teacollection.com and my favorite; Etsy.com

