

PORTRAITS - SOME TIPS FOR SITTING

- Simplicity is the keynote.
- Solid colours are best. Avoid large or bold patterns and bright colours. They draw attention away from the face.
- Elbow length or long sleeve dresses and shirts are recommended. (Short sleeves are acceptable for toddlers and small children).
- Co-ordinate from head to toe selecting appropriate shoes in case they get in the shots. Children can often look best photographed with bare feet.
- Darker clothing minimizes body size and light tones tend to emphasise body size.
- Necklines are important. A "vee" or scoop neck is best if you have a short neck and your face is full. A polo-neck or high-necked garment is more flattering if your neck is longer and your face slender.
- Dress everyone in the same style of clothing. Do not mix casual and formal attire. Formal clothing results in more formal poses. If you are hoping for a more relaxed portrait, or if you select an outdoor location, select more casual clothing.
- Keep the tonal range of clothing within the group the same. Do not mix light and dark clothes together. Save patterns for accent items like scarves and neckties.
- White or light pastel clothing looks best in portraits taken against a white or light background. Blues, white, ivory, khaki and salmon are nice outdoors against green foliage. Burgundy, brown, tan and grey are nice late autumn.
- Haircuts or perms, if planned, are better done several days before the portrait. Have make-up and hair grooming materials handy for touch up.
- For children, the best time to schedule is usually mid-morning. Please have available a few favourite, small toys. It is best not to offer food during the portrait session