

# Family Style Guide

by Crystal Clear Moments

What to Wear to your Session





# about me



[@CrystalClear  
Moments.CCM](#)



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Moments](#)



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I am a passionate portrait photographer based in central Texas. I seek connection, authentic moments, capture the laughs, the in-between moments, the real version of you and your family.

My style is about documenting your family in a way that tells your story. I truly care to get to know you and your family before your session. My goal is that you'll forget about the camera, leave with a new friend and capture beautiful authentic photos.

I can't wait to meet you and tell your story through these photos.

*Every story is different, let me  
capture yours.*



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# section 01



## A FOOL PROOF FORMULA

Put most of the family in different neutral shades (i.e. ivory, gray, beige, browns) and then add a few pops of coordinating color or patterns on headbands, hair ties, bow ties, shoes, undershirt, etc.



## START WITH ONE PERSON

It's WAY easier to visualize everyone's outfits once you know what one piece looks like! Try starting with Mom or daughter - since women's clothing tends to have more texture and prints. As a rule of thumb, pick one patterned outfit for every two people wearing solid neutral colors.



# section 02



## COMPLIMENT EACH OTHER - DON'T MATCH

We want colors that generally complement each other: so for instance, soft colors (light blue, gray, blush) or warm colors (brown, orange, burgundy). If you want colorful images, then you should choose a more vivid color scheme for your outfits! Generally, solids work best. Try to avoid everyone wearing the same color. Blobs do not photograph well.

## DON'T FORGET SHOES !

These are often the forgotten last element, but they can really make or break your outfits! If you can't find shoes you love, consider going barefoot (just bring walking shoes to get from point A to point B). Women's flats and sandals always look nice but steer away from athletic shoes, character themed shoes for kids and bright white sneakers. Solid colored shoes and boots are ALWAYS the best choice. If possible, steer clear of bright white socks for the action shots!

# section 03



## TRY YOUR CLOTHES ON IN ADVANCE

Check your outfits in front of the mirror, not just the one you like best... all of the runner ups as well. Try sitting, squatting, leaning forward, raise your arms, etc.

There is nothing worse than everyone in the family showing up to the session uncomfortable. I am a great photographer but I cannot change the energy in the photos. If even one person is uncomfortable in their outfit, I promise you it will be evident in the images.

The kids' clothes should work well in motion so that we can play during your session (think flying, piggy back rides, tag, tickling, and hanging upside down). If your child is still in diapers, consider a diaper cover under their dress or a onesie under their shirt. This will reduce the risk of the diaper being exposed during our action shots.

# section 04



## THINK ABOUT THEME & PROPS

Choose colors that are appropriate with the theme you are going for. If it is a Christmas session, maybe we should avoid pink and yellow. If the session includes props, consider that also (i.e. if the Christmas session has red based props - you should definitely avoid reds. See Section 2, blobs do not photograph well.)

## CONSIDER THE LOCATION

Wear clothes that are fashionable, yet comfortable for the location. Make sure that your clothing will not blend into the background. Is your photo session in the woods? Try to avoid greens in your clothing.

## BE MINDFUL OF YOUR HOME

If you're planning to hang your images in your living room that's decorated in all white, you probably don't want your clothing to be dark. If you're planning a colorful nursery, then wear vivid outfits.



# section 05

2022  
VOL. 5 SET 12



## LET THE KIDS HAVE INPUT

I can't stress this enough. We all want the perfect photo but from one parent to another, on picture day, pick your battles.

If your daughter hates wearing dresses, don't force her to wear one for picture day. If your son thinks that suspenders are uncomfortable, ditch them!

I promise, when you look back at the photos you won't think, "dang, this picture would be better if only my son had worn that hat or my daughter wore those white tights." You will reminisce about your child's baby voice that is gone and their smile without front teeth.

**Happy kids make for happy photos!**

*Crystal Clear Moments*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



# section 06



In summary, here are quick tips of what to avoid and embrace for your session outfit choice.

## AVOID:

- Formal clothes like tuxedos.
- Uncomfortable clothes
- Dark, neon & saturated colors.
- Text & Graphics on T-Shirts, Shoes & Hats
- Shaded Lenses & sunglasses
- Forward facing ballcaps
- **Everyone wearing the same color.**

## EMBRACE:

- Comfortable clothes.
- Subtle textures - lace, kits, tulle.
- Simple is better!