

Family Session

PREP GUIDE



Hello!

LET'S MAKE SOME MAGIC TOGETHER

I'm so glad you chose me as your photographer!!

By taking this first step, you have invested in your legacy by creating memories that will be cherished for generations to come. (And you are about have a great time!)

This guide will address everything you need to know to make this session a low-stress and enjoyable experience. Because making memories shouldn't produce frown-lines!

I can't wait to showcase the unique story of **you**.

xx. Lily



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Before

YOUR SESSION





What to wear

COORDINATE, DON'T MATCH

The days of "everyone in khakis and a white shirt" are thankfully long gone. Instead of matching outfits, choose a palette of about coordinating colors that are represented across all of the family's outfits.

Your photos should look timeless and classic, so start with one or two neutral shades (think white, cream, gray, beige), and then add some pops of color. Consider:

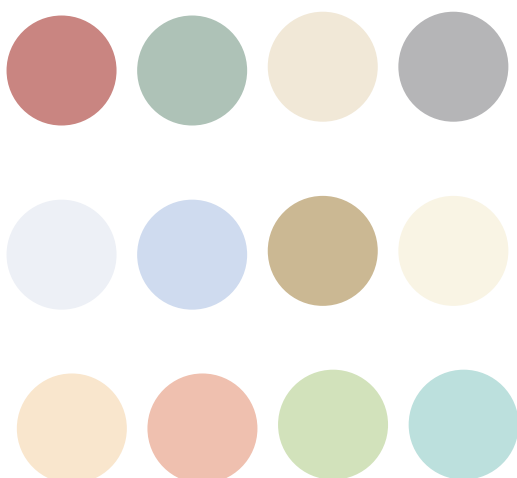
- the session location - you don't want to blend into the background
- the season - deeper hues for fall/winter, lighter colors for spring/summer
- your decor - your wall art should fit the room where it is displayed

Above all, choose outfits that are comfortable and will allow you the **freedom to move and play**.

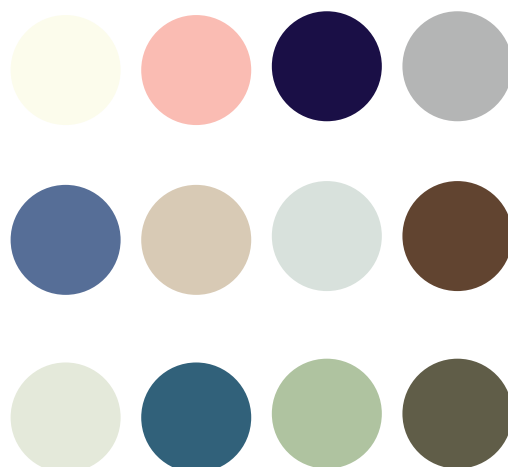
Color Palettes

FOR EVERY SEASON

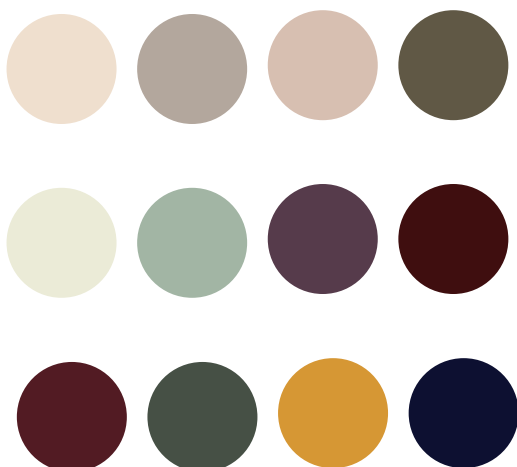
SPRING



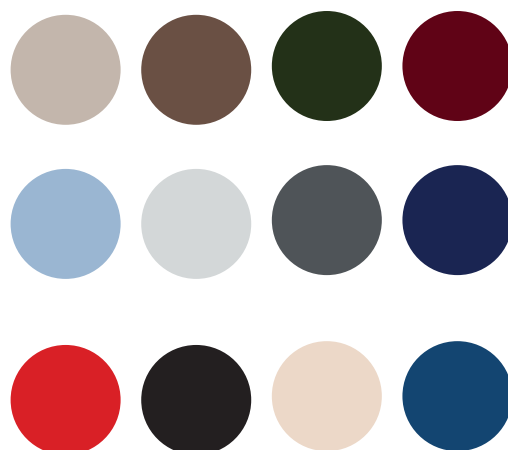
SUMMER



FALL



WINTER



SAY
Yes

- Earthy, muted colors
- Solid colors
- One outfit with a low contrast pattern
- Boots, sandals and neutral color sneakers
- Comfortable outfits

SAY
No

- Neon colors
- Logos, words or characters on shirts
- Busy pattern
- Athletic runners and ballcaps
- Too tight or too baggy outfits



IT'S ALL IN THE

Details

SHOES

Don't forget that shoes are part of your outfit! Forego the runners and heels, and choose boots, sandals and sneakers that are both practical and matches the setting.

LAYERS + TEXTURES

Layers like jackets, cardigans, and vests provide depth. Textures like knits, sheers, lace, and cords add interest. When used together, its a winning combination!

ACCESSORIES

Complete your look by adding hats, beanies, headbands, jewellery, scarves, belts, etc. It's a great way to show off your personality, without taking over the focus.

HAIR + MAKEUP

Get haircuts at least a week before, and keep makeup natural. Better yet, get your hair and makeup done professionally. The confidence boost and no-stress is worth it!

HANDS AND NAILS

Your hands will be holding, hugging and gently stroking in many of your photos, so make sure everyone has clean and trimmed nails with no chipped nail polish.

The Day Of

YOUR SESSION



What to expect

LOVE, LAUGHTER AND CONNECTION

My goal is to capture you (and yours) as it is in this moment. The joy, the connection, and the love ... and yes, even a bit of the chaos!

I want you to remember how you felt about each other in this time of your life. And so our session will be focused on doing things that will allow for these feelings to show. I will ask you to play, to hug, to joke, to chase, to tickle, to laugh. And as your love for each other play across your faces, I will be there to capture the magic.

Although it may seem unposed, I will guide you every step of the way by positioning you in flattering light, and with gentle prompts to get the candid interactions started. And of course, we will get a few formal photos as well.

And because these sessions are relaxed, you will hardly realize you are having your pictures taken!



Activity Ideas

ADDING A SPRINKLE OF FUN

- A picnic on the beach or at the park
- Building a sandcastle and wading into the water
- Gathering wildflowers or looking for bugs in a field
- A walk in the rain, complete with umbrellas, boots and splashing in puddles
- Cuddling and reading favourite books on a blanket
- Blowing bubbles
- A drink and a treat at your favorite coffee shop
- Playing at a kids' play park
- Snowball fight
- S'mores and hot chocolate around a campfire
- A visit to a seasonal attraction (pumpkin patch, apple orchard, tulip fields)
- Running through a sprinkler

Let kids be kids

GO EASY ON THEM (JUST FOR THE DAY)



I'm sure you want for your children to be on their best behavior. But that often leads to stern words, which in turn lead to tension, frowning faces and even tears.

Let your kids get away with a little more than usual, just for our session. While we always want them to be safe, it is also fine to let them run and climb a bit, or be a little silly, or act a little cheeky. Because those lead to natural expressions, authentic smiles and giggles, and real family connections, which is always what I aim to capture.

Pro Tip: Get them excited about the session! Tell them that Aleks has a backpack full of fun surprises and get them started early on thinking about the session as a game and a fun adventure! Do let me know if they are into certain things and we can incorporate it into our session!

Furry Friends

BECAUSE THEY ARE FAMILY TOO

It is incredibly special to capture the pets who will be part of your life or your children's first childhood memories, and so you're welcome to bring your pet to the session, provided they can be controlled and they are allowed at our chosen location.

I strongly recommend bringing a friend or pet sitter along to handle and hold your pet while they are not in the shot.

And don't forget a leash, water, a collapsible bowl, and plenty of treats for your furry friends.



Ready. Set. Go!

WHAT TO DO

- Leave enough time to get ready, and navigate traffic, without rushing and stressing.
- Try to make sure everyone is rested - an extra nap (for adults too!) can go a long way.
- Come with full bellies. But don't leave dinner for the car ride over and have to clean up (especially kids) in the parking lot.
- Plan a special treat for sometime after the session - ice cream, a toy, or a special outing can keep everyone motivated to keep going!

WHAT TO BRING

- Lots of mess-free snacks that won't stain mouths or spill on clothes
- Water for everyone
- A brush, hairspray and/or gel
- Makeup for touch-ups
- A change of clothing, especially for kids
- Jackets/sweaters for when temperatures drop later on
- Bug spray
- PJs for the car ride home (they may fall asleep!)
- A relaxed, playful and come-what-may attitude. It will show in your photos!

After

YOUR SESSION



After the session

SNEAK PEEK

4-5 days after your session, I will post a little teaser image from our session on social media so you can share the excitement from your session with your friends and family.



THE BIG REVEAL

About 2-3 weeks after our session, I will present you with an online gallery of the best photos taken during our session. You will be able to make your print selections from this gallery.



PRODUCT DELIVERY

2-3 weeks after placing your order for prints, albums, or wall art, I will deliver your gorgeous products to your door, ready for you to proudly display in your home.



Print your photos

PRINTING GIVES LIFE TO YOUR IMAGES

While capturing these emotion-filled moments with your family and scrolling through them on a phone or computer is enjoyable, there is nothing quite like tracing your fingers over a printed image of the smiles and faces so dear to you.

Hard drives fail, and digitals get forgotten. The best way to make these memories something you can cherish every day is to keep it where you can connect with it every day - display it on your walls, make prints to pass around, and page through an album filled to the brim with all the moments that make up your family's story.



PRINTS

Prints are a perfect way to display a bunch of your favourite images, whether you pass them around or show them in small frames around the house. Superior color reproduction and fine art papers make a luxurious product to swoon over.



WALL ART

Whether you choose a classic frame or a modern canvas, these pieces of art are crafted with superior materials to provide an archival product that will be a statement on the wall that will take your breath away every time you pass by.



ALBUMS

Heirloom albums are meant to be passed on from one generation to the next. Album pages are printed on thick pages rich with color and are perfect for little hands to page through year after year as they see their family story unfold.

Frequently Asked

WHAT IF IT RAINS?

We can usually work around a light sprinkle, but if it is really pouring down, we will reschedule. Please keep the week after our scheduled date open and flexible in case we need to reschedule for weather.

WHAT ABOUT BEDTIMES?

The most flattering light for photos, and the light that is represented in my portfolio, all happen during the hour before sunset, or the hour after sunrise, when the sun is low enough in the sky to not cause harsh shadows on your faces, and you are bathed in soft, warm, golden light.

In the summer, this means that our session will probably start close or even after your children's bedtimes. In order to accommodate the late start, most of my clients adjust the day's schedule a bit to include an extra late-afternoon nap. Because our sessions are fun and kids will be kept busy being active outdoors, they won't even notice bedtimes passing (but they will pass out on the car ride home for sure!).

If you can't extend their bedtimes for this one day, please consider booking a sunrise session, or a late fall or spring session when the sun sets a bit earlier.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS SHY?

It is perfectly normal for children to feel a bit apprehensive when meeting a stranger. Reframing the photo session as a fun adventure along with a friend who will be taking photos will go a long way in easing anxious feelings.

At the session, there is no expectation for children to "perform". They can take their time warming up, and if they want to be in your arms all the time, that is fine too! I will be my extra silly self all along, and chances are they will be relaxed and smiling at my antics in no time!

A close-up photograph of a hand gently holding a green leaf. The background is dark and out of focus, showing more foliage. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaf and the skin of the hand.

Get in touch



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