



ANDRE TORO
PHOTOGRAPHY

The ultimate family photoshoot checklist

A lot happens when planning a family photo session. Up to D-day, when you and your family are right in front of the camera, there are many things that need to be done, both on your and the photographer's side. Here's a checklist that will ensure we all get there in one piece!

2-3 months before:

Lock on your budget. Depending on your budget, choose between a Full Session or a Mini Session.

- Bear in mind that some photographers offer only Full Sessions.
- The type of session determines the number of photos that you get and the length of the session.

Research and choose the photographer!

Decide format and discuss it with your photographer.

- Studio (posed photos).
- Lifestyle (real life, candid moments).
- Mix.

Pick the type of location and discuss it with your photographer.

- Indoors.
- Outdoors (ask your photographer for his/her preferred spots. They scout incredible locations ALL the time).
- Mix.

Set the date and backup date.

- Ask about the deposit (all photographers require a deposit to hold the date).

Schedule around your family's preferred schedule.

- Morning or afternoon?
- Weekday or weekend?
- If you have kids, arrange according to children's schedule.
Plan around naps and feeding times.
- If you include your pet in the photoshoot, plan considering:
Feeding times.

Depending on the photo session occasion, discuss the use of props and dress code.

- Ask your photographer for styling ideas (some offer professional styling services and most have Pinterest boards with inspiration ideas by seasonality).
- Avoid being too matchy! (you don't have to all be wearing the same color. Mix and match within a color palette and play with textures).
- Discuss potential color palette ideas and current wardrobe options with your photographer (we LOVE to help style our clients).
- Invest in wardrobe accordingly.

A couple of days before:

Confirm the date and backup date.

Doublecheck schedule with family.

- Avoid schedule overlaps or last-minute appointments.

Plan for the commute (rush hour traffic can bring the session down).

Become familiar with the location (indoor and outdoor).

Agree on the color palette with the photographer.

- Work with two alternatives, in case you change your mind.

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Check the weather!

Avoid sick people (if possible)!

The night before:

Talk to family members about behavior during session time.

- Speak with your children about dos and don'ts (you can always offer something fun as a reward; kids love ice cream after photos!).
- Discuss with your partner and parents what to expect.
- Convey your final thoughts to the photographer. Photographers love to know about the family dynamic in advance; we have so many tricks to win hearts and overcome camera fears!

Check the weather; you never know in Boston!

Leave wardrobe available.

Plan for enough time to dress up the tribe and for you to put a bright natural make on.

Get a good night sleep (I mean it!)

D Day

Enjoy and have fun! The magic is about to happen!

