

your **Portrait** *experience*

tips for an
AWESOME
child, sibling
or family
session

pixel perfect photography
pxpfoto.com 🌸 603.579.0500

What²Wear
what to bring

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about your **experience**

Thanks so much for choosing us! We know you have options and we appreciate that, of all the photographers you could select, you chose us to create your once-in-a-lifetime child and/or family portraits.

If you are new to us, here's a little about us - we are a private, family-run studio located in Merrimack NH and servicing the greater New England area. We specialize in in-studio photography for babies, children and their families. Because we specialize, everything - from initial contact to our studio environment and our approach with you and your child - is geared for babies, children and their parents. We are a fun, comfortable, child-friendly place to be.

We tailor our approach to each individual child and family. We know very well that all children are individuals and have their own needs and personalities. We work at YOUR child's pace, taking all the time necessary to connect with you and your child so that we can bring out your child's unique, charming personality and capture all the things that you love so much.

This guide should give you all the information you need for your photo session, whether you are bringing one child, more than one child or a family. Please do read through, if you have questions be sure to call us at 603-579-0500 and then just relax and leave the rest to us!

We look forward to meeting you and to working together as we create images and memories as unique as your family and your child, memories that you will treasure for a lifetime - we guarantee it!

Darrell Chichester, Owner
Pixel Perfect Photography, LLC



the portrait process



Here at Pixel Perfect we honor your schedules, special events and your sessions with a helpful timeline to help you to understand how we are working our hardest to create your special memories:

AT FIRST CONTACT BEFORE YOUR SESSION:

After chatting on the phone or in a studio consultation we review your wants and needs, what you can expect and we'll work with you to schedule your appointment at a time that is convenient for everyone. We'll then mail you our studio welcome kit via the US Post Office.



2 DAYS (approximate) BEFORE YOUR SESSION:

We'll check in with you via phone to confirm your appointment and answer any last minute questions you may have.



THE DAY OF YOUR SESSION:

When you arrive at the scheduled time, I will get to know you and your family - because making a connection is the surest way to capture awesome images. Prepare for a wonderful time during our photography session! We will be completely focused on you and your family when you are with us and we'll let you know what to do every step of the way. At the end of the session we'll review next steps and schedule your appointment to review your images. We'll also go over some of our most popular products, and we'll review our detailed price guide which you will take home with you.



1-2 WEEKS

AFTER YOUR SESSION:

You will view your images in our awesome in-studio multimedia room using projection and the latest and greatest software to help you select your very favorite photos and the package that is best for you. This is when you will place your order. Our portrait consultants are incredibly patient and helpful and will guide you through the process. For a sneak peek at some of the products and services available to you, browse through our guide online at pxpinvestment.com, or chances are that we have included a hard copy with this guide for you to review.

4 WEEKS (approximate)

AFTER YOUR SESSION:

Expect the arrival of most, if not all of your order. Certain items, such as albums, may take a little longer. Have a looming deadline? A number of products can be delivered earlier. Just ask!

directions to our studio



We are now located at 32 Daniel Webster Highway (Harris Pond Office Park), Unit 26 in Merrimack NH - in a gorgeous, brand spankin' new studio to serve you better! Easy to get to and lots of free parking.

From the North

1. Take Frederick E Everett Turnpike (Route 3) South
2. Take exit 10 for Industrial Drive toward US-10
3. Turn left onto Industrial Drive
4. Continue onto Technology Park Dr
5. Turn right onto US3 S Daniel Webster Highway
6. Destination will be on the right. We are unit 26 - to the far right in the office park. You'll see our sign above our unit.

From the South

1. Take US-3 North
2. Take exit 7E
3. Go straight ahead off the exit ramp and continue on that road until it ends
4. Turn left onto US-3 N/Concord St
5. Destination will be on the left (you'll see the Big One ice cream stand on your right, you'll climb a hill and then you'll see Harris Pond Office Park on your left). We are unit 26 - to the far right of the office park. You'll see our sign right above our unit.

From the Derry/Salem area

1. Take Route 111A W/NH-111 W
2. Continue onto Bridge St
3. Continue onto Canal St
4. Turn right onto Concord St (also Daniel Webster Highway)
5. Destination will be on the left (you'll see the Big One ice cream stand on your right, you'll climb a hill and then you'll see Harris Pond Office Park on your left). We are unit 26 - to the far right of the office park. You'll see our sign right above our unit.



QUESTIONS

we get asked these questions all the time...

WHEN IN DOUBT
Just call!
We're here to help!
603.579.0500

What if I can't keep my appointment?

Answer: Just call! We know things happen. Please do call as early as you possibly can.

What if my child is sick?

Answer: There is sick - runny nose, sniffing - and there is SICK - up all night, fever, red eyes, throwing up - and that's a definite reschedule. If you're in doubt, just call and we'll figure it out together.

My child has a scratch. Can you fix it?

Answer: We retouch boo boos, scars, scratches, blemishes, baby acne, etc. on portraits so don't sweat the small stuff, we've got you covered. If it's something that looks especially bad (conjunctivitis, a black eye), do call.

What if it doesn't go well?

Answer: Sometimes children just have a bad day, regardless of our pre-planning. I'm a great judge of how things are going and if I feel they're not going as well as I'd like no matter what we try, I'll call it and we'll reschedule. It doesn't happen often, but if it does aren't you glad you don't have to worry about it?!

I work outside the home. Scheduling a session is hard.

Answer: It's always best to schedule a session at the child's best time. We do offer Saturday sessions, though they are not always readily available so if you absolutely need a Saturday it's best to plan ahead. We will ALWAYS do our best to find the best time for everyone and we always seem to find a way to make it happen.

How many pictures will I see?

Answer: It depends on the session, but you'll have anywhere from 30-60 images to select from with various poses and a variety of expressions, close-ups, mid-length and full-length.



GENERAL ADVICE

CHILL PILL

We know it can be stressful getting ready for your session but try to relax once you are with us. Don't ever worry about what to do during the session, we'll help you out every step of the way. Relaxed parents have more fun, which helps children be more comfortable, too.

FOR THE ADULTS INCLUDED IN THE SESSION

Groom your nails, we're very fond of close ups of moms & dads holding their children. For moms, keep makeup as you would usually wear it, make sure you bring a little lip gloss and some hair products in case you want to primp a bit beforehand. Keep jewelry simple. I usually ask adults to remove watches while you are being photographed, but any other jewelry is fine. The very best advice I can give you is to sleep well the night before and relax once you are here!

SCHEDULING YOUR SESSION

Schedule your session for the best possible time for the youngest person being photographed. That person generally has the least amount of patience unless it's at his or her best time, so it's always best to plan accordingly!

HAIR AWARE

For small children we have hats and bows or feel free to bring your own, if you like. For everyone, adults included - regarding haircuts, it's best to do so a couple of weeks before the session to give the cut time to 'breathe.' Bring hair products with you to tame hair during the session. Don't drastically alter your or any other family members' hair just before a session, unless that is the point.

ABOUT BRIBERY

Whatever the age of a child, it's tempting to offer bribes for good behavior. And I'm actually all for a good bribe, depending on the age of the child and the type of bribe. Toddlers don't generally bribe very well except with food and we try to keep that to a minimum during a session unless we take a time out (see next topic). Older kids can do very well with a well-placed bribe so long as they are required to follow through before the reward. Tip: avoid chocolate at all costs BEFORE or DURING the session, with any age child. Chocolate can get everywhere.

FOOD DURING THE SESSION

I just mentioned this briefly under bribes but it bears repeating because food during a session is a broader topic and often quite necessary, especially for smaller children. Be sure to bring your child's favorite snacks with you. We also keep snacks at the studio. If we suspect a child is hungry or needs a break during a session, it's almost always best to break for a bit and take care of things. Feeding a child while we are photographing can be a slippery slope (the child may just want to continue eating during the entire session, and it's difficult to get a good photo if a child is always chewing).

BE AT HOME

We have a nursing and changing area, fully stocked with whatever supplies you might need. We have a snack area as well and we keep toys and games on hand to keep children occupied should the need arise. We want you to be at home when you are with us!

OUR APPROACH

and what to watch for at every age

Whatever the session type, this section will help you understand how we approach and work with each age group. We like to be clear and set expectations, because we find that things just go a little smoother that way. When you arrive at the studio the very first thing that I always do is review what is most important to you, what you have brought with you and then quickly plan out what we will be doing before we even set foot in the camera room. During the session I'll let you know what I need you to do every step of the way so you never need to guess. For tips on what to wear and bring, turn the page.

UNDER 1 BABIES

THE LITTLEST PEOPLE

If you are joining us for a baby session, a lot depends on the age of the baby. Younger babies, 3 - 5 months have less endurance and a smaller attention span so we tend to work quickly and efficiently at this age. Babies who have just learned to sit tend to be the easiest to photograph as they don't yet move around a lot! Babies 9-12 months tend to be busier but also have a little more endurance. The older the baby, the more likely that he or she will be shy around me if they are meeting me for the first time so I always spend time getting acquainted before we dive in.



AGES 1-3 TODDLERS

DEMANDING CHARMERS

Toddlers are busy, demanding, sometimes stubborn, charming, adorable and did I mention busy? The trick to photographing a toddler is to make friends with them beforehand and to avoid irritating them during the session. Keeping clothing changes to a minimum helps. I do not formally pose toddlers - I put them in situations where I am likely to capture what I am looking for. My goal is to capture close-ups, mid length and full length shots and a range of expressions. We'll change

backgrounds and props as we need to, adjusting to clothing changes. I rely heavily on parents to both corral the child and to help coach expressions.

AGES 4-6 SMALL FRYE

THE MAGIC AGE

In many ways, this is a magic age. Children are usually able to focus better and take direction and they are much more amenable to clothing changes. What to watch out for? They may be shy and their attention span is not endless so I work hard to make it fun for them. We also watch out for the cheesy, fake smile. You'll never hear 'say cheese' from me! Instead I'll engage your child, ask questions, tell jokes and make funny noises. My goal is to bring out the little charmer that you know and love!



OVER 7 BIG KIDS

BECOMING THEMSELVES

You would think that the older the child, the easier the session and sometimes that is true. Often, though, they want to be anywhere but in the studio (playtime calls!), so I work hard to make it interactive and fun. It helps at this age to have a theme for the session (dress-up for girls or vintage sports for boys, as examples). It also helps that I genuinely love children and find them all fascinating - it's my goal to keep them engaged long enough so that their awesome personality comes through! I am not above a little bribery at this age, if I find it may help. I generally find, however, that if children know you are interested in them, they tend to be interested in whatever you are doing together.



ANY AGE SPECIAL NEEDS

LOTS OF LOVE

If you have a child with special needs, it is incredibly helpful for me to know up-front and to understand what your child can and cannot do. I will work closely with you to determine your goals and the poses that will work best for your particular situation. I have had great success with all types of special needs children. Again, I find with a little love and attention almost every child will bloom.

RELATIONSHIPS

Whether it's a picture of siblings together, a parent, grandparent or other family member with a child or an entire family, the point is to show the relationship between you. I love close pictures and natural expressions. We will always create an artfully posed 'looking at the camera' picture but my personal favorites are pictures that show interaction and the bond between family members.



What2Wear, What2Bring

BABIES & CHILDREN

Bring 2-3 outfits (we have a huge variety of backgrounds and can coordinate with pretty much anything). Try to bring a variety of different styles and colors.

Clothing Suggestions

- seasonal outfit (bathing suit, Easter, Christmas, Halloween, winter duds)
- special outfit (christening, traditional outfit, birthday)
- sports outfit and matching props
- formal outfit
- sailor outfit (any type)
- favorite outfit and/or favorite color

Also Bring

- props to personalize (i.e. props to represent child or parent's hobby or work)
- favorite toys, blankets, stuffed animals, bed quilt
- hats, scarves, jewelry, hairbows, hair bands; for girls - set of mom's shoes; for boys - one of dad's shirts

Tips

- make sure clothes fit well and are comfortable.
- pack clothes so they arrive clean and wrinkle-free.
- try to stick to solids and small prints.
- a layered look always looks great.
- for small babies, watch collars that they don't flip up and into baby's face.
- for little girls make sure at least one outfit covers everything well when she is sitting.
- I almost always prefer bare feet but bring shoes if they fit the outfit and make sure they are clean.
- avoid clothes with logos, stripes and big prints



HARMONIOUS SIBLINGS

Bring 1-2 coordinating outfits for siblings. Check out some of the great childrens chain stores, they often carry coordinating outfits. If you don't have the time to shop, stick to simple - select a color you like, match the tops and keep the bottoms the same (i.e. jeans or khakis).

Choose

- show off their fun style with layered clothing
- coordinating colors and/or patterns
- non-fussy, casual clothes to keep kids comfortable
- fitted clothes

Avoid

- makeup
- baggy, wrinkled or soiled clothes
- stripes and logos



WANT TO SEE MORE? Check online at facebook.com/theperfectpixel for recent sessions and at pxpoto.com for reviews, galleries, videos and more!



Shooting4Success

FABULOUS FAMILIES



What you wear as a family is key for a successful session. Clothing complements who you are as a family and coordinates with the home where final images will be displayed. Your style should be as unique as your family, so we've put together some clothing advice for a creative, comfortable session.

Choose a palette of 3-4 colors and mix it up, including both pants and dresses. You want a cohesive feel, but without being overly 'matchy-matchy.' Picture a page in a clothing catalog where everyone coordinates, but nobody stands out more than the rest.



A few **tips** will make your photo session as fabulous as your family!



Choose

- layered looks in 1-3 color combinations
- solid colors or small prints
- clothes that flatter your body type and coordinate well with the rest of the group
- for a fun family picture with a small child, we often take a photo of just the parents legs with a full length of the child. Don't forget the pedicure! Super fun picture!
- simple but effective - black tops with jeans are slimming; white or any pastel top with khakis are very clean looking
- clean and stylish shoes (sometimes a close up of just the shoes and how the feet are posed can be a different, fun picture)

Tips

- make sure all clothes are clean and pressed
- for little girls who may be lap children, make sure skirts or dresses are full enough to cover bottoms
- for adults, long sleeves and long pants/dresses/skirts
- men should shave especially if the session is late in the day
- women should style their hair as you normally would, make sure hair stays out of your eyes
- women should wear makeup that is just a touch heavier than normal day wear

Avoid

- sleeveless shirts and shorts on adults
- logos and bold patterns
- haircuts the week before the session - give haircuts at least a week, preferably more to 'breathe'

StyleCheck

A quick check of some important points

wear

bright colors
layered looks
stylish shoes
a week old haircut
manicured/trimmed nails
simple accessories
a squeaky-cleaned face (kids and babies)

don't dare

loud patterns
wrinkled clothes
big white leather sneakers
a new haircut
5 o'clock shadow
distracting, trendy jewelry
sunglasses
sunburns

thefineprint

(studio policies)

Pictures with pets - About pets - yes we can usually include them but please talk to us first please!

Copyright- we retain copyright on all our images and it is seriously against the law to scan or copy in any way without our express permission. We do sell digital negatives as add-ons to certain packages, with print permission for personal use up to 8x10 size.

Use of cameras in the studio - it's tempting, we all (myself included) take images on our phones all the time. But please, not in my camera room. Thanks!

Image storage - we keep copies of any image that you order forever. For images not ordered, we hold them for 30 days.

Payment - we accept cash, personal checks, bank checks, Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards.

Guarantee - we only want very happy clients. Be thrilled with our work or we will re-shoot, re-print or re-fund. If things don't go as well as we or you would like we will do whatever is necessary to make things better or you'll get every penny back. That's just how we roll.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

by
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