

JEFF JANSEN PHOTOGRAPHY

# Mini Session *Guide*

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A few minutes of reading now saves you stress on the day of your shoot. Everything you need is here.

## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

# Mini sessions move *fast*.

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They're short, sweet, and they fly by. We're working with a tight time frame, so a little planning goes a long way. Here's what makes the difference between a shoot that goes smooth and one that doesn't.

### **Arrive early.**

A few minutes early is the move. Sessions are booked back to back — if you're late, you lose that time, not me. Some spots have tricky parking. Give yourself a buffer to park and walk in ready to go.

### **Feed the kids first.**

Protein, low sugar. That's the move. A hungry or sugared-up kid is fighting you before the session even starts.

### **Don't put pressure on them.**

Telling kids how important the photos are, or making them promise to smile a certain way, backfires. Keep it casual and let them be kids. If you want to help with a smile, stand close to me so they're looking the right way.

# What to *Wear*

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Figuring out outfits can feel like the hardest part. Don't let it stress you out. The best thing you can do is dress like yourself — dressy, casual, country, whatever feels like you. Then run through these three tips.

01

**Coordinate, don't match.**

Everyone in the same outfit reads as a costume, not a family.

02

**Build around one outfit.**

Pick one person's outfit first — usually mom, or whoever planned the session — then build everyone else around it. Stick to 2–3 colors with some good neutrals, and mix up the patterns, textures, and fabrics.

03

**Pinterest is your friend.**

Search “family photo outfit ideas” and you'll find a ton of inspiration.

**SKIP THIS**

**Competing patterns and busy prints** usually don't work. **Big logos, words, or graphics on shirts** pull the eye away from you — keep it simple so the moment stays the focus.

**Bright reds, shiny reds, magentas, and oranges** can leave a color cast on skin. I can't always edit that out. Play it safe.

THE BIG THING

# Don't *stress.*

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Mini sessions are supposed to be fun. That's the whole point.

Treat it like a fun thing to do with your family — or your fiancé, or your baby bump, or your sister, or whoever's in front of the camera. Let the rest take care of itself. I'm there to capture you having a good time, and that's when the best photos happen.

Be in the moment. Don't worry about how the photos will turn out. The more fun you're having, the more attached you'll be to the images later. Relax, enjoy the time with your people — I'll catch the real moments for you.

Questions on any of this? Just ask.

— *Jeff Jansen*