

Picture this
Portraits & photography

A thousand words

Elaine Lim and Dan Yeo of **WHITE ROOM STUDIO** discuss what makes a family portrait priceless and how best to prep yourself to create that enduring memory worth cherishing forever.

There will definitely be a time of the year when you will decide to take a family portrait and anticipate the process of getting everyone clad in their best gear to look great for the camera. However, it's essential you remember securing a family portrait goes beyond just choosing the right clothes or a portraiture design style. Creating that priceless shot needs some planning and preparation on your part. Here is a guideline you can follow to achieve that family portrait so full of beautiful emotion and sentiment:

1 Studio and outdoor sessions Given the Lion City's hot and humid climate, it's a bonus to be able to relax in an indoor air-conditioned environment so you are comfortable enough to concentrate on your photo shoot and create intimate shots. It's also a great advantage if the photography studio is set up to utilise natural lighting. Window lighting is one of the best kinds of light for portraiture because it is soft and natural, complementing all skin tones. And most tend to feel more relaxed without having a huge flash blinding them with each shot.

An outdoor photo shoot offers a different, though equally suitable, experience. It's spot on for kids and dogs because of the large space and freedom to run about. This type of shoot is also great for couples as it is more casual - you'll find it easier to let go and feel more at ease. To make an outdoor shoot work, it's vital your photographer chooses the right time of day for the chosen location. Early mornings and pre-dusk are ideal time periods, while high noon is best avoided.

2 Being prepared is the key to a successful photography session What makes a photography session perfect is your preparation before the shoot. For a one-hour shoot, pack three outfits for every participant, taking into consideration everyone's best colour and style. Iron everything the night before to minimise the risk of a mad rush on the actual day.

Natural makeup and light nail polish for ladies work well for most family portraits, and for men, it's important to be clean shaven, unless you are going for a rugged look. For maternity shoots, it's best for mums-to-be to moisturise that belly for a nice sheen. For baby shoots, book a time when your baby is least cranky, and give your little one a full feed right before leaving home. The perfect time for a baby photo shoot is during your little one's naptime.

3 Duration and patience A family photo session with kids is best completed within one to one-and-a-half hours. After an hour of fun and interaction, kids tend to get distracted and tired. It's essential to keep your cool during photo shoots and not get stressed out when your child becomes uncooperative. Relax and let your children be themselves for a while, and in no time you'll be amazed by how things will come together with the help of a good photographer.



Photography: © 123RF



4 Choosing the right environment

It's essential to match your photo session genre with the right environment. For example, maternity shoots or sessions involving newborns and babies who cannot sit up yet are best done in the studio or at home. When your baby can sit and crawl, consider having your shoot by a beach for some great photos with sun and surf. A park or beach is also great for toddlers and older kids.

5 Communicate your needs and wants to your photographer

This will help your photographer prepare for the photo shoot. It's also extremely helpful to give your photographer some family background and a rundown of the different personalities in your family so he or she can anticipate and plan a strategy in accordance with the subjects to be photographed.

6 Time to choose your photos

The real excitement comes when it's time to visit the studio to choose your photos. If you're looking for something to hang at home or in the office, measure your walls before the viewing session to help decide on the sizes of frames and canvases you might choose. It's also helpful to take a couple of snapshots of your home to show your photographer. If you're interested in albums instead, let your photographer know before the shoot.

7 Think ahead

Photography studios are usually booked out in advance, so it's best to pre-book a slot at least a couple of weeks before the date of your intended shoot. You can usually view your photos a week after the shoot. **F**

The Finder and WHITE ROOM STUDIO PROMOTION

Mention *The Finder* to *White Room Studio* before June 1 and you can book a Studio Package at \$230 instead of the usual rate of \$290 or an Outdoor Package at \$330 instead of the usual rate of \$390.

Helmed by Elaine Lim and Dan Yeo, **White Room Studio** is situated in a Peranakan shophouse full of warmth and natural lighting. Elaine's portfolio comprises of multiple awards from the Australian Institute of Professional Photography, Australian Centre for Photography and *Black & White* magazine from the US, whilst Dan's journalistic style of photography is heavily influenced by his involvement in Singapore's arts & performance scene.

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white room studio
multiple award winning
photography