

# Family and Children



BY KRISTEN FOTTA PHOTOGRAPHY



# Start with the End in Mind

Deciding what to wear in portraits can be a daunting task. What styles look best? What colors should we wear? How do we look pulled together without being too matchy-matchy. I've included five of my favorite tips to help you navigate your way through all these questions and take the guesswork out of what to wear.

The first thing to consider when choosing a color scheme is where you plan to hang your portraits. If your walls are neutral, you may choose to use your outfits as a way to add a pop of color to your room. If your room is painted a non-neutral color, you will want to select a color scheme that works well with your wall color. For example if you plan to hang your new portrait on a red accent wall, outfits with a lot of green in them may end up looking a little Christmassy.





# Color Scheme

Next, it's time to select your family's color scheme. Think of each of your family's clothing choices as one big outfit. It's best to pick 2-3 colors to work with and then use those colors in various solids, patterns and accessories.

I usually recommend choosing one patterned piece in your color scheme to be a focal item. This may be a floral dress for your daughter or a plaid shirt for your son. Once you have a focal piece selected, pull colors from it for the other outfits.

For example, if your daughter is wearing a floral dress in turquoise, navy, yellow and gray, you may choose to dress dad in a gray button down with dark blue jeans. Mom may wear a turquoise maxi dress. And your son would look great wearing a plaid button down in navy, yellow and gray.



# Pulling it all Together

Third, it is helpful to think about how these colors will be distributed. For example, if your colors are navy, rust and tan, it is best to make sure there is variety in how these colors are used across the top and bottom portions of the outfits. If everyone wore navy pants and rust or tan tops, there would be a strong visual line separating the top and bottom half of the picture.

Instead, dad may choose to wear navy dress pants and a tan sweater. Mom may wear a floor length rust maxi dress. The daughter could have a floral skirt in navy, rust and tan paired with a navy top. The son may wear navy pants paired with a rust and tan plaid shirt.

Don't forget to consider the natural pairings in you family. Will you want a picture of just your two children together? A portrait of just mom and dad? You may want to consider how the outfits will look when paired together in a photograph.





# Style

Now that you have your color choices selected, the next step is deciding what style of clothing you plan to wear.

In general, men look best in well-fitted dress pants or dark colored jeans and closed toed shoes. For a dressier look, pair with a button down and sports coat. Or add a sweater or henley shirt for a casual feel while still looking polished.

For women, a dress, skirt and top or tailored jeans all photograph well. High heels help elongate the legs but are not the most comfortable when walking from location to location. You may want to bring flats to walk in so that your feet will stay comfortable.

It is best to avoid clothing with large graphics or logos or tiny stripes as those tend to not photograph well.



## The Details

Next, it's time to accessorize with some final touches.

Accessories such as necklaces, earrings, headbands, belts, scarves, and hats will help tie each individual's look together into a cohesive group. For example if the daughter is wearing a dress in navy and coral as a focal piece or the son is wearing a navy, coral and white plaid button down, and mom is wearing a coral maxi dress, she could add a navy belt or bold statement necklace in navy to tie her outfit into her children's.

Remember to consider all the little details. I know my daughter loves to have her nails painted bright blue. On a day to day basis, I don't even notice them, but in a photo they would stand out. Take a quick peak at the little details such as finger nails, sock choices or bangs that may need a quick trim.

Lastly, and most importantly, make sure you wear something that you feel amazing in! If you are comfortable and feel confident in what you are wearing,

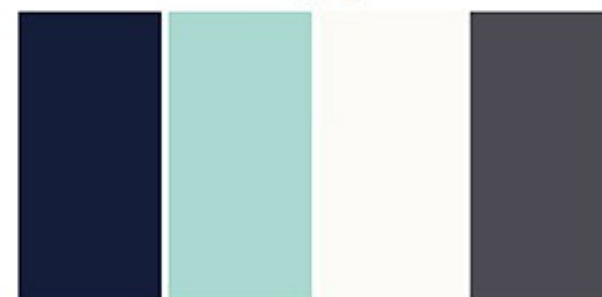




# Blues

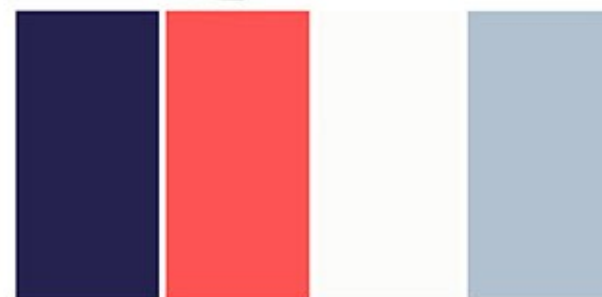
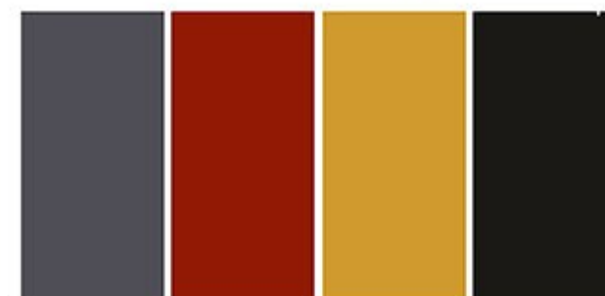


Blues are such a popular color for family pictures because they look great no matter what season you are having your pictures taken. Pale blues and aquas look perfect paired with the pastel flowers and greenery spring has to offer. In the summer light and airy turquoise is a perfect choice for pictures on the beach. And in the fall, deeper jeweled tone blues and navy look striking against the orange and yellow fall foliage.



# Reds

Just like blues, reds come in a wide range of hues as well. From true red, to wine and even leaning into the orange spectrum with rust or coral, there are so many options if you love red! The key to pulling off such a bold color is not to go overboard with how much red you use in your outfits and to anchor it with neutrals. Pair bold reds or coral with navy or charcoal gray to bring balance to your outfits. Rusty oranges pair well with browns, tans and creams.





# Pinks

I love the versatility of pink! It is a perfect color for dads and little boys just as much as it is for moms and little girls. And depending how it is used, pink can bring a light and airy feel to your portrait or be bold and dramatic! In the top two outfits, pale pink is paired with darker hues for a bolder look. The deep browns and wine color add contrast and pop when paired with pink. On the other hand, the bottom outfits have a light and airy feel because pink is paired with lighter neutrals such as tan, cream or white.

