

PORTRAIT PHOTO TIPS

1. **Try to use natural light as much as possible.** Most flash photos tend to look too bright and sometimes create awkward shadows behind the person you're photographing. If you have a great idea for an indoor photo, just make sure you have plenty of light available (from a window, for example).
2. **Watch out for harsh light and shadows.** Sometimes, especially on very sunny days, you can end up with a photo that has a great looking background, but the person in the image is almost all in shadow. You might need to try a couple of photos to make sure that your subject is well lit. You can avoid the bright sunlight, or you can practice making sure that the person you're photographing is what your camera is looking at in terms of light.
3. **Focus on the eyes.** If the person's eyes are in focus, you're halfway to a great photo!
4. **Find a good location.** The background of the photo can be anything—as long as it's not too busy, and there's some contrast between the person and the background. Taking a photo of someone wearing a brown shirt with a brown background usually doesn't work out very well, for example.
5. **Take a bunch of photos, if you can.** Take a horizontal one, a vertical one, a close (but not too close) one, a further back one (with lots of background space). It's good to have options, and we'd like to see all of them!
6. **Try different poses, too.** Sometimes having someone face their body at an angle to the camera, while turning their head to the camera, can make a great picture.
7. **Don't edit the photos or use filters.** We know it's tempting, but we need the original photo, uncropped and unmodified.
8. **Send high resolution photos. Don't shrink the images down!** If a photo is TOO small, we might not be able to use it. Bigger files (larger file sizes) are the best.