

elm studios

photographers

[Preparing for your sitting](#)

Beautiful & memorable portraits do not just happen, they are carefully planned. Co-ordination of clothing colours, hair and make up all contribute to a successful and flattering portrait. We have put together a list of key points to help you achieve this. Also, we are very happy to discuss any questions or ideas you may have in advance of the sitting.

We can photograph you in a casual, formal or more contemporary way and we have many different backgrounds to suit your clothing and the style of photograph that you would like.

CLOTHING: (adult) Avoid large or bold patterns, these may draw attention from the face. Medium to dark clothing is best. Do not choose contrasting colours, i.e. some people wearing white and some wearing black. Choose colours of clothes to harmonise with each other, not necessarily the same colour but of the same tonal range. Dress from head to toe, don't put on trainers if wearing formal clothing.

CHILDREN AND BABIES: The feet of babies and very small children are more beautiful than socks and tights! Very few mums will disagree with this. So no babygrows please and be prepared to remove their socks, shoes and tights.

Smiles are not essential for a good photograph, we will do our best to get smiling photographs but non-smiling pictures can be very nice too.

CLOTHING: (Children) Play clothes may look cute but their appeal is usually short lived. Try to choose timeless clothes (e.g. without large writing & motifs).

- Simplicity is the keynote
- Solid colours are best. Avoid large or bold patterns and bright colours as they draw attention away from the face.
- Long sleeves are recommended. They draw attention away from the arms and focus it on the face. (Short sleeves are fine for infants and small children).
- Co-ordinate your attire from head to toe, carefully selecting appropriate trousers/skirts and footwear as our photographer may portray you in a full-length pose.
- Darker clothing tends to minimise body size, and light tones tend to emphasise body size.
- Necklines are important. A v-neck or scoop neck is best if your neck is short and your face is full. A turtleneck or high-necked garment is more flattering if your neck is longer and your face is slender.
- Dress everyone in the same style of clothing. Do not mix casual and formal attire.
- Keep the tonal range of clothing within the group the same. If you wish to create a particular look, for instance a formal look, dark/black clothing works well, alternatively light colours can look less formal but do not mix light and dark clothing. Save patterns for items like scarves and ties.
- To assure a successful portrait, it is best to bring along additional clothing choices.