



Family Photography

TIMING



Family photography is about capturing moments.



Pre-empt and be ready for candid moments

Watch people's behaviour and body language.

Make it fun

Don't say smile but you can try saying "Don't smile."

Build Rapport

"It is more important to click with people than to click the shutter" (Eisenstaedt).

Get them moving

It often results in a lot of candid laughs when you get people walking or running towards the camera.

LIGHTING



The golden hour at Trigg Beach



Directional light under a verandah

FIND SOFT, DIRECTIONAL LIGHT.

Shade from above and light from the front or side e.g. under a door frame or near a window.

Golden hour - The hour after sunrise or before sunset is a great time for soft, directional light.

* Avoid the midday sun - you don't want your family squinting or with half their face in shadow.

* Overcast days are great because the clouds soften and diffuse the sun, meaning no harsh shadows.

COMPOSITION

RULE OF THIRDS



Don't put your subject or the horizon in the middle of the photo. It's usually not interesting. Use the rule of thirds.

GET CLOSER



Focus on the people and their expressions. If the background, legs or feet aren't adding anything to the moment, crop them out.

LEADING LINES



Use real or imaginary lines for the eye to follow.

FIND CLEAN BACKGROUNDS



Choose simple, uncluttered backgrounds that complement the subject and don't distract.

FRAMING



Use trees, buildings and shadows to frame your subject.

CROPPING



Avoid cropping images at a joint, e.g. don't crop at the knees, crop above the knee.