



Sessions at 6 months to 1 year old

Once your baby is able to sit unsupported, it opens up a whole new range of possibilities. At this age he/she will be active and curious about the environment, offering up the potential for interaction with props and lots of eye contact with the camera. Mum and dad will play a far more active role in the photoshoot with this age group and I'll be asking you to coo, wave or pull faces from behind the camera to grab attention and try to entice a smile or laugh. If your baby is mobile and crawling, also be prepared for lots of picking up and repositioning to where we want him/her to be.

❖ Before your Session

Prior to your session, start having a think about the type and style of photos that you'd like. I'm happy to accommodate as many different styles and set ups as you want. The main limiting factor will be the baby and how much re-positioning or changing of clothing he/she will tolerate before getting too fed up and grumpy. The questions below will help me to get a good understanding of your likes / dislikes and prepare the appropriate props and accessories ready for your photoshoot.

Session Checklist

Content : Do you simply want photos of your new arrival or would you also like to include some photos of mum/dad/siblings with the baby?

Colour schemes : Are there any particular colours that you'd like to feature in your images and just as importantly are there any colours that we need to avoid?

Props : Are there any specific props that you'd like to include?

Themes : Is there a theme that you'd like to incorporate into some of your shots?
for example : seasonal | sports | fairytale | nursery rhyme

Individual Touches : Do you have any personal items that you'd like to feature in some of the photos?
for example : a special blanket | booties | teddy | an item of jewellery

Style : Do you have a preferred style for your photos?
For example : elegant and artistic black & whites | natural close ups | soft, dreamy pastels

Baby Girls : Do you like frilly, girly set ups with headbands, tutus etc or would you prefer something more plain and natural?

Baby Boys : Do you like the plain, natural look or do you want to make use of hats / costumes?

Essential photos : Are there any 'must have' shots that you'd like to get out of your session?

Take a look at my portfolio page for ideas and inspiration and also feel free to show me examples of anything else you've seen that you'd like to include.

This will all contribute to your ideas list and preparation of your individual session plan.

❖ Making sure that you're photoshoot ready

Once you've decided on the style and type of photos that you want, I'll prepare an outline plan for your session so that you have an idea of what to expect on the day.

Most props will be provided for your use, but if we're using any of your own items, make sure that you have them ready so that they're all close to hand on the day of your session.

❖ On the day of your session

These sessions are always easier with a relaxed, content baby so wherever possible, try to arrange your appointment for a time of day when he/she is likely to be most settled.

- Mobile photography service

If you're having your session at home, make sure that the room is nice and warm in readiness for us to start.

Consider whether we'll be stripping your baby down to a nappy for any of these photos and ensure that the temperature is going to be comfortable enough for them to be undressed.

Keep the rest of the environment as 'normal' as possible to help us to keep baby settled. For example, if you usually have the television on or music playing in the background, leave them as you normally would so that we're not making any big changes to what your baby is used to.

Shortly before I'm due to arrive, try to get baby to take a feed and make sure that he/she has a dry nappy so that we're as ready to go as we can be.

If you have a special outfit for baby to wear, those are the shots that we usually start with, so get baby changed into his/her clothing in time to settle back down before we start.

If we're not using a particular outfit and focussing on 'nappy shots' instead, it's a good idea to strip baby down to a nappy and keep him/her wrapped in a blanket in advance so that we minimise any disruption from changing clothes at the beginning of the session.

- Studio Shoots

If you're travelling to me for your session, I'll make sure that the studio is warm and cosy ready for your arrival.

Dress and wrap baby appropriately for the car journey, but try to stick to outer clothing that will be easy to undo and remove when you arrive so that we create the minimum of upset and disruption.

Depending on how far you have to come, you can either feed and change baby before leaving home or fit that in once you've arrived.

The studio space is very quiet, but I often play some white background noise to assist baby getting settled or if you prefer, you're welcome to bring some background noise or familiar music on your phone / other device to use during the session.

❖ During your Session

These sessions are fairly unpredictable because we simply can't explain to babies what's going on and why we're doing what we are.

Remember, that this is all unfamiliar territory for them and they won't understand why we're picking them up and moving them again when they're comfortable or why they've been placed in an unfamiliar location. It's not unusual for them to become upset or agitated at some point during the session, although it happens less frequently with this age group than with younger babies. Please don't worry – you certainly won't be the only one and if we need to pause for a feed or a change part way through that can easily be accommodated.

We'll have prepared an outline session plan in advance so that we have an idea of what set-ups we'll be working with, but these sessions have to be led by the baby to a certain extent. If he/she is unhappy or uncomfortable with a particular prop or pose, I'll have plenty of alternative ideas that we can use and we can adapt our plan to accommodate your baby's mood on the day.

For this age group, I generally recommend allowing around 2 hours for your photoshoot, but be prepared for it to overrun slightly depending on how cooperative the baby is on the day.

