

KATIE FORSHAW PHOTOGRAPHY

FAMILY SESSION

Preparation guide







HI THERE!

My name is Katie and I am a portrait photographer, working from a studio based in Portishead, Bristol.

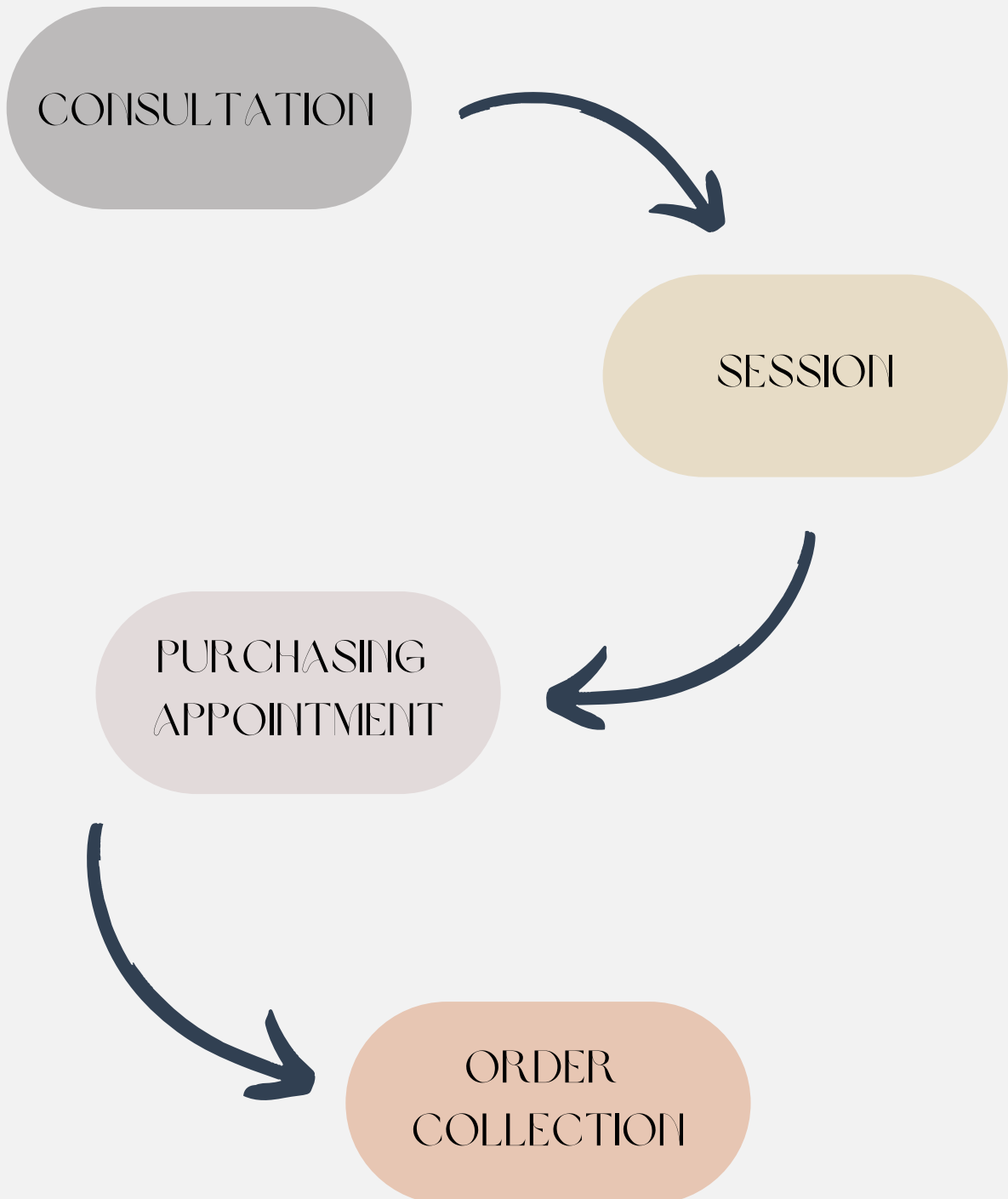
Capturing memories for growing families is what makes my heart sing and I am so excited we get a chance to work together really soon!

I put together this preparation guide to help you feel more at ease before our session and to make sure you have everything in place to enjoy this time to the fullest.

With love, Katie

WHAT TO EXPECT

The process





WHAT TO EXPECT

Whether you booked your session to celebrate a big milestone or a new member of your family, I want you to walk away having the absolute best experience, so we plan as much as we can together.

Through the consultation, I get to know you and your family a bit more, find out what your goal is for the session, what styling you would like, what colours dominate in your home.

I want to know as much about you as I can: what makes you smile, how would you like to be photographed, where you are planning on displaying your images.

I want to know the best way to your children's heart: their favourite song, and what makes them pay attention.

Every bit of information helps me design a session you will absolutely love, with results you will cherish for a lifetime.

Around a week after your session, we will meet again for your purchasing appointment. It's at this meeting that you will pick your favourite images and it's when we decide what to do with them. Whether it's a gorgeous piece of wall art or an album, all orders are placed on the day.




"A GOOD LIFE IS A
COLLECTION OF
HAPPY MEMORIES."



WHAT TO WEAR





Your photoshoot is exactly that - YOUR photoshoot - and I don't for one second want you to be anything but yourself and wear anything that doesn't represent YOU.

I want you to have your hair and make-up in a way that makes you feel like yourself. I want you to wear things that make you feel comfortable and are an extension of what you would wear. Clothes that represent your style.

I also want your images to stand the test of time, so if you are stuck on what to wear, you will find some inspiration on the next few pages.

Alongside outfit examples, I added complimentary colours to help you with your styling.

Pick your palette first. Let this be your starting place. Think in terms of tones: blue tones, copper tones, neutrals, monochromes, etc. Everyone in the family can express their own sense of style within the chosen colour palette, and the whole group will coordinate beautifully and the pallet will work well together. My personal favourite are always combinations built on muted tones.


Patterns tend to steal the focus of the main subject (you!), so if you include them, make sure they are delicate and small.

Add textures to give your images some interest, such as knits, lace, corduroy and even denim.



NEUTRALS





Layering is a great way to add interest to your outfit and variety to your images.

We can have some images with you just wearing your top and trousers / skirt or a dress, and this outfit can be totally transformed in seconds, just by adding a sweater or a jacket.

Add a hat and you have a completely different look!

Another thing that will affect your outfit is your session location. Sun-filled fields in the sunset? Floaty dresses, casual shirts and jeans work great.

City shoot? Cute pair of heels or boots, a sharp coat and a scarf can enhance the look.



COOL NEUTRALS





RUST & COPPERS





GREENS





MONOCHROME





5 TIPS FOR A GREAT *family session*

1. PREPARE YOUR OUTFITS THE DAY BEFORE

I don't want you to stress on the day, so anything that could potentially cause you any stress needs to be dealt with beforehand. Make sure your outfits are ready and ironed the night before. If you are worried about getting anything creased in transit, or children spilling juice all over their new shirt, bring those with you separately. You can always get changed at the studio. We will have plenty of time.

2. MAKE SURE KIDS ARE RESTED AND FED

It goes without saying, but on the day of the session, you may wake up a bit more anxious than usual, because you want everything to go smoothly. In the chaos of the day, you may not have the time for a sit-down meal prior to leaving the house, but please make sure children don't arrive hungry.

If they are anything like me, hungry almost always means angry, and we most definitely do not want to have them angry on the day, if as little as a sandwich would have solved that.

We also don't want them falling asleep in your arms, so please try and have an early night prior to the session day, to make sure everyone is on top form.

3. PREPARE YOUR CHILDREN AND TELL THEM WHAT TO EXPECT

Depending on their age, it may be good to sit down with your children and tell them a bit more about what will happen on the day of their session. If you can bring them to the consultation, it's even better, as they can familiarise themselves with the environment. This will give them a confidence boost on the day, especially if they are shy.

4. BRING AN ACTIVITY / TOYS THAT YOUR CHILDREN ENJOY

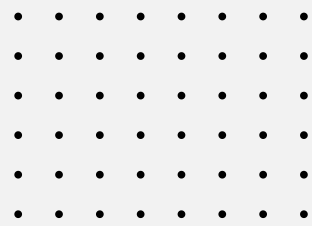
We want your children to feel relaxed and forget about the camera, and toys are great for that. They also direct focus, so if we need your little one to look directly into the camera, I can always place their favourite teddy bear on top of it!

5. ENJOY IT

I know it's easy to say, but this is the time when we will be capturing you and your love as a family. Those will be the memories your children will pull out of the dusty box 20-30 years from now, at a Christmas table. Whatever is on your mind, put it aside for this hour and try as much to enjoy this time.

Maybe your little ones will need more cuddles on the day; maybe they will be boisterous. Maybe they will run around for 20 minutes before they are out of steam. Please don't stress about it. I am here to document it all. This is life happening around us. That's the memories we want to look back at.





FREQUENTLY ASKED *questions*

1. DO YOU OFFER HAIR & MAKE-UP?

Make-up is a very personal thing and I want you to feel as comfortable as you can on the day. The majority of our clients do their own make-up, but should you want to feel a bit more glam, we do offer a make-up artist upon request (subject to availability).



2. CAN I BRING A PET?

Yes! It's not just allowed, but strongly encouraged. They are a part of our family.

3. CAN I BRING AN EXTRA SET OF CLOTHES FOR SOME MORE VARIETY?



Absolutely!

If you get stuck on what to bring and have a few options, you can either bring them with you or send me a photo of what you shortlisted, and we can then decide together what would be the best way forward.

4. HOW LONG DO I NEED TO WAIT BEFORE THE IMAGES ARE READY FOR THE VIEWING?



Usually, I will have your viewing booked for around a week after your session.

5. HOW DO I VIEW THE PHOTOS AFTER THE SESSION?

After your session, we will schedule a date for your viewing at my studio. It's at this appointment that you will choose your favourite images and it's also then that we decide on what to do with them!

If you are looking for a beautiful wall art collection to fill your walls, please measure the space available prior to the appointment.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white ceramic coffee cup. A stream of white milk is being poured from a metal pitcher into the cup, creating a latte art design on the surface of the coffee. The background is blurred, showing a wooden surface and other coffee-making equipment.

6. WHAT TIME DO THE SESSIONS TAKE PLACE?

Most of my family sessions take place in the morning, as that's when babies are usually at their happiest and most rested.

7. WHAT IF MY CHILDREN DON'T BEHAVE?

Whether it's a family session including a newborn, toddler or a baby, we cannot plan for their mood on the day.

Just like adults, they may have a good or a bad day.

If the session doesn't go according to plan, I reserve the right to postpone it to another day. This is at no extra cost to you.



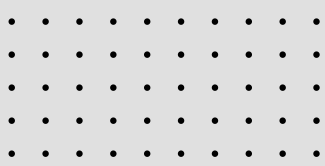
8. HOW MANY MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY CAN JOIN ME DURING THE SESSION?

Due to the size of the studio, we can comfortably accommodate up to 8 adults.









CHECKLIST

- Confirm date, time and check location
- Choose your outfits and have them ready
- Choose a second outfit (if required)
- Get snacks and toys for the kids ready
- Breathe - it's going to be fabulous

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