

# Preparing for Portraits

## Selecting a Portrait Style

Family portraits should reflect your family's personality. This will help determine the background selection for your portrait and the clothes you wear.

### Formal Portraits

This style may be displayed in a more formal room of your home. Dress for this style will be dresses, skirts, or dress slacks for the women, suits and ties for the men. Usually the formal portrait is photographed on a dark background. Best colors include medium to dark brown, medium blue to navy, medium to dark burgundy. Slacks or skirts should be dark (black or brown). It is best to have everyone match on the lower half.



### Casual Portraits

The casual portraits may be displayed in family rooms or great rooms in your home or at the office. Sweaters, blouses, knit shirts (as they do not show wrinkles in the fabric) with khaki or blue jeans work well for the style. Colors include Off white to beige, light khaki to medium khaki light to medium pastels, slacks or skirts should be of lighter or medium color, and it's best to have everyone match on the lower half.



### Clothing Selection

Consider the style of portrait which you prefer and the rooms in which you will be displaying your portraits. Keep clothing simple and coordinate for balance, harmony and color. You may have everyone wear the same color or you may want to wear different tones of the same color. Keep in mind that light colors draw your attention while darker colors tend to minimize.

Texture of clothing may be different as long as the color tones match. Prints and plaids tend to draw attention away from the faces. Long sleeves, slacks, long skirts and solid colors are better than short sleeves, shorts or shirt skirts. Dress for full length including coordinated socks and shoes if desired.



### Glasses

Glasses without lenses are a must! Lenses create glare and distortion if worn for a photograph. Please visit your optical center and borrow a pair of frames without lenses for your session. For a fee glare can be removed from glasses.

The above colors pertain to the outer garments. Women's nylons should be dark for the darker colors and light for the lighter colors. Since women are usually seated, short skirts are not advisable. Ties and scarves add a splash of color. Jewelry should be kept simple. Wide gold and silver necklaces will glare in portrait lighting.