



What to Expect

Thank you so much for choosing Gretchen Kostedt Photography for your portraits! This information should help walk you through what you can expect from your portrait session, but feel free to contact with me if you have any additional questions.

In general, here's a quick rundown of the process:

- We'll choose a location.
- We'll have our session (around 1 hour).
- I'll put a sneak peek on Facebook (facebook.com/gretchenkostedtphotography) within 1 week. Most often sooner than that because I am so excited about your session pictures. Make sure you like my Facebook page so that you can see your sneak peek!
- Within 2-4 weeks, I will email you a link to your private gallery of images.
- Once your gallery is active, you will be able to order prints of your images directly from my professional printer.
- Your USB drive of images will be delivered or mailed out to you within 4 weeks of your session date.

CHOOSING THE LOCATION

Your session can pretty much take place anywhere, as long as it's safe for everyone involved. Tell me about the feel you want your images to have and we can work together to find the perfect location. I'm always open to trying new places and I love getting new suggestions to check out if you have one. Don't forget your home. It doesn't have to look like a Pottery Barn catalog to be session-worthy.

WHAT'S THE SESSION LIKE?

My sessions are a mixture of posed and candid shots in order to capture you and your family as you are right now. I want everyone to walk from the session happy and having enjoyed the experience so potty breaks, snack breaks, clothing changes, or just time to settle down and get used to me and my camera are all allowed and encouraged. My session length is long enough to capture a lot of great images, but not SO long that everyone has had it with getting their picture taken. I want the experience to be fun for all involved! Real smiles and happy memories are my goals.

If we are on location, we will move around from place to place to capture a variety of colors, textures, scenery, and light. We will probably walk around and chat and stop at spots I think would photograph nicely. If you have any specific ideas in mind, please tell me before the session so that I can come prepared.

If we are shooting in your home, I will show up a little early I will want to look around to find the best light. Furniture and/or decorations may need to be moved around, but I will help move



everything back in place before I leave. It is helpful if you tidy up before I arrive, but the house certainly does not need to be spotless.

Feel free to have snacks and water, but try to avoid things that are going to color or get stuck in teeth or stain clothes.

Additional Information about Newborn Sessions

When to schedule your Newborn Session:

The best time to schedule your newborn session is during your pregnancy. I will add your due date to my calendar. After your baby arrives, contact me and we will finalize your session date.

Your Newborn Session:

I love capturing the interaction between family members and their newest addition. This means that you can expect less of the posed baby in a container pictures and more pictures of you and your spouse or baby's siblings holding and snuggling in these sessions. Because of this, I don't have the time restriction of getting the pictures taken during the first several days after birth. I know that you may not feel like you look your best in the early days following birth (I've been there), but believe me when I say that you will be very happy that you were in your newborn's pictures. We'll follow your baby's cues and take breaks, if needed, so that your baby can be fed or changed. I want this session to be as relaxing and stress-free for you as possible.

I'll bring along some blankets, but I love to incorporate some of baby's actual belongings in their pictures (cute hats, special blankets, stuffed animals). These make for the most personal and memorable pictures.

ILLNESS & WEATHER

I try to not reschedule sessions if it can be avoided. If someone is sick, however, I am happy to reschedule and I will always reschedule a newborn session if I am ill. I don't want to pass those germs on to your new baby.

If it's storming and our session is scheduled to be outdoors, I will contact you to set up another time or day for your session. Weather reports can be hit or miss, so unless you hear otherwise from me, our session is still on (some of the best light is on a cloudy day).

What to Wear

My two biggest pieces of advice on planning your clothing for your session are to be yourself and be comfortable in what you are wearing.



COLOR:

I love when there is a color story that weaves throughout the outfits to tie them together (ie. baby in a red onesie, dad with a red tie, mom in red heels). If you're interested in using your photographs in your home you may also consider wearing colors that complement your home décor colors. The key is to coordinate outfits, not match them exactly.

ACCESSORIES:

Accessories add interest and can change your look quickly by adding or removing them (think hats, scarves, belts, jackets, vests, leggings, jewelry, ties, layering shirts). These are also a good way to incorporate some of your personality in your pictures.