



THE
Family
EXPERIENCE

BEAUTIFUL CHAOS: A FAMILY PHOTO SESSION GUIDE



Hello

The socks don't match, someone's sticky, and Grandpa brought a hat that was definitely not discussed in the group WhatsApp... but guess what? That's the good stuff.

Your family photo session isn't about perfection - it's about bottling up the belly laughs, snack-bribed smiles, rogue cuddles, and dance moves that weren't scheduled (but absolutely needed to happen).

This guide is your roadmap to turning what might feel like herding caffeinated cats into a joyful, frame-worthy adventure.

Here's my not-so-secret recipe:

A heap of patience mixed with silliness.

A sprinkle of cheeky prompts (cue: "act like you just saw a ghost with bad shoes").

A splash of documentary-style realness with a side of creative flair.

Whether you arrive in coordinated neutrals or full glitter chaos, I promise to freeze the mayhem, the tenderness, and those blink-and-you'll-miss-it moments into keepsakes worth treasuring.

If your heart skips a beat - or chuckles out loud - while reading this, I'd be honoured to capture the beautiful mess that is your crew.



**Nicci: 062 377 6778
info@pixiesphotography.co.za
www.pixiesphotography.co.za**



Table of Contents

- 4 Welcome to the Chaos - Beautifully Captured
- 5 Best Time for a Shoot
- 6 Photo Session Prep
- 7 Outfit Inspiration
- 10 How to Prep Your Herd (Without Losing Your Mind)
- 11 Pets, Props, and Unexpected Co-Stars
- 12 The Session Experience: What Really Happens
- 13 Package Me Up, Buttercup
- 18 How to make a Booking
- 19 After the Snap: What Comes Next
- 20 How to Rock Your Wall Art Like a Gallery Queen
- 21 Legacy Moments: Turning Photos into Traditions
- 22 Sample Shot List
- 23 FAQs & WTFs (Because Families Be Wild)



The Chaos

BEAUTIFULLY CAPTURED

Chaos is kind of my love language - and when it comes to family photo sessions, I wouldn't have it any other way. If you're arriving with snack crumbs in your hair or someone shouting "I lost my sock!"... you're doing it right. The beauty isn't in perfection - it's in the mayhem, the realness, and the unmistakable rhythm of your crew in full unfiltered glory.

This sets the tone for what I believe family photography should be: a time capsule of candid giggles, squinty-eyed grins, mid-hug squabbles, and the fleeting glimmers of love that often appear between tantrums and tickle fights. I don't chase stiff poses or magazine smiles; I chase honesty. Laughter over symmetry, chaos over curation, and personality over perfection.

Your session is a celebration of the now - the snack-bribed smiles, unexpected dance moves, flyaway curls, and rogue cuddles. It's about capturing not just how you look, but who you are. Because one day, these moments will matter more than matching shoes or flawless hair. And every snap should say: this was real, this was joy, this was us.

So if you arrive flustered and wondering how we'll pull this off... breathe. I've got you. We're about to make magic, one unscripted giggle at a time.

Photo Sessions

APPROXIMATE BEST TIMES FOR LIGHTING



SUMMER

DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

5:30AM - 7:30AM
17:00PM - 19:00PM

AUTUMN

MARCH - MAY

6:30AM - 8:30AM
16:00PM - 18:00PM

WINTER

JUNE - AUGUST

7:00AM - 9:00AM
15:30PM - 17:30PM

SPRING

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

5:30AM - 7:30AM
16:00PM - 18:00PM



Photo Session Prep

Having your picture taken can often be daunting. I understand that getting ready for photo session might seem overwhelming. Below are some tips on selecting outfits and accessories to simplify the process.



Say goodbye to the “matchy-matchy” days of black-and-white outfit déjà vu - we’re stepping into a whole new level of style sorcery. Think layers, texture, and a little colour coordination magic. Enter: the rule of three. Pick two neutral tones (black, white, grey, tan, denim - the stylish staples) and spice things up with one accent colour that pops like pink, green, or blue. You’re not matching - you’re vibing.

Logos and loud prints? Unless you’re channelling your inner rockstar or proudly repping Big Brother, it’s a hard pass. Instead, boost your look with a jacket, vest, scarf, or something that says “I didn’t just roll out of bed looking this amazing - but close.”

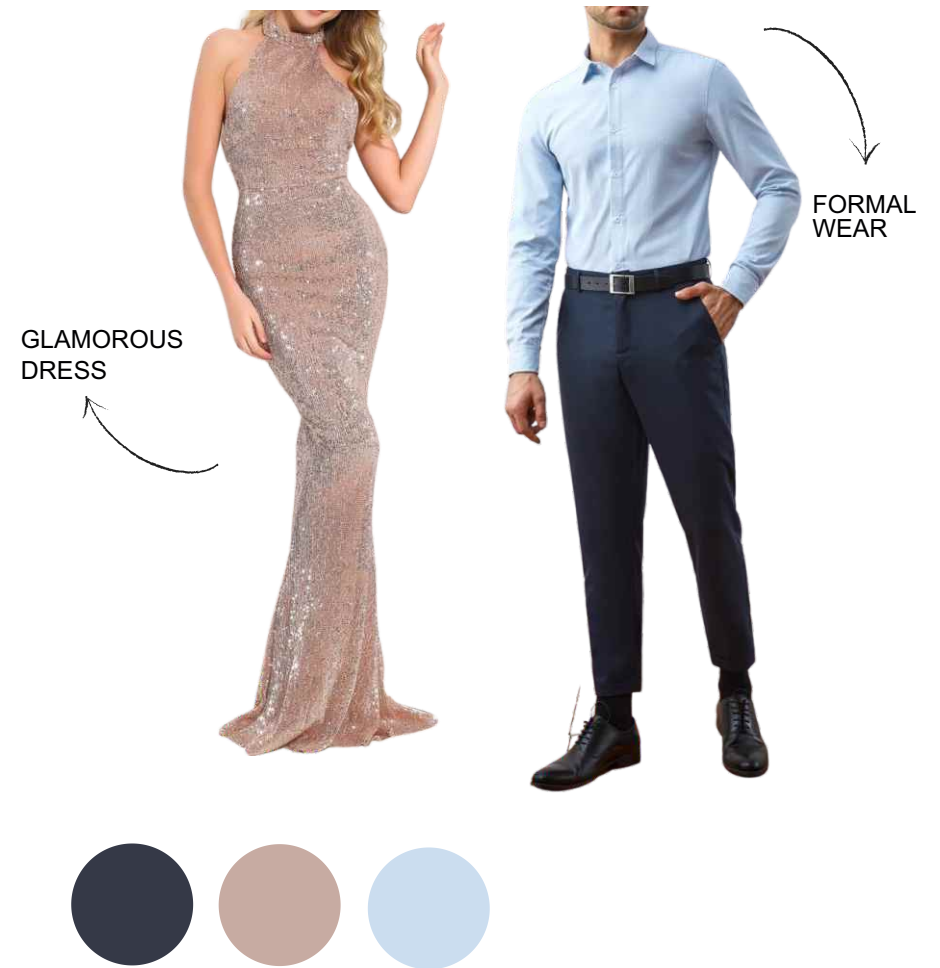
Quick tip: Dress to flatter, not to fret. If you’re not loving your arms, skip the sleeveless - your confidence is your best accessory.

And don’t forget the setting. Urban vibes? Lean into street-chic. Shooting in nature? Let your outfit play nice with the scenery, not wrestle it.

Outfit Inspiration



Outfit Inspiration





HOW TO PREP YOUR



(WITHOUT LOSING YOUR MIND)

A survival guide for families juggling juice boxes and sarcasm.

Toddlers: Masters of Mayhem

Checklist Highlights:

- Soft, comfy outfits (bonus: elastic waistbands = faster potty breaks)
 - Favourite toy or comfort item (aka bribery mascot)
- Non-messy snacks (think rice cakes, not melted chocolate explosions)
- Wipes, backup clothes, and something crinkly to grab their attention
- Scheduled session near nap sweet spot (not right before meltdown o'clock)

Side-note:

If your toddler insists on wearing a tutu with pirate boots - don't fight it. That's personality. That's gold.

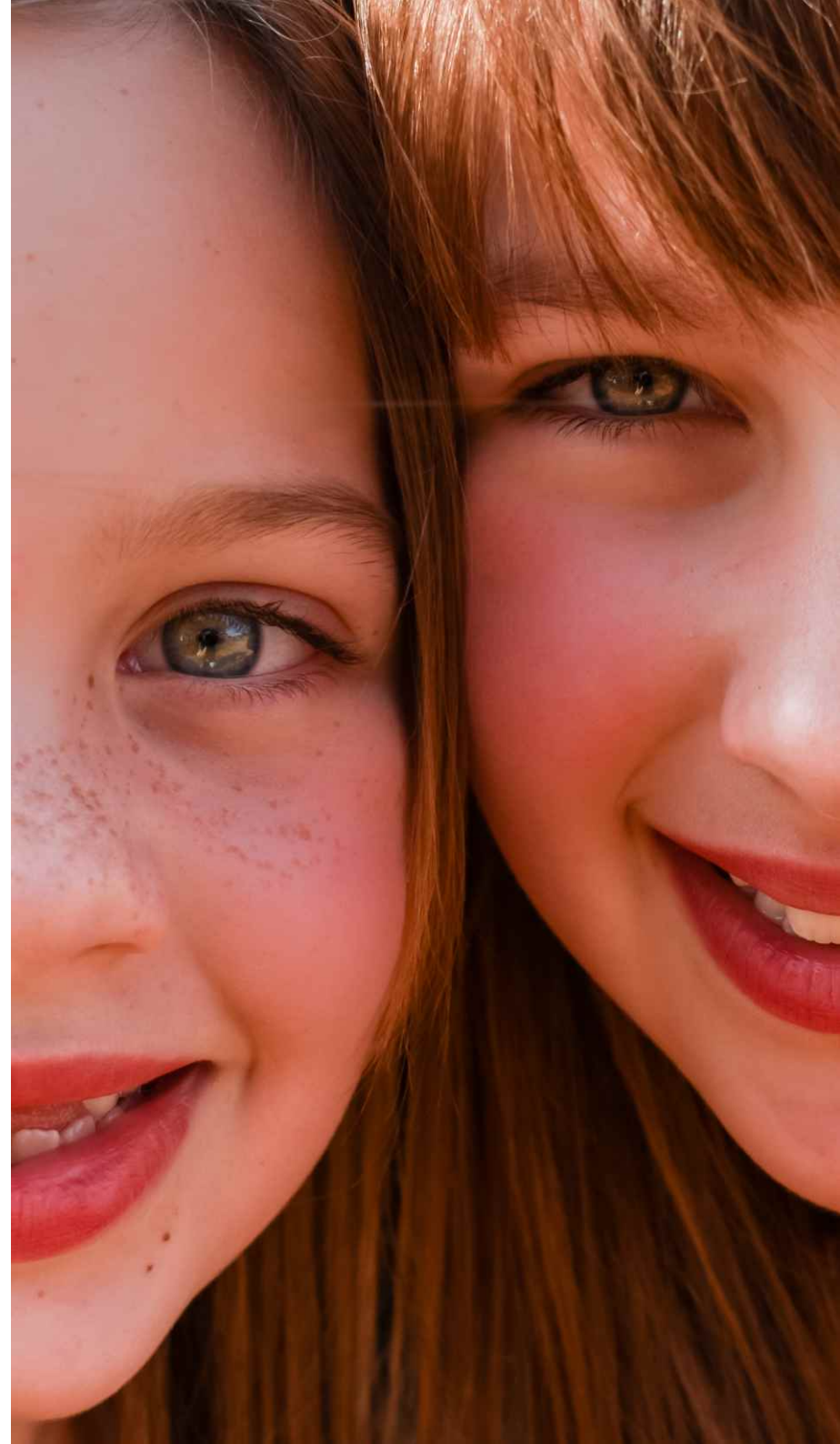
Teens & Adult Kids: Cool, Casual, Occasionally Cooperative

Checklist Highlights:

- Outfit options that balance individuality with group cohesion
- Quick hair fix tools (brush, dry shampoo, parental threats to "just smile for one hour")
- A phone-free zone during the shoot (unless used as a bribe to behave)
- A pre-shoot pep talk: "I promise this won't be embarrassing... unless you make it that way"
- Let them help pick the shoot vibe or location - they'll feel invested

Side-note:

If your older kids say "this is cringe," gently remind them you changed their diapers in public once. Balance is key.





Bonus Round: Pets & Extras

Checklist Highlights:

- Leash, water, treats, and a brush for fur touch-ups
- A designated wrangler (a.k.a. your cousin who owes you a favour)
- Let me know in advance so I bring my “look here!” bark impersonation

Side-note:

Dogs pose better than most humans. Cats, however, are freelance chaos.

General Family Prep Kit

- Snacks (for bribery and morale boosting)
- Baby wipes (for suspicious stickiness and rogue chocolate moustaches)
- Water (hydrated humans = happier humans)
- One favorite toy per child (optional emotional support dinosaur included)
- Emergency lipstick or comb (for parents trying to look “casual but radiant”)
 - Grandparents (bonus: they bribe kids better than you do)
 - Backup outfit (because Murphy’s Law loves toddlers)
- A sense of humour (essential, cannot be packed but must be worn)
- Extra patience (can’t be packed but must be summoned)

Side-note:

Matching outfits are optional. Matching energy? Not likely. But we’ll make it work.





THE SESSION EXPERIENCE: WHAT

Really

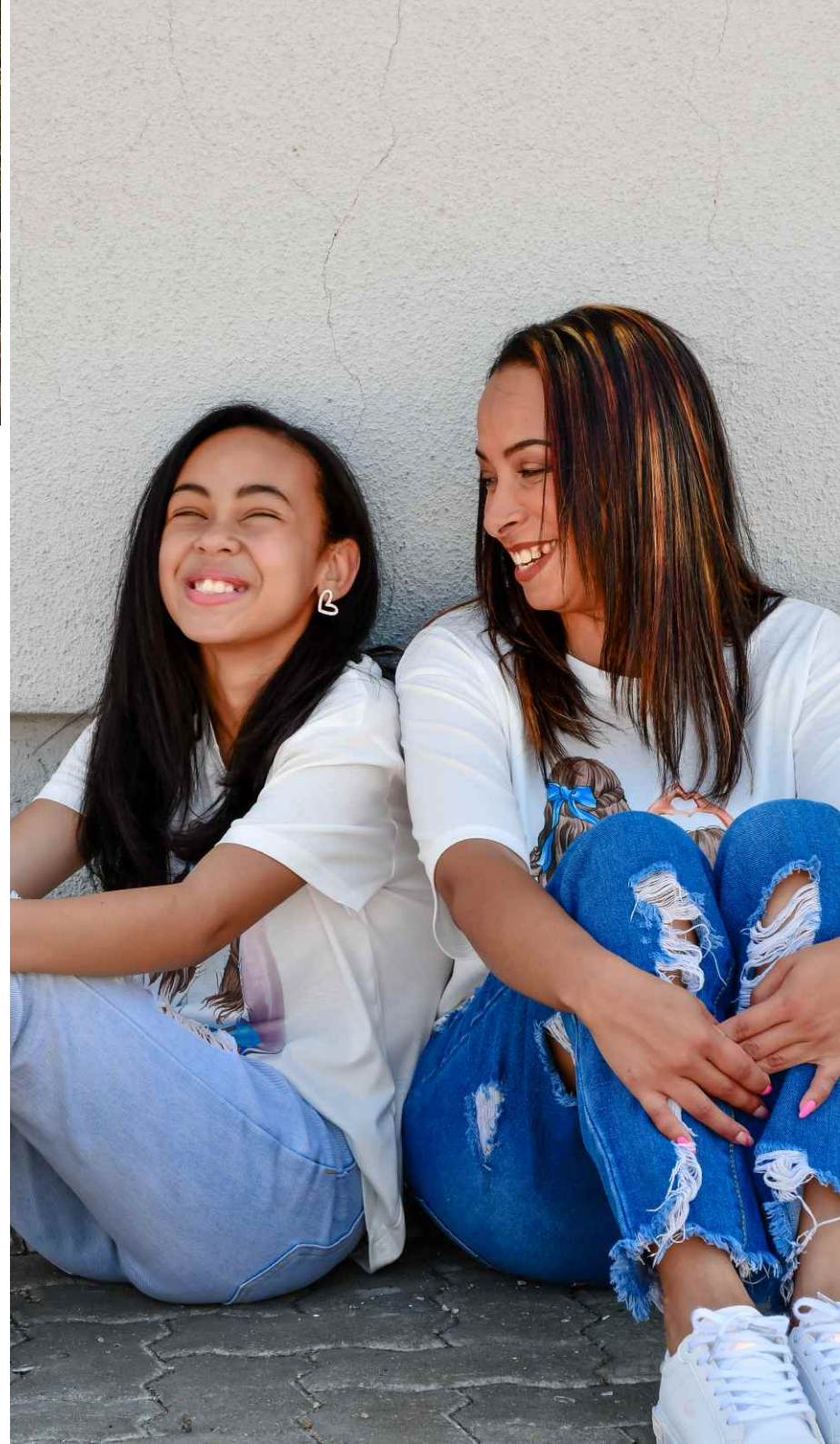
HAPPENS

So you've survived the outfit debates and wrestled a toddler into semi-clean shoes - now what? Your photo session kicks off the moment you arrive, coffee-fuelled and slightly frazzled. We ease into it with warm-up shots designed to break the ice (and loosen any clenched jaws). Think: walking, giggling, sneaky cuddles - no forced poses or awkward hand placement here.

I guide you gently through the flow: playful prompts, candid moments, and cheeky side comments to get natural reactions. Expect laughter, wiggles, and maybe a spontaneous dance-off (yes, that's a thing). Sessions unfold like a story - your story - with a rhythm that adapts to your family's vibe.

My signature style mixes documentary realness with a splash of art: unfiltered emotion meets curated chaos. Rituals? I've got a few. Like the "Reverse Simon Says" game to get giggles, or the moment where I ask everyone to pretend they're freezing in a windstorm - trust me, it works.

We wrap up just before the toddler revolt begins, with everyone having forgotten it was a "photo shoot" at all. What's left? The kind of images that make your heart swell and your hallway walls jealous.



30 MINUTE Packages

Option 1

Photo Only

30 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
30 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
-
Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R600

Option 2

Photo & Preview Video

30 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
30 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
+
2-3 minute Preview video
-
Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R1600

Option 3

Full Package

30 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
30 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
+
2-3 minute Preview video
+
10 x Jumbo Prints (10cm*15cm)
+
1x 40cm*60cm Canvas Print
-
Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R2100

THE 30 MINUTE PACKAGES ARE LIMITED TO WITHIN A 10KM RADIUS FROM MY LOCATION

45 MINUTE Packages

Option 1

Photo Only

45 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
45 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
-
Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R750

Option 2

Photo & Preview Video

45 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
45 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
+
2-3 minute Preview video
-
Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R1750

Option 3

Full Package

45 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
45 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
+
2-3 minute Preview video
+
10 x Jumbo Prints (10cm*15cm)
+
1x 40cm*60cm Canvas Print
-
Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R2250

60 MINUTE Packages

Option 1

Photo Only

60 Minutes coverage

+

1 Photographer

+

Unlimited people can
take part in the session

+

60 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive

-

Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R1200

Option 2

Photo & Preview Video

60 Minutes coverage

+

1 Photographer

+

Unlimited people can
take part in the session

+

60 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive

+

2-3 minute Preview video

-

Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R2200

Option 3

Full Package

60 Minutes coverage

+

1 Photographer

+

Unlimited people can
take part in the session

+

60 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive

+

2-3 minute Preview video

+

10 x Jumbo Prints (10cm*15cm)

+

1x 40cm*60cm Canvas Print

-

Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R2700

90 MINUTE

Packages

Option 1

Photo Only

90 Minutes coverage

+

1 Photographer

+

Unlimited people can
take part in the session

+

90 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive

-

Travelling fees not included

Location fees not included

R1800

Option 2

Photo & Preview Video

90 Minutes coverage

+

1 Photographer

+

Unlimited people can
take part in the session

+

90 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive

+

2-3 minute Preview video

-

Travelling fees not included

Location fees not included

R2800

Option 3

Full Package

90 Minutes coverage

+

1 Photographer

+

Unlimited people can
take part in the session

+

90 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive

+

2-3 minute Preview video

+

10 x Jumbo Prints (10cm*15cm)

+

1x 40cm*60cm Canvas Print

-

Travelling fees not included

Location fees not included

R3300

120 MINUTE Packages

Option 1

Photo Only

120 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
150 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
-

Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R2400

Option 2

Photo & Preview Video

120 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
150 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
+

2-3 minute Preview video
-
Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R3400

Option 3

Full Package

120 Minutes coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Unlimited people can
take part in the session
+
150 Digital High
Resolution Images
via Google Drive
+
2-3 minute Preview video
+
10 x Jumbo Prints (10cm*15cm)
+
1x 40cm*60cm Canvas Print
-

Travelling fees not included
Location fees not included

R3900

HOW TO MAKE A *Booking*



Get in touch with me to check if I have availability for your date.

Decide which package is best suited for you from our packages.

Decide on a location for your family shoot. You can have a look on my site for some ideas.



Pay your 50% non-refundable retainer fee.
Make arrangements for the balance.

Your session is booked!
Start planning your wardrobe, props, etc for your family session.

Shoot Day!
We all show up on time with our game faces on. You dance, you laugh, you cry happy tears, and we create incredible photos.



After your shoot I upload all your unedited images to an online gallery so that you can choose your favourite photos.

I edit your chosen photos - This takes 10-14 days from when I receive your list of favourites.

Your digital photos will be ready for collection and you can order your printing.



AFTER THE

Snap

WHAT COMES NEXT

So the camera's had its moment, the snacks are demolished, and at least one family member asked if we got "anything usable" - spoiler alert: we did, and then some.

After the shoot, I dive into curation mode to sift through the gold - no duplicates, no blinking mishaps (unless they're hilarious enough to keep). Within a few days, you'll get a sneak peek to tide you over while I finish polishing the full gallery. The final delivery lands in your inbox within 2-3 weeks, depending on the package and your family's level of glorious chaos.

Social media etiquette? Tag me, rave, celebrate - but please don't slap on filters that make everyone look like wax figurines. I've already taken care of the magic. Speaking of retouching - my rule is simple: freckles stay, food crumbs go. I'll remove distractions and enhance the light, but I won't erase personality. Your family deserves to look like themselves - just in their best light (and without the ketchup blob on Auntie's blouse).

Behind the scenes, I'm treating every image like a little legacy in the making. And when you finally scroll through your gallery? I want your jaw to drop, your heart to swell, and your finger to hover over "Order Print" without hesitation.



HOW TO ROCK YOUR

Wall Art

LIKE A GALLERY QUEEN

Because your walls deserve more than forgotten school drawings and dusty clocks.

You've got the photos, the feels, and the fabulous family moments - now it's time to let them reign over your walls like the royalty they are. Choosing frames? Go for timeless over trendy. Mix finishes if you're feeling bold, or keep things clean with matching tones that let the photos shine. Matting adds sophistication; floating frames add drama. If in doubt, I'm your frame whisperer.

Placement magic is real. Staircases are for storytelling. Hallways? A parade of pride. Living rooms? The showstopper zone. Think eye-level for impact and create intentional groupings (even if it's just Grandma + snacks). Grid layouts, salon-style clusters, or lone hero pieces all have their moment.

LEGACY MOMENTS: TURNING

Photos

INTO TRADITIONS

Because the moments we treasure today become the stories our children will tell tomorrow.

One of the most powerful things a family can do is show up - not just once - for the photo magic, but again and again. Annual sessions aren't just cute calendar events; they're time-lapse capsules of growth, love, and all the glorious awkward phases in between. Watching your crew shift from gummy grins to graduation gowns turns portraits into personal history.

Start small. Pick a month (or a season that suits your chaos), choose a signature spot, or build a ritual around matching outfits, a family activity, or a cheeky theme - "Beach Bums and Bribery," anyone? Add your own flair: a framed favourite added to the hallway each year, a custom photo book for coffee table bragging rights, or a letter tucked behind a print that says "Here's what made us laugh in 2025."

Prints matter. Not just for décor, but for legacy. Digital files are lovely, but tangible photos are passed around, laughed over, and kept alive. They live in frames, albums, and memory boxes. They survive technology upgrades and outlive forgotten passwords. They're storytelling tools for generations who'll point at a moment and say, "That was Grandma in her glitter era."

So make it a thing. Make it yours. And make sure your walls - and hearts - keep up with the beautiful mess of time.



SAMPLE LIST FOR

Group Shots



- 1. The Whole Crew**
 - Entire extended family group (traditional + candid)
 - One silly version to break the ice
- 2. Generational Legacy Moments**
 - Grandparents with all grandchildren
 - Three-generation portrait (grandparents, parents, children)
 - Grandparents holding hands or sharing a quiet moment
- 3. Sibling Nostalgia**
 - Adult siblings together (smiling + laughing)
 - Siblings with their own kids
- 4. Grandkids Galore**
 - All cousins together (group cuddle, silly face, walk-and-chat)
 - Individual portraits of each grandchild
- 5. The Matriarch & Patriarch**
 - Solo portraits of Grandma and Grandpa
 - Romantic moment between grandparents (hand on shoulder, shared laugh)
- 6. Nuclear Clusters**
 - Each individual family unit separately
 - Parents with kids
 - Couple portraits for each set of parents
- 7. Heartfelt Pairings**
 - Grandchild with favourite aunt/uncle
 - Cousins in age-based buddy shots
 - Oldest and youngest family members together
- 8. Candid Connections**
 - Walking in pairs or groups (capturing natural interactions)
 - Children playing while adults observe
 - Grandparents watching their legacy in action
- 9. Details That Tell a Story**
 - Hands intertwined across generations
 - Shoes lined up from oldest to youngest
 - Shared objects (family quilt, heirloom photo, favourite snacks)
- 10. Farewell Frames**
 - Everyone waving, blowing kisses, or walking away
 - Shadowed silhouettes or backlit final group pose.

FAQs & WTFs (BECAUSE FAMILIES BE WILD)

Q: What if it rains on shoot day?

A: Great question. We dance in it, embrace the drama, or reschedule depending on the puddle situation. Umbrellas = props.

Q: My toddler hates smiling. Is that... a problem?

A: Not at all. Moody toddler pics are the new Vogue. We capture personality, not perfection. Bonus points if they glare with flair.

Q: Can my dog come?

A: Yes - and I'll probably love your dog more than half your family by the end of the shoot. Just bring treats and a leash. And don't let him eat the snacks meant for bribing toddlers.

Q: What should we wear?

A: Wear outfits you can breathe in, that won't spark a family feud, and that won't be outdated by next Tuesday. Stick to tones, skip the neon, and please, no shirts with "I'm With Grumpy" arrows.

Q: What if my child throws a tantrum mid-session?

A: Good. That means we're on schedule. I shoot through it. The meltdown will become art - trust me.

Q: Will you Photoshop my toddler's ketchup-covered face?

A: Yes. Unless the ketchup adds emotional depth. Freckles stay, crumbs go. Random slime smears are negotiable.

Q: Uncle Ben hates photos. Suggestions?

A: Give him a dog. Let him hold a baby. Tell him it's for his Tinder profile. I'll get the shot before he realizes he smiled.

Q: Can we bring props?

A: Absolutely. Favourite toys, a family quilt, bubble machines - yes. Inflatable unicorns? We'll negotiate.

Q: What happens if someone blinks in every photo?

A: Welcome to the reason photographers drink herbal tea. Don't worry - I've got tricks, edits, and backup shots to save the day.

Q: Do you offer refunds if the family self-destructs halfway through?

A: Nope. But I do offer sarcasm, patience, and really good framing that hides tears behind trees.

Q: What if my kid has a snot bubble during the perfect shot?

A: I've got Photoshop and no judgment. Snot disappears. Giggles stay.

Q: Can we eat during the shoot?

A: Technically yes, but maybe save the saucy ribs for after. Snack bribery mid-shoot = approved. Full braai = maybe not.

Q: Can you make me look 10 years younger?

A: I'll light you like a rom-com and pose you like royalty. Real you, just extra sparkle. But I don't do sorcery.

Q: Will you tell us what to do? We're awkward.

A: Yes! I specialize in "awkward-but-stunning." Think fun prompts, movement, and just enough direction to make you forget you're being photographed.

Q: Can we bring matching T-shirts with our family slogan?

A: Sure... but maybe limit it to one shot unless your slogan is poetic. Like "Powered by Snacks."

Q: My teenager might not smile. Should we bribe them?

A: Bribes work. So do promises of early exits and pizza. I'll work the angles; you work the deal.

Q: What if someone needs a bathroom break mid-shoot?

A: It's normal. We pause, regroup, and pretend it was a planned intermission. No one will ever know.

Q: Do you take "serious" photos too?

A: Absolutely. If your family's vibe is calm, elegant, and no tickle fights - I'm here for it. But I reserve the right to crack one dad joke.*

Q: Can we recreate an old family photo?

A: Yes please. Those are my favourite. Just bring the original, the people (or willing substitutes), and possibly wigs.

Q: Where do you live and how far will you travel?

A: I'm based in sunny Riviera, Pretoria - camera charged and snacks in hand! Shoots within Gauteng include a travel fee of R8 per km (to destination only).

Q: Do you offer video?

A: Absolutely. Whether it's tiny reels of toddler giggles or full-blown family highlight montages, we've got you covered.

Q: Can we get both colour and black & white photos?

A: You bet. Some moments just beg for the moody drama of black & white. You'll get a blend of both - because chaos deserves options.

Q: How long until we receive our photos?

A: Editing takes time (and caffeine). Expect 2 - 3 weeks for your full family session gallery. Beautiful chaos doesn't edit itself overnight.

Q: Will our digital files be watermarked?

A: Nope! You'll receive high-resolution beauties without watermarks. All I ask? Give a little shoutout when you share your favourites - social media credit keeps the photo-love rolling!

Q: Where do we stand on copyright?

A: Great question. You can print and share your images far and wide - from fridge doors to Granny's WhatsApp wallpaper. The copyright stays with me, the artist. Think of it like holding the cake without owning the recipe.

Q: Can we get the raw, unedited files?

A: Still a no - but with a twist! You can purchase unedited JPEGs of the shots you didn't choose for editing. They come as-is (think: backstage passes, no glam added), and are perfect for archives and behind-the-scenes nostalgia.

Q: Do you offer weekday sessions?

A: Absolutely! Tuesday to Thursday shoots are perfect - less scheduling chaos, more golden hour magic. Occasional weekend slots open too, so reach out if your crew needs a Saturday stroll in the sun.

Q: How would you describe your photography style?

A: Think storytelling with stealth mode. I blend into the action, capturing natural moments with a mix of candid joy and beautifully composed shots. Snack negotiations, cuddles, tantrum recoveries - I frame it all with love.

Q: Do you take posed family photos?

A: Of course - and I take them seriously. These are your "everyone together" gems. We'll get a classic portrait (yes, one where everyone looks in the same direction), and follow it up with moments that feel more like your crew in real life.

Q: Can we give you a shot list or must-capture combos?

A: I love a good cheat sheet! Just know that sessions are fluid, and while I aim to capture every wish, the magic often lies in the unexpected. Real life doesn't follow lists - and that's a good thing.

Q: How long have you been in business?

A: Since 2007 - and each session still gives me butterflies. Being trusted to document your family's quirks, milestones, and messy love is something I treasure deeply.

Q: Can you hold a date for us?

A: I wish I could! But dates are only secured with a deposit. First come, first booked - no pinky promises, just real-time scheduling.

Q: Can we pay part of the amount after the shoot?

A: Full payment is due before your session. If your calendar's tight or your wallet's sweating, pop me a message. I'm happy to create a plan that works for both of us.

Q: If we cancel, is our deposit refundable?

A: Deposits are non-refundable, since your date is locked in just for you. I turn away other bookings once we're signed in. Cancellation refunds? 50% of your invoice is non-refundable - life happens, and this protects both of us.

Q: What happens if you get sick or can't make it?

A: I take your session seriously. Like "I'll show up with a snuffle and a smile" serious. But if something truly major happens, I'll make sure a trusted pro with my style steps in. I've got backup plans tucked into every lens pouch.

Q: When should we book?

A: As soon as your date is solid, fire up your inbox! My calendar fills up fast - faster than your toddler downs a lollipop. Early bookings = peace of mind.

Q: Will you stay longer if we're running behind?

A: Absolutely. I'm flexible. Overtime rates apply only with your thumbs-up - no surprise invoices, just open communication.

Q: Can family members take their own photos?

A: Of course! Just during the formal shots, let me lead the charge - too many cameras = distracted eyeballs. After that? Snap away. It's your shoot, your people, your memories.



Nicci: 062 377 6778
info@pixiesphotography.co.za
www.pixiesphotography.co.za