

FCDCC HPI Workshop

November 2015



Posing with Monique!

Individuals, Couples, Kids & Families

General HPI Tips

- These could be the only family portraits they have ever had!
- Keep all communication positive.
- Have tissues available.
- Focus on the entire family first as this will be the printed image.
- Offer “breakdowns” at your set or the next.
- Ask which images/groupings have not been done yet.
- Remember to shoot the name card.
- Shoot wider than you might usually to give room for cropping.
- Keep your area safe, cords should be covered and equipment protected.
- Thank families for coming. Remind them there are snacks available.
- High fives for everyone!

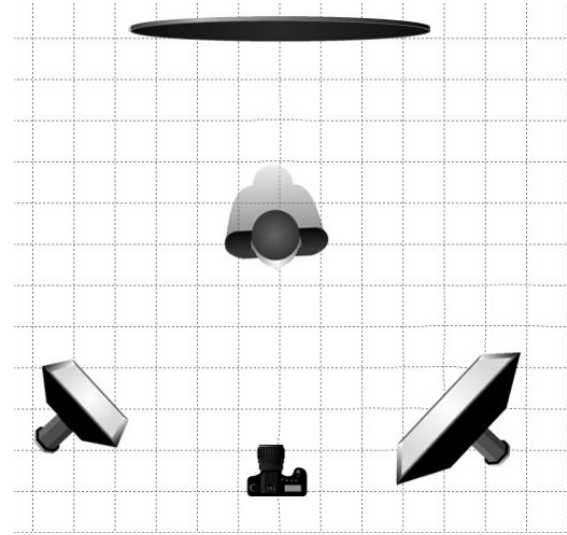


General HPI Tech Tips

- Set your lights to a flat style good for any grouping.
- Set your custom white balance.
- Example: Main light close to camera slightly higher than the subjects (think 45 degree angles). This way their shadow will fall on the floor instead of the background. Position the fill light to the other side of the camera, height little lower. Start at about $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ power of main.
- Avoid cross lighting- having your lights too far apart
- Set camera to match the light settings. Consider using an aperture like f7 to keep everyone in focus.
- Look up the max flash synch of your camera. If in doubt set the shutter to 1/200 or less.
- Lower the lights for sitting on the floor or small children.
- Try to keep the subject several feet from the backdrop.
- Put a sticker on the “sweet spot”.



General HPI Lighting



Nikon D600 w/ 85 mm f1.8 lens
Alien Bee 800 & Alien Bee 400
10x20 background

ISO 320 1/160s @ f6.3



General HPI People Tips

- Stay upbeat and keep talking. Be sure to keep comments positive.
- Crying babies: Hungry? Diaper? Make funny noises. Play peek-a-boo.
- Tough toddler: Play catch. Bounce toys off head. “Where’s your smile?” Have them jump on the sticker or stand on it really hard.
- Shy tweens/teen: Be very encouraging. Let them know you understand it can be uncomfortable but thanks for going along with mom/dad/etc. Tell them are doing great and ask if they have any posing ideas when you are done.
- Flustered Parents: Take them aside and just say, “I have an idea, let me try something, you just watch.” Let them know their children are totally normal.
- Watch clothing, jewelry, hair ties on wrists. Have a family member help.
- Be as goofy or as quiet as you need to be! YOU are the photographer so it’s your job to direct everyone.
- Have fun!



Individual Posing

- Be age appropriate.
- 3 images: Full body, ½, and close-up.
- Full body: Standing, sitting on the floor, sitting on a prop
- ½ body: Crop in on the standing, turn the person 90 degrees, sit on a chair
- Close-Up: try horizontal, eye lash, standard headshot

- Tips:
- Try a non-smiling pose
- Put babies in baskets.
- Standing with thumbs in pockets, arms crossed, or hands on hips.
- Have small children look at the sticker or a flower or throw a ball
- Have people stand/pose at an angle to the camera
- If laying on the floor make sure feet aren't growing out of their head.



Close-Up



$\frac{3}{4}$ Body



Full Body



Groups of 2 or More Tips

- Large groups anchor with oldest family members.
- Triangles.
- Puzzle.
- Not all eyes an the same level.
- Focal plane. “Noses on glass”.
- Heads close together (closer, closer 😊)
- Use a higher aperture with bigger groups.



Couples Posing

- Couples can be shy but will appreciate at least one photo of just the two of them.
- Taking photos of Mom & Dad can break the ice with kids.
- 1 or 2 couples poses is plenty at HPI if they have kids too.



One Parent with Children

- There will be several one parent families at HPI.
- Place the parent in the center and build kid(s) around.



Parent on Chair



On the Floor



Kid on Chair

Kid Standing
On
Chair/
Bench



Just the Kids

- This can be challenging! Have all “helpful” adults standing behind photog.
- If there is an infant keep one parent very close by just out of frame.
- Make it a fun game. Jump around. Sneeze. Peek-a-boo. Hidden toy.
- Praise and encourage all kids especially older kids.
- Only bribe as a last resort and only with parent’s permission.
- Expression trumps composition!
- Take a break if needed.
- Have them try a different photog.





Only have siblings holding a baby with parent permission.



Laying on the floor.



Contain small kids on a chair, wagon, etc.

Baby in a basket with siblings nearby.



Standing back to back. Cross or link arms.



The Whole Family

- Start with this pose.
- Put oldest generation in the center.
- Puzzle the family around the center person/couple.
- Moms generally like to be in the back or behind kids.
- Little kids can stand on boxes or steps.
- Be sure to tell adults to always look at the camera and you will get the little kids attention.
- Angle everyone away from the camera.
- Have everyone lean in close together.



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5



6



7



8



Breakdowns



Breakdowns



Creative Ideas





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