

DESIGNWORKS

Photography

BABY GUIDE



Thank you for choosing Design Works Photography Studio to capture your baby's milestone in portraits! We're so happy you're here and we hope to capture your family's journey for many years to come.

You may be wondering how to prepare for your baby's photosession and what to expect. We hope this guide gets you excited for your session and gives you a glimpse into our world of memory making.

You've survived your first few months - that's no small feat! Every day brings a new milestone that you view through sleep deprived eyes!

This is why we've created this guide so that all of the prep information is in one place, together with some tips and tricks for a great, stress-free and fun session.



Your baby's photosession is a big deal! We want you to walk away having had the absolute best experience, so we plan as much as possible with you before the session. During our consultation we try to find out a bit more about you and your family, what your goal is for this session, how you would like it styled and what colours are most prominent in your home so that your finished artwork will sit within your decor.

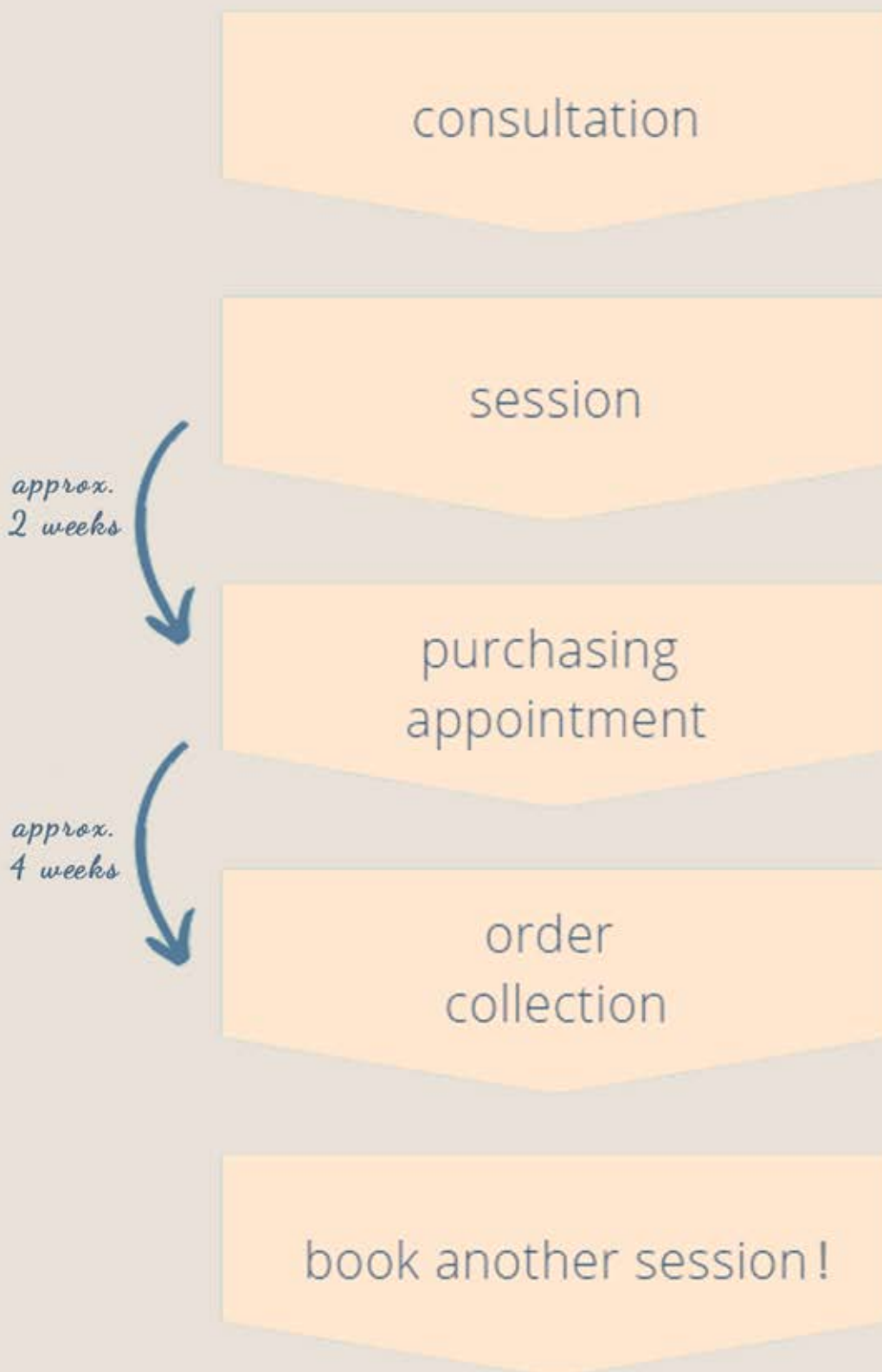
We want to know as much about you as we can, what makes you and your baby smile, how you would like them photographed, where you are planning on displaying your portraits.

There's a lot of planning that goes into a baby session but we assure you it will be worthwhile. The images we create will not only document this moment in time, but they will make you smile for years to come!



What to Expect

The process



If you would like your portraits to be timeless and stay fresh for years to come, here are some tips for styling and clothing for your session:

In terms of outfits, beige/cream/grey/blush colours work really well - think neutrals! For family portraits black can work really well too but the portraits tend to look more formal and therefore will only work with a child who will sit still.

Try to avoid busy patterns or logos on clothing - in particular, cartoon faces on children's tops distract the eye from your child's face in portraits.

If you decide to wear strong colours rather than neutrals, just make sure that everyone is in strong colours to keep balance.



For cakesmash sessions, we do recommend you avoid darker colours - it's likely you will be the recipient of a hug from a cake-covered baby and lighter colours tend to disguise marks better!

Also for sitter and cakesmash sessions we have a selection of outfits you can use for your little one - rompers, tutus, shorts & dickie bows! If you prefer your child to wear your own clothes, just make sure that they fit snugly - clothes that are too big/loose on a baby don't look well in portraits as the baby looks swamped by clothing. If that is the case, please let us know ahead of time what colours you will be bringing and we'll style the session around that.

On the day of your session, we recommend that you dress your baby in loose clothing for travel and fabrics that are easy to take off. Please avoid tight socks and vests to avoid marks on their skin.

Depending on the age of your baby, our photographer will use different poses to capture them and their personality. We'll use a variety of props to complete the styling of your portraits, but simplicity is the overall look we aim for. Your baby is the star of the show after all!

We usually start the session with the family portraits as this helps to settle babies who might feel a little shy with strangers. Once they see you are having fun they'll settle down and we can move on to their individual portraits.

For cakesmash sessions we'll start off with family portraits, move on to individual portraits of baby in their nice outfit, then it's time for them to smash their cake and get messy! We finish off with a lovely warm bubble bath in our vintage rolltop porcelain bath. This is often where their personalities really come to life!

After your session we'll look at the best dates for you to come back to view and order your portraits.



We keep the studio at a cosy temperature so babies are comfortable during their outfit changes. It's also totally normal for babies to want to drink or eat more than usual while in the studio, so make sure you pack an extra bottle, drinks and snacks - being cute is hard work! You may be surprised how much a little human can get through in a warm studio.

Speaking of bottles, if your baby is happy with their formula, try to avoid changing it in the two days prior to your session in case it upsets their little tummy, making them uncomfortable and grumpy on the day!!

To make sure your little one is rested, full of energy and happy to pose, make sure they have a good nap before they arrive - this will make it easier for them to settle right from the start of their session. Try to schedule your session to avoid their naptime or the hour before naptime! It truly makes all the difference on the day! If you arrive for your session and your baby is still asleep in the car, message us as often we would prefer to have a short delay before your session and have a well rested and happy baby!!



Siblings

Whether it's a milestone or sitter session or even your baby's cakesmash session, why not make it a family affair! We welcome siblings of all ages. It may seem like a lot to wrangle several small children but you will not regret it - we'll capture portraits of all of your children together and of the whole family as well as lots of photos of the baby by themselves.

Everyone is welcome to stay for the duration of the session but if you think younger children will become restless, overwhelmed or even bored, another family member can bring them for the first 20 minutes and then take them for a treat while we concentrate on your little star!



Birthday Celebrations

Your baby's first birthday is a big milestone for them and a time for celebration. You can choose from a gorgeous styled portrait session or a messy Cakesmash & Splash session for your little one. If you choose the Cakesmash & Splash, we recommend that you decorate your cake in pale/pastel colours as these work best in photos. Avoid chocolate icing and red food colouring! Keep the icing/frosting light and soft so that it's easy for baby to mess up! If your baby isn't used to messy play, maybe introduce them to it in the weeks prior to your session so they don't get upset by the mess.

For the Splash part of the session in our gorgeous white porcelain rolltop bath, we use Child's Farm bubbles as it's kind to baby skin. However if you prefer to bring your own lotions or have a bubble free bath that's absolutely fine.

We often use balloons in the styling for first birthday sessions - if your baby doesn't like balloons please let us know beforehand.



Family Heirlooms

Are there any items that are close to your heart that you would like to bring to the session? Teddy bears that belonged to you, your parents or even your grandparents? A scarf that symbolises someone in the family, a veil that reminds you of the happiest day of your life? Maybe you have a passion or a hobby that means a lot to you and you would like to include one or two images depicting this in some way? Or maybe there's an item you used at your newborn session that you'd like to include for continuity in the images. If it's something big or something small, if it's important to you we'd love to include it in any of your milestone sessions. It's all a part of your family's story that we want to capture on the day!



4 Tips for a Great Session!

Prepare your outfits the day before

We don't want you to rush 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 will have time to get changed at the studio.

Make sure the siblings are rested and fed

On the day of your 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 time for a sit-down meal prior to leaving the house. For most children, hungry means grumpy! And we most definitely don't want them grumpy for your session. If you are strapped for time, bring some snacks with you for all of the children.



Bring an activity/toys 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, we can place their favourite teddy or toy on top of it! If there is any music/song that your baby enjoys, let us know beforehand so we can have it set up for them during the session to encourage smiles.

Enjoy it!

This is an opportunity to capture your unique bond as a family. The love and joy of this moment in time. These will be the memories your children will pull out of a dusty box 20-30 years from now. Whatever is on your mind, put it aside for this hour and try as much as you can to enjoy this time.

Maybe your little one will need more cuddles on the day, maybe they will be boisterous. Maybe they will crawl around for 20 minutes before they are out of steam! Please don't stress about it, we are here to document it all and we are well used to the chaos and unpredictability of children! Believe me, we've seen it all! This is life happening around us. Those are the memories you will want to look back on many years from now.



Frequently asked questions

How much time do I need on the day?

Most sessions take about 45 mins, depending on your baby's mood on the day! We can cover quite a lot in that time and most babies lose interest after that long anyway.

Can me, my partner and my parents join in?

Absolutely! It's a family affair. Parents, siblings and even grandparents are welcome to join in!

When do we pick the wall art?

All orders are finalised at your viewing and ordering appointment. Your products will usually be ready for collection around 4 weeks after your payment. Digital files can be transferred to you on the same day as payment is received. To create a beautiful display of your portraits on your walls, please measure the space you are considering before your appointment.

How long do I have to wait before the images are ready for the viewing?

We will book your viewing and ordering appointment at your session - usually for around two weeks later.

Your baby's portrait session lasts approx 45 minutes and the fee is €50. Then you just purchase whichever products or package you would like.

Individual portraits start at €95 for an 8in unframed print or €150 for an 8in framed portrait.

Individual digital files (high resolution) are €150.

Artpanels (Frame or Artblock)

12"	€495
16"	€550
20"	€675
24"	€800
30"	€1,050
36"	€1,350
40"	€1,500
48"	€1,600



Unframed Prints

8"	€95
10"	€145
12"	€165
16"	€185
20"	€225
24"	€275

Storyboards (Frame or Artblock)

30"X12"	3pic 8"	€675
32"x14"	3pic 10"	€775
44"x19"	5 pic	€1,200
24"x12"	4pic pano	€650
30"x15"	4pic pano	€950
40"x20"	4pic pano	€1,100
48"x24"	4pic pano	€1,300



* Gift Prints are available to add to any package for just €30 (7" or 8") or €40 (10")

Packages

Doodlebug

€695 (save €220)

10 high resolution printable files

PLUS

one 16in printed portrait *(ready for you to frame)*

PLUS

2 gift prints



Sweetie Pie

€850 (save €345)

Full gallery of your portraits as printable files
& one 20in printed portrait plus 4 gift prints

(printed portraits are ready for you to frame)



Lullaby

€995 (save €595)

Full gallery of your portraits as printable files
plus

Your choice of 3-Image Storyboard
or 9-image Artpanel



plus 4 gift prints



The Moon & Stars

€1,600 (save €810)

Handcrafted velvet or linen covered Folio Box with
ten matted 10" portraits

16" Artblock of your favourite portrait

20 Photo Thank You or Birth Announcement Cards

PLUS the full gallery of printable digital files



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