



newborn
portrait
guide



a bit about us

Capturing New Life

At DesignWorks Photography, we truly believe there is not a moment more magical than when one becomes a parent. It is an honour to be a part of capturing this amazing process and documenting one of the most special times in life. Your baby will only be this small for such a short moment in time, it's so easy to forget those tiny toes or how, for one brief moment, they fitted in your hands. Our job in photographing these wonderful little people goes far beyond just snapping a few shots of your new family member; we aim to capture a unique moment in time and the emotions along with it. The photos from your session will become a family treasure to be enjoyed again and again.

DADDY ACOE

Our newborn sessions are always photographed by our studio owner, Denise. Often called 'the real baby whisperer' by parents, her love of babies is obvious and when we moved studio during 2019, her priority was to have a dedicated newborn room at the new studio. The Baby Room was the first room to be kitted out and now proudly displays her ever growing collection of newborn props along with the beautiful tiny little hats and outfits she crochets for these photoshoots, and the gorgeous little flower headbands she makes for babies. Denise loves styling newborn shoots with an emphasis on simplicity so that your baby is the main focus of every image.



the benefits of hiring a professional photographer

Dad, your sister, and even Auntie Mary all have a 'good camera'. Why not just have one of them take your newborn's first photographs? While it's ultimately up to you to decide how you'd like your baby's first few weeks of life documented, we believe hiring an experienced professional is the ideal way to get wonderful results.

HIRING AN EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL IS THE IDEAL AND SAFE WAY TO GET THE RESULTS YOU WANT

Our job goes far beyond snapping the shutter. Photography is both a science and an art; one that requires experience and technical know-how to achieve amazing results. At DesignWorks Photography, we work one-on-one with each client to deliver images to suit your personal tastes. We offer a choice of styling options, heirloom quality products, image retouching, and years of training and experience in safely posing newborns to bring clients amazing and consistent results. Additionally, we have available a large selection of props and outfits you may choose from, and are willing to literally sweat for hours to get baby happy in a heated room!

planning for photo success

Booking & Planning

As soon as baby comes, it's non-stop late nights and hard work for Mom and Dad. Co-ordinating a photo session seems like the last thing on your list of priorities in those first few days. This is why we recommend getting in touch several weeks before your due-date to book a provisional date for your session. This is important, as we only photograph one newborn per day.

That said, we understand that we are very much on baby's schedule, so don't worry - once your little bundle of joy arrives, please contact us to let us know the news. We will work closely with you to find a day and time that works for everyone. During the current situation, we are only photographing newborns at 14 days and older.

It costs just €50 for your portrait session and then you come back about 2 weeks later to see your photos and just buy whatever you love, with no obligation to buy anything at all. We have amazing packages with products ranging from multi-image wall portraits to fine art canvas, coffee table books and the very popular printable digital files.

Before The Session

With a new baby - everything is new! It takes time to get into a rhythm with your little angel, and predicting when naptime will happen is generally difficult. The most important thing is DON'T STRESS!

Babies are very sensitive and will pick up on it, so please don't worry about baby 'performing' or 'being good'. They're all good! Just try to time the session so you can feed baby right after you arrive to the studio. We'll take it from there.

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During The Session

The golden rule of newborn photography: babies are unpredictable! At just a few days old, a regular feeding and schedule is out of the question. We understand this, and as a result our newborn sessions typically last for 2-3 hours. Although we have our bag of tricks to make the process efficient and fun for everyone, it really all comes down to how baby's feeling.

We encourage the whole family to join in baby's portrait session and we welcome parents, grandparents and siblings. We do recommend that people other than Mom and Dad all come together for a short time only either at the beginning or the end of the session. Often a grandparent will bring the other kids along for 20 minutes and then take them out for a treat so we can concentrate on baby. This is especially important during the current pandemic as we try to minimise the time spent around other people.

Newborns are best photographed as young as possible but over 14 days at the moment



Newborn sessions can take 2-3 hours and the room gets very warm - wear layers!

Plan to feed baby when you arrive to the studio (or shortly before if you live close by)



Family and siblings are asked to only be present for a short while at the start or end of the session

Don't stress!

Your portraits will be amazing!

what to bring to your shoot

Firstly, don't worry about bringing lots of outfits or anything in particular – we have lots of adorable hats, tiny floral headbands, pretty wraps, nappy covers, baskets, teensy tiny teddies etc. We have ALL OF THE THINGS! That said, your baby will mostly be photographed wearing very little, just a nappy-cover or wrap, so we can see all of the gorgeous, tiny baby-squish!

Most baby clothes tend to be FAR too big for newborns and will swamp your baby in their photos, so try and keep clothing to a minimum. Please do NOT feel you have to bring anything at all, your baby is gorgeous enough on his or her own, and we have plenty of cute accessories to create the images you see on our website.

That said, if you feel so inclined, we absolutely welcome one or two personal items to make your portraits much more special to your family, such as:

- First Teddy
- Family heirlooms (blankets, etc)
- Hobby items such as musical instruments or sports memorabilia

Otherwise just bring yourself and baby, with lots of nappies and milk!



THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO BRING TO YOUR SESSION (APART FROM BABY!) ARE EXTRA MILK, NAPPIES AND LOTS OF PATIENCE! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING ELSE.

Whether you are breastfeeding or bottle-feeding, a photo-session represents a very new kind of day in your baby's life. Baby is used to sleeping a lot until now AND being left alone when asleep. No matter how considerate your photographer is, being handled and posed for photos is hard work for a tiny baby!

No matter how you are feeding baby, they will probably feed more on the day. This is because they are being handled and stimulated MUCH more than they ever would otherwise. Remember, newborn babies only have 2 modes: asleep or awake and feeding. So if baby is awake, he or she needs either feeding or some other kind of comfort. So please, either prepare for extra feeding or bring along extra bottles for the little one. No matter what your plan is – newborn babies will laugh (or cry!) at your schedule! Even if you are not using a soother for your baby, bringing one along for use can make your session go so much more smoothly!

Some popular poses that you see on the website, can only be achieved when baby is deeply asleep. This is for baby's safety, therefore not all poses will be possible unless baby is deeply asleep. We are very much guided by baby. This is another reason as to why newborn sessions take so long!



dress for success!

A few tips to make sure you're picture perfect!

For family portraits pick which look you like - dark and dramatic (like on the previous page) or bright and airy (overleaf) - and choose to have everyone in either black or very dark colours with long sleeves, OR brighter tones with everyone in the same colour family eg. creams and beiges or greys and blues, and have everyone wear something from that colour palette.

This gives you two very different looks, so try not to mix and match!

The most important thing is to have everyone in similar STRENGTHS of colour. By that we mean if most of your family is in pastels, don't have one person in a strong colour such as navy or red as they will dominate the photos. If someone is in strong colours, other people in the family also need to wear strong colours to balance it out.

Try not to dress babies in the exact same colour as his/her parents as they will disappear when held!

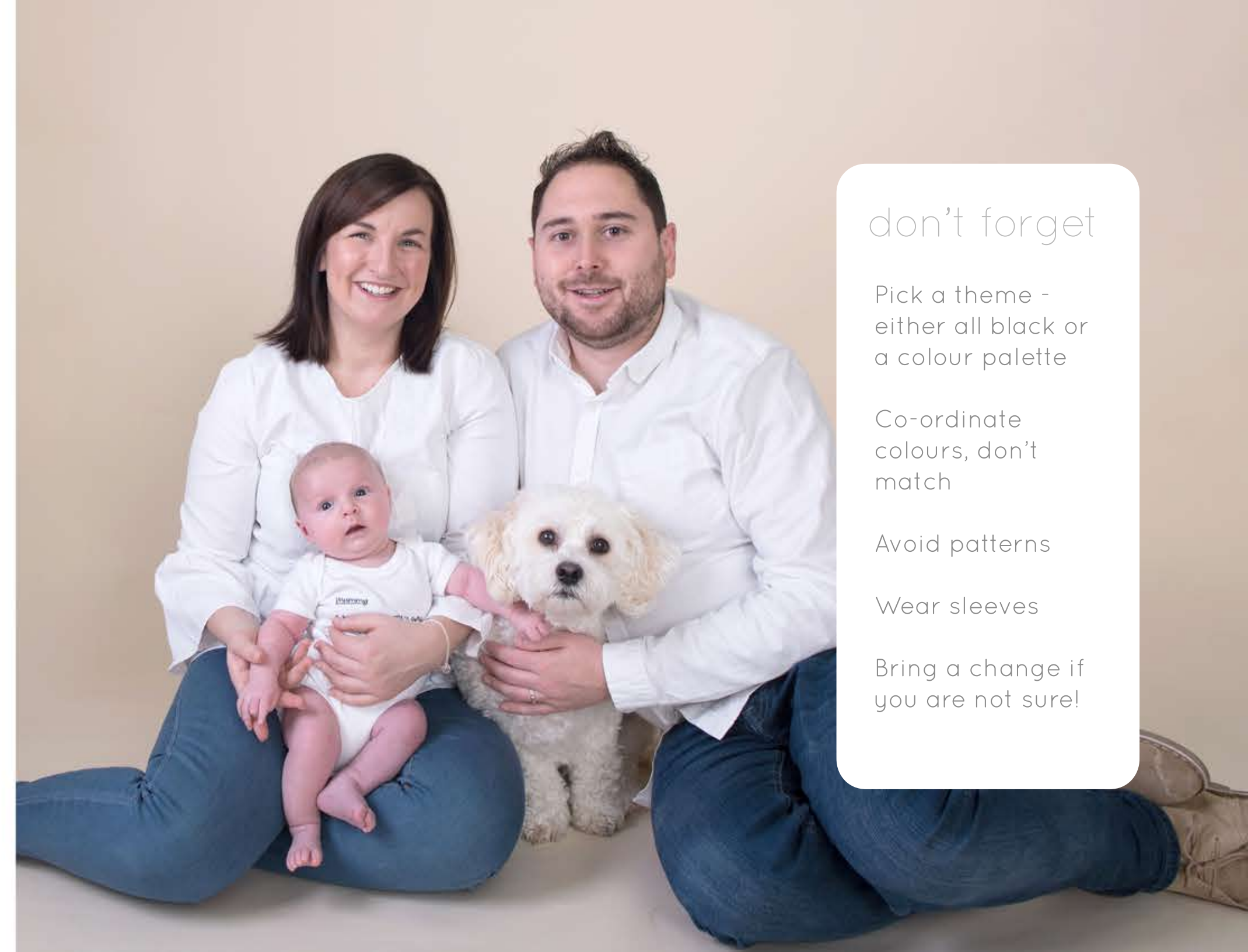
Solid colours photograph better than busy patterns - a small amount of pattern is fine to add interest but try to avoid high contrast patterns such as white with a strong colour. Kids' t-shirts can often have faces or logos on them which can be very distracting, try to avoid.

Don't be afraid to bring along accessories as they can be a great way of introducing a colour theme to your outfit. Also, if you are not sure about what to wear, bring along a change just in case.

We find that most women prefer themselves in photos with some kind of sleeve and men generally look better if their t-shirts have a collar.

Wear your normal everyday makeup, but pop on some extra mascara! Long hair tends to be most flattering worn down.

Wear what you are comfortable in and make sure you can move easily!



don't forget

Pick a theme - either all black or a colour palette

Co-ordinate colours, don't match

Avoid patterns

Wear sleeves

Bring a change if you are not sure!

our fine art collections

All of our collections are carefully curated, mixing the most popular items that parents love with great savings! You can of course purchase from our à la carte menu and build your own package, but take a look at these. There are upgrade options for many products, for example if you would prefer a larger frame, and you can always add additional items at our great add-on prices.



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20"x16" lustre printed portrait of your choice, ready to frame.

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16"x12" lustre print of your choice, ready to frame.

Ten portraits as high resolution printable files ready to download and print.





get in
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