

quaint+whim



GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH |
7 ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR YOUR NEXT LIFESTYLE PHOTOSHOOT

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

tahjah harmony



Hiya, my name is TahJah Harmony, and I am the whimsical creative behind Quaint+Whim. I'm a lifestyle photographer specializing in documenting those sweet moments of motherhood. I strive to make family photos fun, stress-free, and relaxing. All while giving you powerful portraits of you and your family together. After a session with me you will see your family in a way like never before.

I studied digital art, printmaking, physical theatre, and even computer science in college. I'm a huge dork and equally left+right brained. I love to volunteer at different schools and non-profits to help teach kids how to stay creative. I also run the "Quaint Heart Project" where I photograph a family that has a child with disabilities that are far too busy with doctor appointments to schedule family photos.

If I wasn't a photographer I would wish to be a violin-soloist (I've been playing since I was 8!). I'm an avid reader and love to learn. I live for intimate conversations and really cheesy puns. I like to give myself little awards for accomplishing tasks, which usually consists of getting coffee and quiet time at my favorite café.

FUN FACTS

- +Bell from Beauty and the Beast was my childhood hero
- +My favorite gift is my Pistachio Green Kitchen-Aid Mixer
- +I love dance! If I could see a ballet every day I would
- +I'm a HUGE tech-nerd I've always studied both Art+Computer Science (Graduated with a BFA and a minor in CS)
- +My first job out of college was working in the video game industry
- +I strongly believe anything can get accomplished with a little grace+gusto
- +I LOVE Anthropologie
- +I have a guilty pleasure with comic book movies+TV shows
- +I have two younger brothers one I am 2 years older than and one I am 19 years older than!
- +My mom taught me calligraphy, her dad taught her, handwriting is very important to me and my family
- +I absolutely love animated films, because I believe they tell the most compelling stories
- +My Myers-Briggs personality is INFJ, and it couldn't be any more true
- +I love to learn the traditional/analog process to photography and illustration

HOW TO GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH I

7 ESSENTIAL TIPS TO GET THE MOST OF OUR YOUR NEXT LIFESTYLE PHOTOSHOOT

The investment of time, energy, and money can really deter you from planning your next family session. However, family photos can really be stress-free, relaxing, and fun! Especially when choosing lifestyle photography. As a lifestyle photographer I focus on minimum posing in order to capture your authentic family. I like to think of sessions as scenes to set your family up for interaction instead of poses. This is great for little personalities to come out, and so many husbands make note that the lifestyle session was pretty painless. In order to make you feel like you are getting the MOST out of your lifestyle session. I created 7 essential tips you'll need for your next photoshoot!

1 CURATING YOUR OUTFITS

Having outfits picked out beforehand can really give an ease to your photo day! You'll want to pick outfits that coordinate but not necessarily matching. Pick outfits that best suit your personality! Neutral colors work great for photos. (Cream, soft pastels, tans, and grays) You can also mix in bold colors and patterns with the neutrals to give your look extra personality.

2 PREPPING THE HOUSE

If you are planning or debating on an in-home family session these are some things to keep in mind. You do not need to hire a maid service or interior designer the day before photos! That will just add to your stress. It's best to declutter as much as possible, if something is visually distracting, we will just simply move it out the frame. For family photos on your bed neutral bedding is ideal.

LET THERE BE LIGHT: An extra little tip is to pull back all the drapes and open your blinds to let in as much light as possible in the rooms before the photographer arrives. This will help me know which room gets the best light and save time moving your window treatments around.

3 BRING/PLAN A FAVORITE ACTIVITY

Making a list of your favorite activities to do with your family will help create a fun family session. This can give you all something engaging to do, loosen up, and help get some really authentic smiles. It could be coloring together, reading, riding bikes, making family dinner, playing music, board games, morning cuddles in bed before you start your day... anything that makes your family feel like family. You will not regret having professional images of these moments. If you need any help with this don't hesitate to ask!

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4 LET THE LITTLE TAKE THE LEAD

On photo day, everyone is happy when your little is happy. If he/she needs to eat, we will take a break. With lifestyle photography we don't want to force moments, and sometimes those little pouts can make some great photographic moments. With newborn sessions we might have to take more breaks because they can get fussy with all the posing or outfit changes. With older kids they love to feel like they are a part of the process. They might have a great idea of something they want photographed. Letting them feel like they are a part of photo day can create some great moments. Especially if they can explain or show off to the photographer.

5 BE WELL RESTED + FED

Photo sessions can take up to an hour and with newborns sometimes even up to two hours! (I assure you this time goes by so quickly together!) So making sure everyone is well rested and fed before photos can really help with making sure we have happy faces. If you are planning on doing a family meal after photos making sure you have snacks can help also.

6 HAVE FUN

The more fun you have the more your personalities will come out in the photos! Tell jokes, toss your kids in the air, give each other sweet kisses and embraces...There is no need to feel like you cannot be yourself in front of the camera. The more you guys interact, the better you'll enjoy your session, and your photos will equally reflect that. There will be times I might have to play with trucks in order for your little to trust me and/or listen to an elaborate story. These are some of my favorite moments! The best way I can describe working with me is to think that you are visiting with an old family friend, who just so happens to have her camera.

7 RELAX

When mama is relaxed, daddy is relaxed, and littles are relaxed. The best thing you can do is relax! Meltdowns might happen, your little one might not want to play with his favorite toy (on of all days!), spit-up might end up on that shirt you want to wear. I know that as a parent you want to make sure that everyone is all smiles, and that this day goes perfectly. Which can add a lot of pressure on you. You have my permission to put all of that on me for photo day! I just want you to let loose and enjoy this moment with your family!

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Bonus tip



TRUST YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

Finding a photographer that works with your style and your family dynamic can be really difficult. But when you do find your perfect family photographer be sure to trust them. The more trust you put into the person behind the lens the more stress-free you'll feel and have a better overall experience.

This way you end up with these beautiful compelling photographs of your family. All while feeling like the time, energy, and money you've invested was worth it.

Communication is also really important to develop trust! Building a relationship beforehand through e-mails, asking as many questions as you can before, after, and even during the shoot can add so much more value!

I hope that you took great value in these simple yet effective tips! I hope to be working with you in the future.

with grace+gusto

INFORMATION

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