



dandelion  
PHOTOGRAPHY

*Welcome*



# *Let's* get started

You're booked in & I'm looking forward to getting to know you. Please read this guide carefully - it's everything you need to know to make the most of your shoot.

I will call you a week or so before your shoot to find out more about your children & customise the shoot to your family. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to ask!



*Ellie Cotton*

Owner & Photographer





## Where & when

### *Where can I have my shoot?*

Family sessions are done outdoors, at home - or both. Both work well because they are a fun and relaxed environment for children. With home shoots, we can incorporate the childhood home and your family story. But if you prefer my outdoor style or are an outdoorsy family, we can shoot on location to include beautiful natural surroundings in your photography.

### *Can you suggest some outdoor locations?*

Yes, I have a long list of locations. Some are seasonal, some work all year round. But I also love trying out new locations, particularly if it's somewhere meaningful to your family.

Let me know if you have any new ideas. Any location can work as long as there is some variety of both shade and open areas. And I always scout new locations to check they will work.

### *How long will the shoot be?*

Family sessions last 1 - 2 hours, depending on your wishlist of shots and the ages of your children.

### *What time of day will the shoot be?*

Light is most flattering in the early morning or late afternoon, but a good mood is more crucial than good light for kids. So shoots are often scheduled for early morning, but do let me know if your child is at their best at another time of day.

# Before your shoot

My family sessions are very relaxed. It's just like a friend visiting you at home and/or joining you for a walk. Most children thrive on the attention and absolutely love the experience.

But a little preparation helps everything run to plan.

## *Tell me about them*

Let me know about your children so I can put them at ease and make them laugh. Tell me what do they love doing? What do they love to talk about? What do they find funny?

I also want to capture their personality in your photography. So I will suggest a different type of shoot for a child who loves being outdoors getting covered in mud than I would for a child who hates walking but loves books.

## *Positive vibes only*

Children are quick to pick up on your stress and anxiety, so bring all your positive vibes - before *and* during the shoot.

In the days leading up to your shoot, tell your children how much fun it's going to be. If they arrive enthusiastic that will set the tone for the rest of the shoot.

And please don't worry if your child misbehaves for me, I have my own children and I have seen it all before! The most helpful thing you can always keep the atmosphere positive and upbeat.

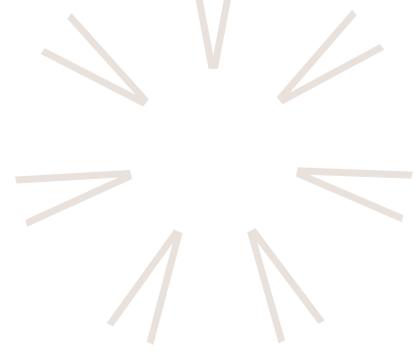
## *Create some memories*

I strongly encourage parents to get in at least a few photos. I realise some people don't relish the idea, but you will be surprised how easy it is. Most importantly though, don't you want your children to have photos of you from their childhood?

## *Fearful children*

I have lots of experience working with children with SENs so let me know if any particular strategy would suit your child. Whether they would respond well to numbering systems or a some sort of dry-run, I am happy to invest a bit more time to help them feel comfortable.





## what to *Wear*

### *Worth the effort*

Clothes make a huge difference to your photos.

I recommend classic or vintage clothing for children, so that your photography won't look dated in a few years time. It is certainly worth investing some time and effort in clothing and the results will be clear.

### *Simple palette*

A simple trick is to pick 3 or 4 colours and stick to them for every person. Imagine you are picking out all your family's clothing as if they were an outfit for one person to wear.

### *What to avoid*

Avoid busy patterns, bold stripes or neon colours which overpower skin tones. No text (eg. Superstar), large logos (eg. GAP), or characters (eg. Peppa pig) as they are too distracting.

### *Shoes & spares*

If you are wearing smart shoes for the shoot, don't forget outdoors shoes/wellies in case we hit some muddy paths. And spare clothes are great for emergencies - especially for toddlers!

### *More...*

I have a separate *What to Wear Guide* which explores this in more depth, and also suggestions on Pinterest. We will also discuss this in detail at your pre-shoot consultation.

# Consider your end result

*What will you do with your photos?*

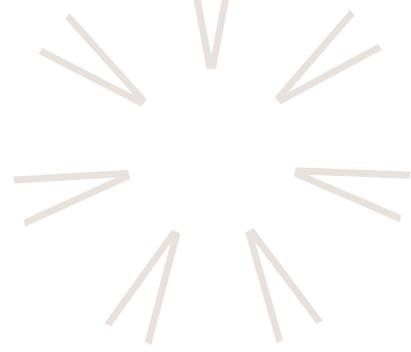
It might seem strange to think about what you want to do with your photos before you have seen the actual images. But many clients already have some idea of what they want out of their session when they book. They might even have earmarked a wall in the lounge for a set of frames!

*A la carte & Collections*

After your shoot you can purchase individual items a la carte but most clients opt for one of my *Collections*, packages of products including some digital files.

*Tailoring your shoot*

Please take a look at my **Price Guide** before the shoot & let me know which *Collection* you think you might choose. I can then tailor your session and the way I shoot to match your end result. Of course, you are free to change your mind after, but it really does help you get the most of your shoot if you let me know your ideas beforehand.





## Order session

*A la carte* items and *Collections* are purchased at your Order Session which takes place at your home about 2 weeks after your shoot.

There is no obligation to purchase and there is no hard sell. I want you to be 100% delighted so you can recommend me to your all your friends. But I do strongly recommend you both attend the Order Session so you can discuss your images and choices. Face-to-face ordering is a much quicker than email conversations and I know my clients are all very busy people!



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Thank you AND see you soon

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