

FROM WA'S TOP PROFESSIONAL FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHER

# 5 SIMPLE TIPS TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR FAMILY LIKE A PRO THESE HOLIDAYS



# LOOK AT THE LIGHT

Photography is ALL about the light. Quite simply light can make or break your portrait, the first step to improving your photography is to learn to look for quality light. The easiest way to nail a gorgeous portrait with great connection is to look for a nice even shade on your subjects face. If they are looking into full sun, you'll get squints. Dappled light will result in patchy faces. Strong light behind the subject, standing with your back to the sun, can be tricky to get just right. Stick with soft shade and face roughly towards the light for that little bit of sparkle in the eyes. The added bonus of a big shady areas for little ones is it gives them lots of room to move around when they don't want to sit still, and lets face it that's pretty much 95% of the time! So where is this light? Inside you could be in front of a big window (so long as the sun isn't coming directly in) outside you could be on the shaded side of the house, or under big tree with a solid canopy.

OUTSIDE UNDER  
OUR PATIO



INSIDE IN FRONT  
OF A BIG WINDOW





## MIX UP THE ANGLES

When taking photos, it's natural that we just stand and take them from our height. Next time, have a quick think, will this look better if I get down low, or maybe I can go up high and shoot down. A different angle might mean a busy background looks cleaner, or might make for a more abstract and fun image or it might simply be more flattering.



THE SUBJECT IS IN THE SAME PLACE, SIMPLY MOVING THE CAMERA HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE







## STEP AWAY FROM THE (DIGITAL) ZOOM!

As tempting as it is, don't zoom in to take a picture. Digital zooms don't capture any additional detail. In fact, they add pixels via interpolation. This means you'll get funny looking pixel images. You'll get a better image if you use your "foot" zoom and step closer. Or if you'll miss the moment or just can't get closer, cropping later will result in an image that's just as good, and often even better.



## IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

You don't always need to include the whole subject in the shot, sometimes an image tells a more powerful story if you just capture the key element.







## START AN ANNUAL TRADITION

What do the pro's do at holiday times? A lot of us love a good annual photo tradition! Something you capture every year in a similar way. Over time you'll build up a gorgeous "mini story" about your family.

Here's a few ideas to get you started:

- **The match up:** Capture similar aged cousins or bestie standing together - watch how they grow and age, most kids will play leap frog in age and height. This works just as well for your family.
- **The christmas tree line up:** Once your kids are in the PJs and ready for bed, get them all to line up in front of the tree for a photo. Looking back you'll love seeing the changes in size, hair, PJs and tree!
- **A photo a day:** Take one photo everyday of your kids in January - mix it up, either together or separately. Print them out in a photobook, one image per page. Do it every January.

EVERY YEAR MY TWO CLIMB IN THEIR STOCKINGS

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Our beginners photography course kicks off January 14th, 2016. Registrations are open now!

ARE YOU STUCK ON AUTO WITH YOUR CAMERA IN THE DRIVING SEAT?

Club Lilypad's beginners' course, Photography Launchpad, has been designed to guide you step by step in a way that makes driving your camera become second nature to you. Before you know it you'll be taking those beautiful family photos that take your breath away. Find out more at [www.clublilypad.com](http://www.clublilypad.com).

