

# PRO 5 Tips

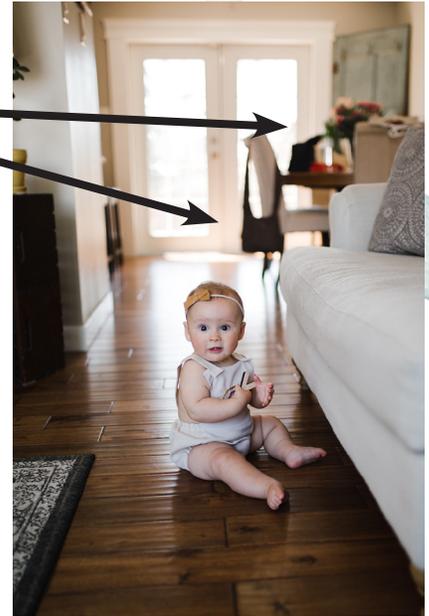
## Want to take better photos of your kids?

Here are 5 tips you can use Right Now  
with ANY camera!

Taking better photos of your kids requires some preparation. Just like a photographer sets the scene for their images, so can you, when photographing your children.

### 1. Clear the Clutter

If you really want great images you need to remove the clutter from the space you are shooting in. You can set the scene AND still have natural interactions in your images. Put away anything that is really bright and colourful, that will distract from your subject (unless your whole space is bright and colourful and it will blend in). This means move the bouncy chair, the exerciser, the baby swing, the baskets of laundry, items left on table tops and counters... anything that will take away the viewers eye from the subject of your image (your child). Don't forget to turn OFF the tv.



### 2. Lighting

Lighting is the key to a great image. There are many different kinds of light (sun, florescent, LED, tungsten, etc). Each of these types of light has a different colour. In order to get the best results, you want your lighting to be a consistent colour. Whenever possible use natural light. Turn off all your indoor lights and open up those windows! Pull back the curtains and blinds and have your children play, nearby your light source. Give them a few simple toys and click away. Natural light is your best option BUT you also don't want to be in direct sunlight. That will cause your images to be too bright and your subjects squinty-eyed. If the sun is falling across the floor, wait until it moves from that location or find another window, without direct light. If your window isn't low to the ground have your child sit on a chair, or in their crib, to reach the light.

BEST Light - Large window without direct sunlight. Light coming downwards across the face.



GOOD Light - Window is high off the ground. Placing baby in crib brings them up to window height, for good lighting.



OKAY Light - Direct sunlight can work but it gives a really high contrast image with bright whites and dark blacks. Try this exact photo at a different time of day, when the sun isn't pouring in and you will get stunning results.

A high window can still work but often requires an increase in exposure with photo editing software.



### 3. Angle

This plays such a big part in an incredible image. Get down on the floor (but not your camera on the floor) and take photos at their eye level. What do they see in their little world? Make sure your camera angles down the face and NOT up the nose. You should NOT be able to see up their nostrils. If you can, that means your angle is too low. Once your children get taller you may need to get on a stool to get the right angle. If they are babies and not yet sitting, a great angle is to stand overtop of them and photograph straight down. Put your legs on each side of their body and bend your torso at the waist leaning right over. MAKE SURE to have your camera strap around your neck and watch for your feet in the shot if you angle it too sharply. DO NOT lean too far over cause you could lose your balance and fall on baby. For toddlers and older children standing or crouching is generally the best angle to shoot from.



### 4. Clothing

Choose an outfit that is cute, but blends in well. Something that doesn't draw away the focus from your child. Make sure things match... skip the crazy sock options and go barefoot or add shoes. If more than one child is in the photos make sure they all look nice together. Same thing if they have a blankie in an image or a soother, you want every piece to look nice together. Sometimes, when you want to capture a moment (no matter what they are wearing) converting to a black and white image can also 'fix' any crazy colour schemes within a photo.

## 5. Emotion

Capture them when they are playing and not paying attention to you. Photograph the interactions between siblings. Every once in a while, call their name and they will look at you. Capture those expressions! Don't forget to get the sad as well as the happy. Those emotions are part of who they are and you will look back fondly on that sad face with the big pouty lips and crocodile tears, for your entire life.



These are 5 simple things you can do that will make a HUGE difference in your 'at home' photography.

Don't be afraid to click that shutter. We live in a digital world that allows us to take as many images as we want. The more you click, the better you will get. I challenge you to pick a day this week to 'set up' and photograph your most precious subjects, your children!

Share your images on IG and tag #JIP5TIPS so I can CHEER you on and give you even MORE bonus tips.

I can't wait to see the moments you capture!

