

KELLIE HAYES | PHOTOGRAPHY

Natural Light Portrait and Wedding Photography

Family Portrait Guide



www.kelliehayesphotography.com

Hi!

I'm Kellie!

I'm a natural light portrait and wedding photographer serving Northern Illinois. I love coffee and yoga pants. I also happen to be obsessed with dogs. I'm married to my best friend Chris. We have two awesome kids, Riley and Mason. We also belong to two lovable mischievous German Shepards.

I love burgers and fries, watching the boys play sports and I love days spent on the couch binge watching Netflix.

I wanted to say thank you for letting me photograph your family! I put together this guide to help plan for our session together. I can't wait to hang out! See you soon!

-kellie



What to expect

The most important thing that I want you to do during our time together is to relax! I want you to enjoy this time with your family and let me capture the smiles and the laughs. Not every picture needs to have everyone looking at the camera and smiling at the same time. Some of the best photographs are the ones where no one is even looking at the camera! Those images will be the ones you cherish most because they depict your family connection and your love. I'll guide you through the session, so there's no pressure!



Location

Is there a special location that you and your family like to visit? You can choose between a natural location or an urban location. If you're unsure we can work together to pick the best location for your family.

Natural locations are usually forest preserves, open fields and next to water. The best time to shoot in these locations is just before sunset when the light is a magical golden color.

A few of my favorite natural locations are:

Hoover Forest Preserve - Yorkville

Peck Farm - Batavia

Danada Farm - Wheaton

Urban locations are cool alleyways and next to buildings in a downtown area. Urban locations can also be historical buildings and bridges.

A few of my favorite urban locations are:

Downtown Naperville

Yorkville River Front

Locations with both a natural and urban setting:

St. James Farm - Warrenville

Cantigny Park - Warrenville

Downtown Oswego

Waubonsee Community College - Sugar Grove

Natural Location



Urban Location



“Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever, it remembers little things, long after you have forgotten.”

-Aaron Siskind



Activities

Families often times include an activity that they love doing together. Incorporating an activity gives you something to do with your hands and feet, keeps little ones engaged and authentically shows how much you love spending time together. Snuggle up next to each other, tickle the kids, bring a few books to read, a favorite board game to play, or a game of cards. Bring along things that represent your family or an individual family member, like a favorite sports team flag or a wooden letter of someones first name. Mom and Dad, this time is for you too! You're the foundation of the family so don't be afraid to snuggle up and show the love you have for each other too!



Children

Often, the littlest members of the family are the ones that bring the most charm to a family photograph. Most times children move at their own pace and like to do their own thing and that's ok. A few things that you can do to help make the session run smoothly is prepare the child and get them excited. Schedule nap time before the shoot so that they are well rested. Bring snacks and things that make your child happy like a favorite blanket or stuffed animal, these things will also bring a special meaning to the photographs. Remember, not everyone has to be looking at the camera or smiling at the same time. Genuine smiles and expressions add so much more to a photograph.



What to Wear

Clothing plays a huge part in creating a successful portrait. Simple and solid color clothing wear best for a nice clean image. A light pattern on one person is ok and may work nicely but avoid bold patterns or multiple patterns on different people. Stay away from sayings, graphics, neon and bright colored clothing. Choose colors that compliment each other. Pick similar tones and colors in the same family. Bring an extra change of clothes for little ones incase of an accident. Layer up, having multiple layers allows us to change up the look of the photograph without taking up to much time changing. Pinterest has a lot of great ideas for coordinating a group for family portraits.



“Taking a photograph, freezing a moment,
reveals how rich reality truly is.”



After Your Session

You can expect to receive your images 3 weeks after your session. I'll email a gallery for you to review along with instructions on how to view your images. In your gallery you can choose the images that come with your package. You can then download these images and have them printed wherever you choose or you can download these images and also print them through me at my professional print lab. You'll also have the option to order additional high resolution digital images, prints or you'll have the option to buy the entire gallery. I'll guide you through the process. Please let me know if there is anything at all I can help you with!

