

## Children's Photography Frequently Asked Questions

These are some of the more commonly asked questions about your child's portrait session. If you don't find the answers that you need here or elsewhere on our site, please contact the studio at [goldleaf-vgp@tds.net](mailto:goldleaf-vgp@tds.net). This page will change as we add more of your questions, so check back often for updates.

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- Q. How long do I have to place my order after my sitting?
- Q. How long do I have to reorder if I run out of pictures?
- Q. Can I scan my photos if I just need a few extra copies or want to use them on the internet?
- Q. Can I purchase the copyrights so I can print my own photos?

### CONTACT US:

513.877.2995  
[goldleaf-vgp@tds.net](mailto:goldleaf-vgp@tds.net)  
[www.goldleaf-art.com](http://www.goldleaf-art.com)



**Q. How far ahead should I call for an appointment?**

A. At least 2 weeks; earlier to get the time slot you want. You can never schedule too early! Keep your child's routine in mind when you schedule your appointment. Consider nap and meal times. You might want to bring along some light snacks that your child likes, that are not too messy.

**Q. How much are your sitting fees?**

A. The sitting fee is \$50.00 per session. This fee covers the time I spend with you during the session. No prints are included in this fee.

**Q. When and how should I pay for my session?**

A. Payment is due the day of your sitting. Currently I accept cash, checks and PayPal.

**Q. Where will my child's portraits be done? Will you go on-location?**

A. My studio is located in the country on five wooded acres in beautiful Warren County, Ohio. Your session can be indoors only, outdoors only, a combination of both, or at a location of your choice. Parks, gardens, lakes and rivers are some very popular locations. I have found that children do best in a natural outdoor setting where they can explore and be themselves. Tiny babies do best in the studio. But I am flexible if you are!

**Q. Which is better, an indoor or outdoor session?**

A. Each has its advantage, depending on your tastes. Certain props definitely work better in the studio. Outdoor sessions give you and your child the freedom to move around, and the lighting is more natural.

**Q. How long will the session take?**

A. At least an hour, and probably longer if you want to try a variety of studio props or go on location.

**Q. What will the portraits cost?**

A. That will depend on what you want. Several packages are available to save you money, or you can go strictly a la carte. Either way, my portraits are very affordable. I will be happy to discuss pricing with you. Just give me a call at 513-877-2995. You can also download a price list from the Children's Portraits page on my website.

**Q. When and how should I pay for my portraits?**

A. A deposit of 50% is due the day you place your order. The balance is due the day you pick up your portraits. Currently I accept cash or checks.

**Q. Do you offer albums?**

A. Yes, and not just one or two styles or brands. Let me know what you have in mind. There is a source for almost anything you can imagine. I can design it and have it produced for you.

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**Q. Do you offer gift certificates?**

A. Yes, but they are not your typical flimsy piece of paper or gift card. My gift certificates are works of art in themselves, and are customized to each recipient. They are available in any amount, or for specific products and/or services. Gift certificates are valid for one year from date of purchase.

**Q. Will you use film or digital for my portraits?**

A. My studio is strictly digital. It allows me to take an unlimited quantity of poses, and the quality is fabulous!

**Q. Can you do black & white photos?**

A. Yes, and we never charge extra for black & white. Sepia prints are also available at no extra charge.

**Q. Does it cost extra to have two or more children photographed at once?**

A. We never charge extra for more than one child.

**Q. Can I bring our pet?**

A. We love animals and would love to meet your pet! Just let us know when you make your appointment if your pet is coming with you.

**Q. What can I do to help my child get ready for the session?**

A. You will be given instructions well ahead of time on how to help your child build anticipation for portrait day so that he/she looks forward to it. You and I will also discuss the time of the day your child is at his/her best, and schedule your appointment accordingly.

**Q. What if my child misbehaves or won't cooperate during the photo session?**

A. I understand that many children have their own agenda. As the parent, you will want to do all you can to ensure a successful session, but trying to coerce your child will surely backfire. Sometimes it is necessary to just "go with the flow." As hard as it might be, just relax and let me do the work. Don't coach your child. This may take all your willpower, but it's very important not to. I will most likely ask for your help now and then, and I will let you know specifically what I need you to do.

I am very flexible and patient, and will be able to tell if your child needs a short break. This usually helps them relax. I will definitely use positive persuasion to encourage your child, but I will never try to force a child to do something against his/her will.

If it becomes obvious that your child is simply not up to the session, we will reschedule another appointment for another day. These things happen; do not feel badly about it. Chances are that on another day, you and your child will both be happier and more relaxed, and we'll be able to get the images that you'll treasure forever!

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**Q. What if my child gets sick right before the session?**

A. Sickness is unavoidable, and is always a possibility. Even if it's just a slight cold, trying to keep the appointment would mean certain disaster. Simply call as soon as possible to reschedule. Your session fee will be applied to another date.

**Q. When is the best time of day to photograph my baby?**

A. Newborns tend to sleep a lot so the appointment time is not an issue unless the baby gets hungry. We can always take a break for a feeding during the session. If your baby has a set routine, always schedule the session around nap and feeding times for any age.

**Q. What should my baby/child wear?**

A. For newborns, bare skin will look best in certain photos, and a solid color diaper cover over the diaper will be adequate for the rest. Feel free to bring a few outfits if you wish. The baby's comfort is always a priority. I will do my best to make certain the baby does not get cold or uncomfortable at any time during the shoot due to studio temperatures.

For slightly older babies, toddlers and children, choose clothing that is soft and simple (girls), or bright and fun (boys), depending on your child's personality. Girls look pretty in pastel-colored dresses without patterns. Boys are adorable in jeans, denim overalls and khakis. Avoid anything around the neck that could pop up and hide the face. Bare feet are best. Above all, keep it comfortable for your child. You are welcome to bring more than one outfit.

**Q. What should I wear if I want to be in some of the pictures with my baby/child?**

A. Newborns and young babies: wear a black, long-sleeved knit shirt (such as a T-shirt), so that the baby is the focus while you hold him/her. This will make especially pleasing black and white photos. For color photos with your older babies and children, coordinate your outfit to theirs. Simple is best. Wear like colors and styles so that all emphasis goes to the faces instead of the clothing. I will be glad to offer more suggestions during your consultation on what to wear.

**Q. Should I bring any props from home?**

A. By all means, bring along your child's favorite hat, toy, blanket, stuffed animal, etc.

**Q. What if I'm running late for the session?**

A. Sometimes that just can't be helped. Just give me a call and let me know. But please try to allow enough time to get ready for your session and make it to the studio on time so that everyone is in a relaxed and happy mood. Speaking from experience as a mom, it always took longer than I estimated to get my young children ready for an outing and out the door.

**Q. I have some ideas for poses. Can we give them a try?**

A. Yes! I'd love to hear your ideas. Just let me know what you have in mind ahead of time.

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**Q. Do you do any of the special effects that I see other photographers do?**

A. We offer many creative special effects, and are always developing new and fun ideas. If you've seen a special effect somewhere that you really like, chances are that we can duplicate it. Show us a picture of what you have in mind, and we'll give it a whirl!

**Q. What's the largest size print I can order?**

A. Our price list goes up to 20x30, but larger sizes are available upon request, up to 60 inches tall/wide. Larger portraits make amazing works of art for your home.

**Q. How long before my proofs are ready?**

A. About 2 weeks.

**Q. How long before my final order is ready?**

A. About 4 weeks. A few weeks longer for albums.

**Q. How long do I have to place my order after my sitting?**

A. Your order should be placed with 4 weeks to avoid delays. First come, first served.

**Q. How long do I have to reorder if I run out of pictures?**

A. Your digital files are kept indefinitely, so you may order any time. Reprints are charged at current prices.

**Q. Can I scan my photos if I just need a few extra copies or want to use them on the internet?**

A. No. You may not realize it, but it is illegal and against copyright laws to scan photos without written permission from the photographer. Please respect the time and efforts of our studio, and contact us if you need extras.

**Q. Can I purchase the copyrights so I can print my own photos?**

A. All copyrights to your photos are retained by Gold Leaf Productions. However, a "limited usage release" is available on a per-image basis. For each low-resolution image (suitable for web usage only) the cost is \$8. Your web image(s) will be emailed to you.

High-resolution images are also available (to make prints up to 11x14). High-resolution images can be mailed to you on a CD for \$30.00 each plus postage, or emailed to you for a flat rate of \$28.00 each. All images are accompanied by a "limited usage release" form in electronic format, which will outline the details of your rights.

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