

# Your Family Photography

A Guide by Jenny Harper

# Contents

- 03 Introduction
- 04 Pre-Session
- 05 Outdoors
- 06 Indoors
- 07 Activities
- 08 Portraits
- 09 Details
- 10 Storytelling
- 11 After the Session
- 12 Get in Touch





# Introduction

I love photographing people and documenting relationships with your loved ones, your family. The people that you feel comfortable with, when you can really be yourself. Capturing the moments that you share is incredibly special to me.

If you decide that you'd like some family photographs that are more natural than studio portraits, that really reflect how you are together at this point in time, this is what I want to photograph for you. The longer that I spend with you, the more I'll be able to take those storytelling images that really capture how you are as a family and hopefully give you some precious memories in years to come.

All my family photography packages include all of the high-resolution digital images provided to you, so you can print, share and save as you wish. You will also have some print credit to spend on prints or an album.

This guide will give you an idea of how I photograph family sessions and some ideas for arranging your session, thinking about location, activities and the kind of photographs you can expect.





# Pre-Session

Once you have contacted me and booked your session date, we can discuss the details and arrangements, from the location to the sort of activities you might want to include. There are ideas about your options included in this guide, but most importantly, it's up to you how you'd like your session to be arranged and what suits you and your family best.



We can email, talk on the phone, or meet up and chat should you need a bit more planning. Some sessions might need a back-up plan to postpone to another day or move to another location depending on weather.

If you have any questions at all, just get in touch and we'll talk it through. My contact details are at the end of this guide.



# Outdoors

I love to spend time in the great outdoors and if you do too, that's an ideal place for your session. Being outside is relaxing, it gives kids time to let off steam and space to move, which leads to natural photographs. The light is likely to be better outdoors, giving me more options.

Unless I'm photographing a baby, going for a short walk is probably the easiest way to plan your session. I'll look out for spots along the way for an interesting environment and good light to take a few portraits and get plenty of natural, documentary photographs of you all. Going outdoors could simply mean your garden, which has the convenience of being close to home. Or we can go anywhere you feel comfortable as a family, whether that's a local park or somewhere a bit more wild.

Sometimes the weather is a concern with planning outdoors, but this has never caused an issue for me that we haven't been able to work around. Firstly, if it's just a bit damp, cold or even snowy, as long as it's not pouring down (which would cause me a bit of an issue with my equipment), we can go ahead if everyone's wrapped up. We can also have a back up indoor location ready, or postpone in advance if the weather forecast is particularly bad.







## Indoors

Your own home is probably the place where you feel the most relaxed as a family, so it's also ideal for your session. I'll have a good look around to figure out the space and how light is falling in your home. I use natural light to photograph family sessions so as not to waste time and interrupt things by setting up and moving flashes around. I often find that bedrooms work well, with more window light upstairs and large comfortable space on beds.



If you have a newborn or baby under 1 who isn't yet steady on their feet, your home is probably the best place for your session. All home comforts are to hand if needed and there's plenty of warm, comfortable space for baby to spend time while I take photographs. Outdoors isn't well suited for photographing babies because they normally need to be wrapped up and carried in arms or in a pushchair, so it's more difficult to see them.

Also, depending on the length of your session, we can start your session at home and then move outdoors to incorporate both and keep kids entertained!

# Activities

It's also entirely up to you how you plan to spend your session. This is somewhat dictated by your choice of location and the age of any children in your family.

Indoors, you might simply want to relax together, read a book to younger children, or play with them as you usually do. Outdoors, you can just walk together, play a game or get exploring – my kids would certainly be trying to climb trees and clambering up boulders. It just comes naturally to them.

If you'd like to record more of the story of your family and book a longer session, I can document the whole trip out somewhere, from the flurry of everyone getting ready, packing bags, putting on shoes and bundling in the car, to your trip out, the joys and possible melt-downs (especially if you have toddlers with you) and home again to relax afterwards.





# Portraits

I understand that it can be an unsettling experience to have a camera pointed in your direction, most of us feel this way, including me. So it's important to me to keep your family portraits as relaxed and natural as possible. I know that women often don't like photographs of themselves, but please, please bear in mind that others don't see the flaws that you see in yourself and people in your life, your partner and your kids, will be grateful to have photographs of you. And you might be glad for them too, in years to come.

For your family portrait, I'll gather you all together as close as possible and encourage the connection between you all. You may not all be looking at the camera, but this can be a more natural, realistic portrait of your family.

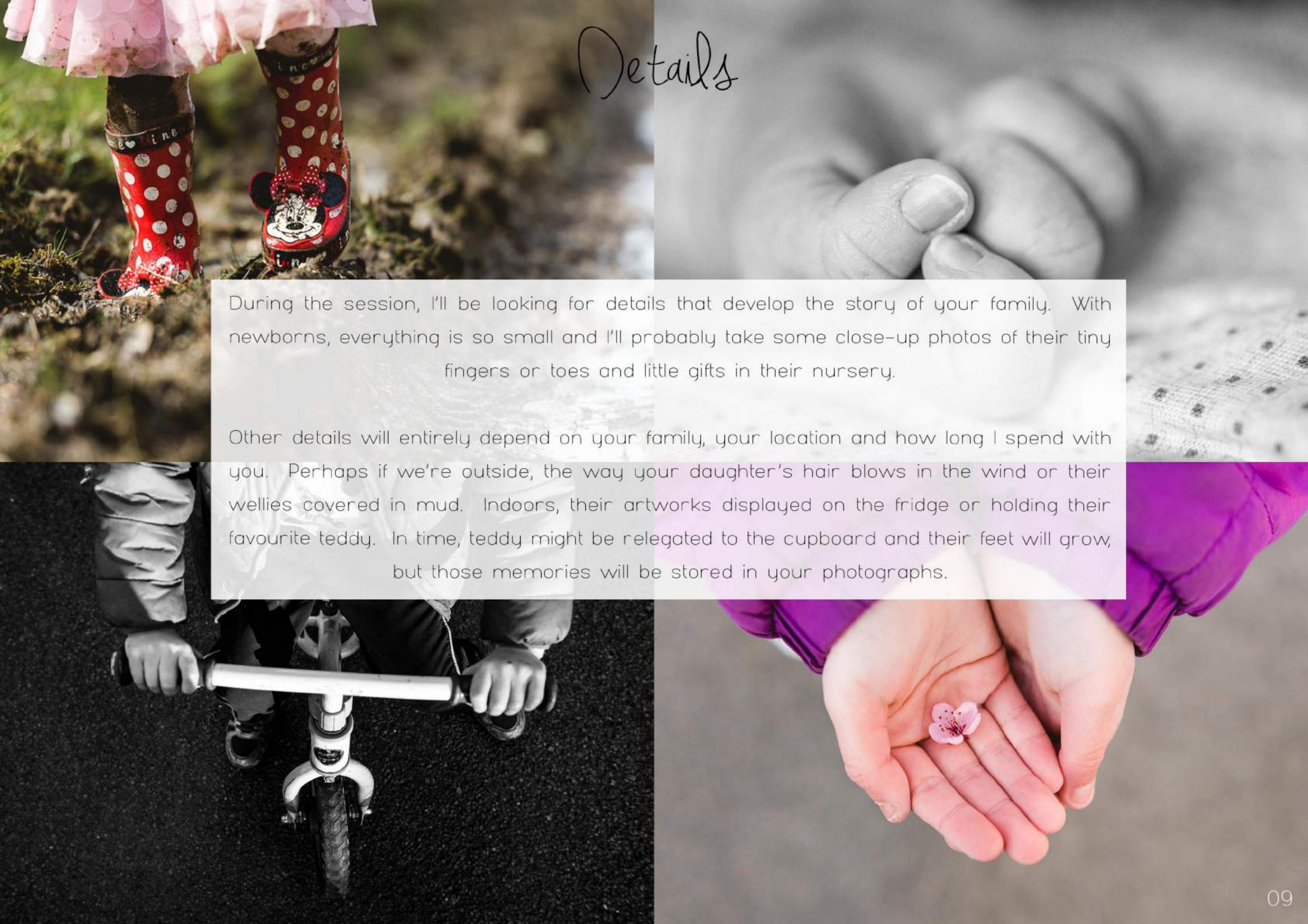


I'll also gather smaller groups, perhaps of just the siblings together, and individual portraits. Depending on the age and co-operation of younger children, I may not be able to capture a straightforward smiling portrait of them facing the camera, but I'll chase them around and interact with them, capturing them in action.

I love photographing emotion in portraits, some sort of genuine feeling that comes through and most of my favourite portraits of my own kids and other people don't have a straightforward smile. I want real life!



# Details



During the session, I'll be looking for details that develop the story of your family. With newborns, everything is so small and I'll probably take some close-up photos of their tiny fingers or toes and little gifts in their nursery.

Other details will entirely depend on your family, your location and how long I spend with you. Perhaps if we're outside, the way your daughter's hair blows in the wind or their wellies covered in mud. Indoors, their artworks displayed on the fridge or holding their favourite teddy. In time, teddy might be relegated to the cupboard and their feet will grow, but those memories will be stored in your photographs.



# Storytelling

Overall, the main thing I'm looking for is to tell the story of your family. I'll be photographing as I'm talking to you, playing with your kids and walking with you. I might direct you to a certain area, but I will often let you get on with your own thing together whilst I explore angles, light and composition.

I want to document the real, unscripted moments between you, your interactions and the way you are as a family. These are the photographs that I hope you look back on with the fondest memories.







## After the Session

I will select all the final images from the ones I have taken and edit them ready for you. I'll then upload them to a USB drive in high-resolution and compressed versions (which are much better for saving on your phone or tablet and sharing online).

You are free to print any of the images as you wish, but your package also includes print credit so that you can order prints or an album at reduced cost. I really value printing your photos in one way or another. Looking at them digitally on a screen is just not the same and this is why I've included print credit in my packages.

For this type of session an album is ideal because of the higher number and type of images, which may not be as suited to wall display. My half-day package includes an album as standard, which I'll design digitally for you to review and swap or change any of the images or layout.





## Get in Touch

I hope you've found this guide helpful and informative for planning your family photographs..

I am passionate about documenting your family and telling your story with photography. I'd love to meet you and your family and make some photographs for you.

If you have any questions at all, you can contact me by any of the following methods.



[www.jennyharperphotography.com](http://www.jennyharperphotography.com)



[info@jennyharperphotography.com](mailto:info@jennyharperphotography.com)



07432 663368



[facebook.com/jennyharperphotography](https://facebook.com/jennyharperphotography)



[@jenharpers](https://www.instagram.com/jenharpers)