

## “Stages” not “Ages”

During the 1st year your child will go through several “stages”. Important ones to have photographed are pictured on the next few pages. Because the “stages” are important please put less emphasis on your child’s “age” and more on the “stage”. You will be glad you did!

### 1st Stage - about 3-4 months (The Baby Plan Fun Begins)

This is the first “stage” that begins the baby plan . This stage is when your baby is laying on their tummy and holding their head up nice and strong. **Please do not underestimate what we are about to tell you here.** Please “**practice**” with your baby before coming in for your scheduled appointment. Lay your baby on a blanket on the floor and bring both hands in front of your baby’s chest. Hold your hand “on top” of your baby’s hands and the head should “pop” up. Also, with your baby on the floor, sit in a chair and see if they can lift their head and smile at you. If this is not happening, call us and we can advise you. We don’t want to hurt the baby so trust us on this one. Now, some babies will do this by 3 months and some later. Each baby is different. We will help you...don’t worry. We know what you are going to say...”my baby doesn’t like to be on their stomach.” Just please do what we ask and practice and trust us. Please dress your baby in something that can be easily removed because we start the session “bare-chested”. There is a good reason for this so please “bare” with us. Pardon the pun! There is a reason for everything we do. .



### 2nd Stage - about 6-7 months (Sitting Up Without Any Help)

This is a wonderful session! **Your baby must be sitting up without assistance!** Again, practicing at home a couple of weeks before your session makes a big difference! What we are looking for at this stage is for your baby to be sitting up nice and strong with their back straight and without toppling over. Don’t be fooled by what we call a “tripod” position. Your baby will be sitting **but leaning forward. That is not what we are looking for.** Trust us - you will spend more time trying to “catch” your baby and no time photographing. We will only send you home if the baby is not sitting up strong. Again, this is very important for the safety of your child. It’s better to call us first so you don’t waste your time. We will be doing our famous “naked” shots at this time. You can also bring a clothing selection. We also suggest a special blanket and again a silver rattle or cup. Please let us know if you have brought these things with you. Remember to keep your clothing selection SIMPLE! White, denim and pastels work best, as we want your baby, not the clothes, to stand out in the portrait. This is the best time to consider having a family portrait, mother and child, or a formal Christening Portrait done. When we reserve your 2nd stage session, just let us know. During the 2nd stage is also when we prefer to do what we call our “Up close & Precious” Session. This shows all those precious little baby parts and comes matted and framed ready for your nursery or grandmas wall.



### 3rd Stage - about 9-10 months (Standing holding on)

This is the session that could be challenging. At this stage, your baby will be going through “major” teething and may also experience separation or “stranger” anxiety. Before this point your baby liked us...but now.....well.....the photographer is the “stranger”. Take heart - many studios will not even photograph 9 month olds. We have a very good track record and we want you to know that if your baby is not crying...we are way ahead of the game. It takes a lot of patience to capture this stage, but we all get through it without incident. Please do not expect smiles on this session. They just have a lot on their mind and will usually just look at us - with a sweet face like a porcelain doll. We call this THE NINE MONTH STARE!  
The stage we are looking for will be when your baby is standing and holding on to things - NOT walking (if they do, they just walk AWAY). If your baby’s knees buckle and they fall back down...reschedule.



Note: you will know the week before the appointment if your baby is not ready. Please call us in advance to reschedule. Thank you. This is also a great time to bring a family chair or other special prop. This is a casual session. Boys look cute in denim overalls—for girls, cute seasonal clothing. Bonnets and hats look great at this session. Bring personal items. ANYTHING GOES! If you have a special idea or theme, just let us know when you get to the studio. We want your baby panel to be truly unique and full of your family’s memories.

### 4th Stage - about 12-13 months (Standing - no help)

This is the time for a one year formal portrait. We really encourage bringing both a formal and casual clothing change at this session. Be sure, if you choose to put shoes on your baby, that they are cleaned and polished (Always **check the bottoms of the shoes!**). At this session bring some toys (they probably just got some at their birthday party), or balloons, a small birthday cake that can be “destroyed”, musical instruments or anything that shows their personality. With the things you bring we can do what we call a “BusyBee” session as part of your 4th stage session. It not only has multiple images of your child but also shows their different personalities at this stage of their life. That’s always something to remember and granda wants one too!



BusyBee



#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

We do not extend baby plan beyond the 4th stage (12-13 months).

If you have not had a family portrait done by now don’t put it off. Do it NOW! Waiting until later will only cost you more.

