

WINTER FAMILY PORTRAITS

Color Pairings | Tips | Suggestions



Tip:
Stay away from logos or loud graphic pieces.



Tip:
Add hats and scarves to bring out a wintry feel.



Tip:
Winter tends to be quite neutral. Add a pop of color like red, but don't overdo it.

Winter Color Combinations that you will love!

1. First, choose your color scheme.

The first thing I ask when someone seeks advice on colors to wear, I ask where they plan to hang the portraits in their home, and what colors are in that room. For some people, this doesn't make a difference. But for others, if they plan to hang the prints in their family room that is painted red and black, and you plan to wear orange and brown, it won't work very well. If your room is neutral (like mine) and you'd like some color pop from the portraits, and you just need help deciding on colors, here are a few thoughts.



Design Seeds is a site full of fabulous eye candy. The artist finds beautiful images, and chooses a color palette out of those images that you might not otherwise notice. It can be applied to home decor or clothing, I think of it when picking out color schemes for portraits. It helps your eye to see color patterns that go together.

You can search by color palettes or themes, (spring, fall, ocean, edible) so find an image/colors that resonate with you, and go with that.

2. *Select one focal piece*

If you have a color palette in mind, or even if you don't...shop around to find one patterned piece that you love. It can be a little girls floral dress or a boys plaid shirt, but if you find one central piece, it helps to plan everything around that. Since us moms like our kids to be the focal point, I'd suggest this focus piece to be on one of the children (not an adult). That doesn't mean that they will stand out the most, after accessorizing (my next point) it will all flow together.



3. PICK 2-3 FOCAL COLORS

It's a good idea to pick 3 colors to work with as your main colors, then consider grays, whites, blacks, or browns as freebie's. Not necessarily all of them together, but one or two that work with the 3 colors you chose.

4. *Layers & Accessories*

Cardigan, necklace, headband, scarf, button up shirt, tights, hats, ties. Layers & accessories add dimension, pizzazz, fun, texture and therefore richness to the overall look. In the past, I have had the problem of purchasing all of these in my color palette (while keeping the receipts very close by) and once I have the clothing planned out, start throwing in accessories to see what works. If you have 2 girls, they don't both get yellow headbands: one yellow and one blue to spread out the colors. Two boys? Put them in two types of shirts and layer them differently. One a button up with t-shirt underneath, the other a polo type with T-shirt underneath and maybe sleeves rolled up into each other.

5. *Mom's, don't give yourself the leftovers*

You know how some moms will go around the dinner table and make sure everyone has all of their food situated before they sit down, and then their food is cold? Don't be that mom when it comes to clothing for your family portraits. Don't pick everyone else's out, then just grab something from your closet that only looks "ok" on you, but matches the color scheme. You need to feel AWESOME in your family pictures! If anything, I'd pick something that you think looks fabulous on you, then plan around THAT! It's tough enough to get mothers IN pictures, so when you are in them, you want to feel and look good!

6. *Split up the colors*

If I've got 6 people in my family, and have selected 3 main colors, I don't want all of those colors on top, nor to the people that are close in age—I want to split them up. I want to weigh some color towards the bottom in one or two of them as well. I do this with shoes, skirts, and pants. There are so many more options now with those fun colorful jeans. I did also purchase a pair of red converse for my son for our pictures last December that hasn't been worn much since—but darn-it they looked awesome in the picture! You aren't just investing in a photographer, but in the clothing to enhance your awesome family.



7. Use Pinterest to create a style board

You've seen the fashion/clothing boards on Pinterest. I've made my own "what to wear in family portraits" Pinterest board here: <https://pin.it/xizokvydtedmq3> Check it out to get some beautiful color coordination ideas for your portrait session.



8. Lay it on the floor

Once you have gathered items in the colors you've picked, I try to find a spot in my home that I can keep it all out. I like to lay the pieces on the floor, and look at it from afar, take a picture of it, so I can see it.



"Avoid matchy-matchy looks; instead go for complimentary color pairings."

9. Split up the pairs

If you have natural pairs in the family: mom and dad, Brothers, sisters, Mom and baby, try to split up the colors, as they will often be standing near each other. If you have a baby, you know you will want to be holding them, so view your baby as a "pair" and aim to not dress alike. Hubs is the obvious other pair, and as the two tallest, make sure you two are also not "matchy-matchy." This part can get complicated, so do your best, then let it go!

10. Plan ahead

Make sure you start this planning when you book your session (hopefully a few weeks before it takes place). Be thinking of it, look around in your home/closets, shop well in advance so you aren't stressing at the last minute.

