

TOP TIPS FOR TAKING BETTER PHOTOS OF YOUR KIDS WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE



"I think smartphone cameras are brilliant. They allow us to capture the little everyday moments in our children's lives, like their first laugh, their first steps, the first time they rode their bike, their first goal. As a friend once told me, the best camera for you is the one you have with you all the time. So let me give you a few tips for how to make the most of yours and capture some wonderful moments for yourself. - Rachel Thornhill"

1. Make sure your lens is clean

If your phone is anything like mine, it's usually in the hands of my children, and quite probably sticky! So before you load up your camera app, give the lens a wipe, this will help keep your images looking as sharp as they can.

2. Get their attention with a sticker

When my boys were small, I struggled to take pictures of them looking at my phone. So I put a silly sticker on the back of it to encourage them to look at me. It captured their attention in the direction of my phone for just long enough to take the picture!

3. Think about what you want to capture, and what you don't

You want a lovely picture of your little one in their new outfit, but you probably don't want to remember the mess that might be lurking in the background! Look through the viewfinder and check if there is anything in the frame that you don't want to show, and either move it or get closer to your child so that these things aren't in the frame causing a distraction.

4. Choose where to focus

Most smartphones allow you to select a focus point for your picture. For example, if you were taking a picture of your child at the park, you want to make sure your child and in particular, their eyes, are in focus. When you have composed your shot, tap the screen in the area you want to focus on before you take the picture.

Rachel 
Thornhill
PHOTOGRAPHY



5. Think about the light

I know that there are certain places in our house that are great for taking photos, and usually they are when the children are facing windows. If your images are coming out dark, instead of using the flash, try turning on the overhead lights, as children often react in wacky ways to a flash. And if you have lights in the background, these can confuse your smartphone and give you a dark image, so try moving slightly and then focussing on your child's face so that the smartphone can do its magic.

6. Get down or climb up

When I'm on a family shoot, you'll often find me lying on the ground. That's because I want to get down to a child's level, and to capture the world from their perspective. A higher perspective looking down on your child can capture them from your point of view, so experiment with both, and see which you prefer.

7. Keep the phone as still as possible

This is often easier said than done, but especially in low light, any movement can result in blurred images. If this happens, see if you can lean against something, perhaps a doorframe or a table. And if you are getting blurry pictures because your little one won't keep still, try giving them a toy to hold, or asking them a question, they may just stay still for long enough for you!

8. Look after your memory

Isn't it annoying when you go to take a picture and your phone says out of memory? That could be because your phone is full of pictures that you don't realise you have kept and you don't actually want to keep. I'm guilty of this myself, my phone has 11,629 images on it right now, and I'm guessing at least half of them are not worth keeping! So try to remember to delete photos on your camera roll that you don't want, every week or so, and check that they are actually deleted and not sitting in a deleted items folder still taking up space!



Images taken with features such as live view are a lot bigger than normal images, and video clips bigger still, so I'd recommend checking back, and for videos, trim them to just the good bits. If you are really struggling for space and have a computer, you can always move your saved pictures from your phone onto your hard drive.

9. Check your backup

The second reason I mention memory is to check you're backing up your phone. I checked a month or so ago and despite having automatic cloud backup, it hadn't been running for a few months for some reason. Thank goodness I noticed! You can back up your phone to a computer if that's easier, but just set a reminder to yourself to do so once a week or month.

10. Print out your favourites

You probably have some favourite pictures of your kids on your phone, so why not print them out to enjoy everyday? There are lots of different companies online that print everything from magnets to postcards, so pick a few of your favourite phone pictures and stick them up on your fridge for everyone to enjoy. They'll be sure to make you smile. And this will remind you how quickly the children are growing, and encourage you to take more! Perhaps even similar poses or places, and once you print new ones, put the old ones away in a memory box. Your children will love looking back through them in years to come.

So that's it! Go forth and take photographs! Huge thanks to Rachel for writing these tips, we hope you enjoyed them and we look forward to sharing more little gems on other topics soon!

Love from Team Stork x

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