

Your guide to

Photographing Your
Newborn at Home

courtesy of LWH Portraits

hello!

While I'm unable to photograph your new addition (at this moment), I wanted to pass along this guide on how you can still capture this fleeting moment - at home - with whatever camera you own! (yes...even your phone!)

On the following pages, you'll find a series of tips and photo ideas with suggestions on setting up the shot.

After you take your precious newborn photos, message me to take advantage of my editing services to create THE most professional images during this quarantine time because newborns dont wait :)

I look forward to being able to photograph your family soon!

with joy,

Leigh
LWH Portraits



Some quick tips to keep in mind...

Get Ready!

First off, know that your photos are not going to look the same as professional photos, and that's ok! But you are capturing some precious memories, and that is all that matters. Babies are energy-based and will pick up on your anxiety and frustration, so just relax and go with the flow!

Turn up the thermostat so the room is warm, then give your baby a good feed, and be sure to burp them, so they are happy and sleepy! But remember that awake baby images are beautiful too!

Your baby will probably poop or pee if you take photos without a diaper on, so have supplies ready for quick clean ups or do more swaddled.

Equipment

Don't worry if you don't have a DSLR - try putting your phone on portrait mode if you have it to get some yummy blur. Make sure your lens is clean! And since you will keep things simple - you don't need many props.

What to wear

Have the family wear comfortable, simple, neutral-coloured clothing. Stay away from logos, words, and characters on shirts, and neon colours.

Newborns photograph best in a simple white onesie, as most newborn clothing are cute, but they don't fit well! You can add a little hat or headband for variety (but not one so big it takes the focus away from baby!) Baby is more likely to stay sleepy and content when swaddled tightly.

Some quick tips to keep in mind...

Light

Try to take your photos in the rooms that get the best gentle window light (not direct sunlight). North/south facing windows are great! If there's enough window light, turn off your overhead lights.

When positioning baby close to the window, make sure the light is coming from the side or towards the top of the baby's head.

Siblings

Always have another adult present to be close to baby while taking photos with siblings. Start with low expectations - they may not cooperate and that's ok. If they lose patience, rather try those photos another time.

Safety

The safety and comfort of your baby is more important than any photo.

Please do not attempt any poses that you see newborn photographers do - they are trained in newborn safety and posing.

Pets and siblings should never be photographed with a newborn without another adult right there to keep an eye (and hand!) on baby. When you are taking photos above baby, always wear the camera strap around your neck.

Listen for baby's cues. Your little one may start to tell you they have had enough. And pace yourself - you just had a baby and will need rest! If you need to break it up over a few days, that's A-OK!

Editing

Outsource to the pros! I may not be able to photograph your baby right now but I can and will offer my editing skills at a discounted rate to get the most pro photos we can during this crisis. Be sure to take loads of images so I can choose the best of the best.

Natural Overhead Images



Photo Tips

- Spread a blanket, swaddle wrap, or sheet on the floor near a window. Best choice: a neutral colour like white, cream or grey, or with an interesting pattern (arrows, stars, polka dots, etc.)
- Position baby with light coming from the side or top of baby's head.
- Take photos looking straight down - do not take photos up baby's nose.



On the bed



Photo Tips

- Use large bed (usually in master bedroom).
- Simple and neutral bedding looks best (tip: use white duvet inner)
- Lay baby on bottom half of bed, with head towards the side window.
- Get down and take photos at baby's eye-level.
- Add Mama lying down behind baby for a gorgeous shot! - ask your partner or use a timer for this

Fresh 48



Photo Tips

- In-hospital lifestyle sessions- you can do it!
- Take pictures directly from above with baby swaddled in her hospital blanket in her bassinet (or switch out for your own wrap).
- My favorite place to get pretty robes for yourself (to feel human lol) and matching wraps is www.MilkMaidGoods.com
- Don't forget to get photos of yourself and of your spouse trading off holding your new blessing in front of your hospital window for a beautiful backlit image.
- Children should sit in the corner of the couch or chair to hold their newborn sibling for safety be right there. Peering into the bassinet is another fave!

Sibling Images



Photo Tips

- Spread comfy blanket or rug close to a window. Tuck some rolled up receiving blankets underneath to create a place for sibling to rest head.
- Have sibling lie down with top of their head angled towards window.
- Place wrapped baby right up close to sibling, with baby's head supported by sibling's arm.
- Ask sibling to place other arm on baby's tummy or somehow connect.
- Take photo standing over them, looking straight down.

Parent and Baby



Photo Tips

- Place parent sitting or standing so window light comes from the side.
- Try to always angle top of baby's head towards window.
- Hold baby in different ways: lying in arms, held face to face, up on shoulder, facing out, in daddy's hands
- For each position, take photos from different angles - straight on, from side, from behind over parent's shoulder, etc.



Whole Family



Photo Tips

- Position your family members with window light coming from the side - on a couch, or even on the floor of the nursery. Let them leave a spot for you to sit or stand.
- Use a tripod if you have one, or simply set up your camera/phone against something sturdy, getting the whole family in the frame.
- Activate the timer (10 seconds), and run to get into your assigned position with your family. Smile!

Details



Photo Tips

- Lie baby down on a simple white or neutral coloured blanket or sheet, close to a window.
- Focus on just one body part at time, and make the whole photo just about that body part. MY FAVE IS FEET!!!
- Take photos of your baby's hands and fingers, feet and toes, nose, lips, belly button, and wisps of hair. Don't forget the little rolls and flaky skin!

