

Leatherland  
Photography

# NEWBORN SESSION

PREPARATION GUIDE



*"Awesome quote from one of your reviews about how great your service is from a client who doesn't mind being mentioned in this booklet."*

*Their name*





*Hi there!*



First and foremost, congratulations on the newest addition to your family!

I'm Georgie, the photographer behind the lens of Leatherland Photography.

Whether it's a referral from a good friend, Facebook or Instagram that got you to book with me, I am so, so happy you made this decision to join me. I feel honoured to be a small part of your story and hope I get to photograph your dinky one's journey for years to come.

# Leatherland

## Photography

### HELLO, I'M GEORGIE

A Lincolnshire based Photographer. I'm dedicated to crafting visual narratives that capture the essence of the fleeting new born phase. I believe in photography's power to immortalise the tenderness, joy, and love that fill our lives.

My approach centers around capturing genuine emotions and authentic connections, blending timeless portraits with candid snapshots that mirror your unique journey as a family. From tiny details to intimate family moments, I'm here to preserve every nuance in timeless images.

As someone with additional needs (ASD and ADHD), the struggles I've faced throughout my life have been what's inspired me to deliver the service and business I have today. My approach may be somewhat unconventional, but normal is boring, right?

Photos hold immense significance as cherished keepsakes and daily reminders of this transformative journey. Within this guide, discover valuable tips to prepare for your session, including outfit suggestions and insight into my photography style. I'm here to assist you every step of the way in preserving this beautiful chapter in your family's story. If you have questions, please contact me via email. Let's embark on this journey together!

*Georgie*

INFO@LEATHERLANDPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK  
07511470173

WELCOME





# What to expect

Your baby's first photoshoot is a big deal! I want you to walk away having the absolute best experience, so we plan as much as we can together.

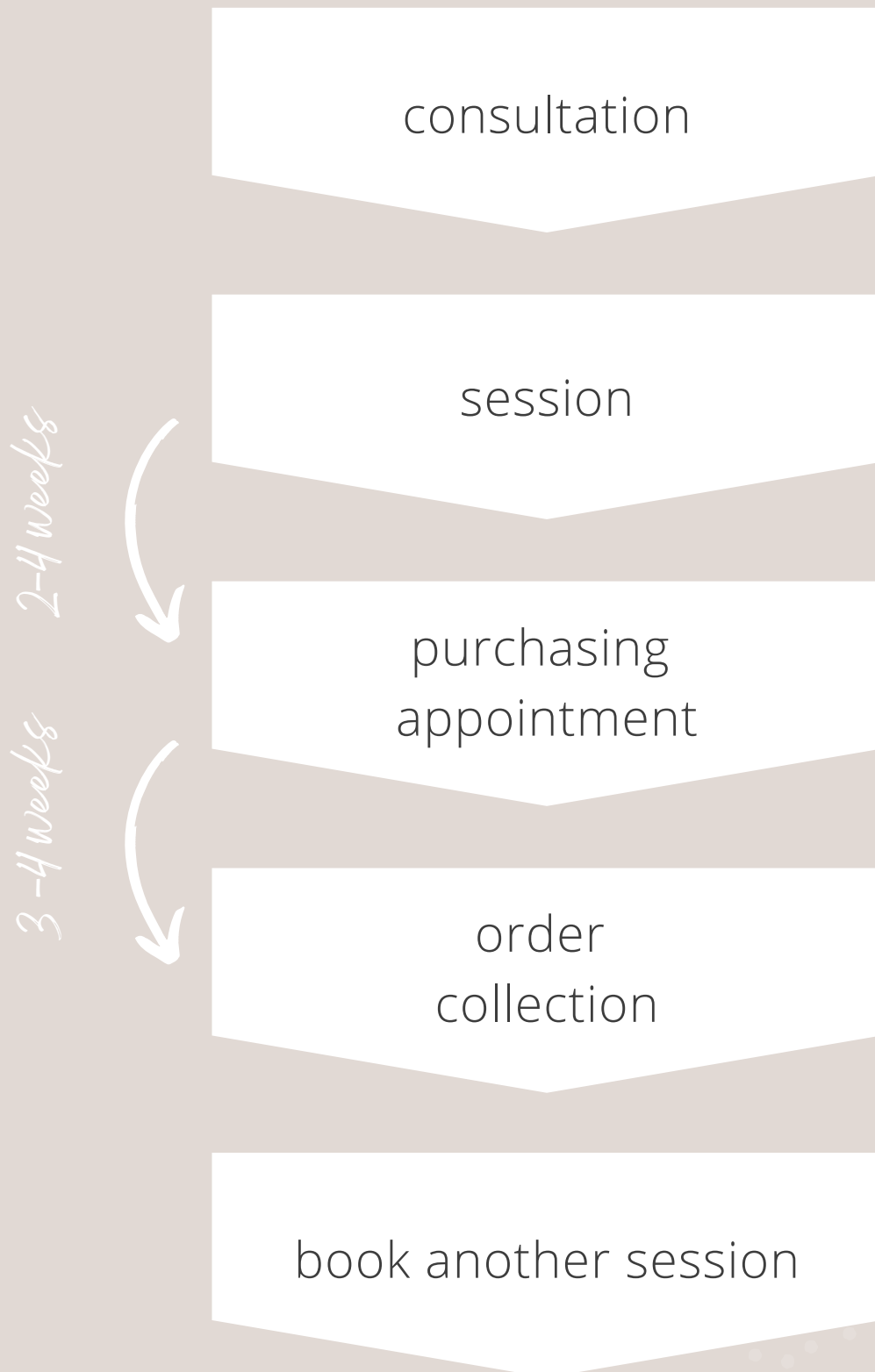
Through the consultation, I get to know you and your family a bit more, find out what your goal is for the session, what styling you would like, what colours dominate in your home.

I want to know as much about you as I can: what makes you smile, how would you like to be photographed, where you are planning on displaying your images.

There is a lot of planning that goes into your newborn session, but I can assure you, it will all be worthwhile, because the images we create together will not only document this moment in time for you to look back with a smile years from now, but also reflect your style.

# What to expect

*The process*







# How Do We Know When To Book?

A newborn photoshoot has such a small window of opportunity. Generally we hold these sessions between 5-18 days of baby's life (but up to 21 days)

We secure your session space by using your **Estimated Due Date**. This is because we do not know when baby will arrive, so this allows for both late and early arrivals.

Once baby is born, either yourself, or a loved one, gets in touch to let me know your baby has arrived. This lets me know your newborn timeframe has begun. We can then schedule your session date.

You can book your newborn session anytime after your 12 week scan (we will not take a booking before this). We recommend booking no later than **35 weeks** of pregnancy. After this, we may not have availability at such short notice.

# Investment

## *Full Session*

£70

- Prep Guide + Full Consultation
- 3-5 hour session
- Posing table
- Floor props
- Family images (including siblings)
- Private viewing Appointment

## *Basic Session*

£30

- Prep Guide + Full Consultation
- 2-4 hour session
- Posing Table
- Floor Props
- silhouette parent/family pictures only
- Private viewing Appointment

## *Mini session*

£99

- Prep guide + phone call consultation
- 2 hour session
- Baby Only
- 5 high-resolution digital images with printing rights - hand picked by photographer



# Timings

A newborn session lasts between 2-5 hours, depending on the session, and of course the baby.

I like for a newborn session to be a relaxing experience for everyone involved. On your session day I will ensure there is no one else booked in on that day. This means we have the full day should baby need a few extra feeds or a little more help getting to sleep.

I strongly recommend that you do not make any other plans for your session day. Avoid days with health visitor appointments. We cannot predict what baby will do and we want you to get the most from your session!

All sessions begin in the morning. This is to give us the maximum amount of time to capture your gallery. Additionally, newborns often become more unsettled in the afternoons. By getting as much as we can done in the morning, it means that if baby becomes unsettled then we have plenty of images captured already.

If you are booked for a newborn mini session we can be more flexible with the start time.





# Studio facilities

i like to provide as much as possible for everyone while visiting Leatherland photography. Often when attending a newborn photoshoot, this may be the first time leaving the house with a new baby. It can be very overwhelming to try and remember everything. So here's what we have to take the pressure off just incase you forget something:

- Bottle making facilities
- Pre-made infant formula (selection of brands to suit baby's regular formula brand)
- Nappies & nappy bags
- Wipes
- Dummies
- A brand new spare bottle
- Sterilising facilities
- Changing mat

Its also important to us to accommodate mum! in the hussle and byse trying to remember everything for baby that it can be easy for mum to forget about herself. Dont worry's mamas, we got you covered too!

- Maternity pads / feminine products
- Sprints for bits
- Refreshments



# SEN Trained

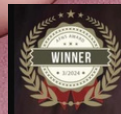
Parents with sen children often long for beautiful images of/with their children, but feel as though it's so unachievable due to the lack of inclusivity in the photography industry. I'm here to change that.

As someone who also has additional needs (ASD and ADHD) I understand first hand the extra struggles that both adults and children experience surrounding a professional photoshoot. My studio, my sessions, and my customer experience has all been thoughtfully crafted to be safe and inclusive to those who need extra support, even when there's no official diagnosis.

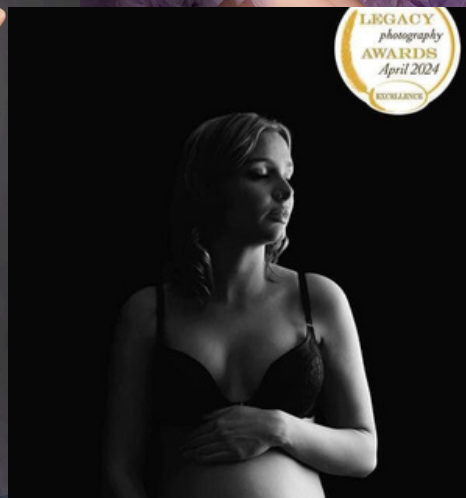
The world still revolves around mainstream and neurotypical individuals, with little adaptations and considerations for those who are different. My mission is to create a safe, calm, and beautiful experience for everyone.

Everyone is welcome in my studio. It is a safe and respectful area to be authentically and unapologetically yourself!












# Siblings


A newborn session is a family affair! It may feel like a lot to include older siblings in your newborn session, but you will never regret it.

We want to meet all of your babies, not just the tiniest one! Whether our model has siblings that are babies, toddlers, or even teenagers, everyone is welcome to join us!



I will do my best to provide you with some stunning images of all children together and a family photo of everyone as well.

Everyone is welcome to stay throughout the duration of the session, but if you believe your older children would become restless, overwhelmed or simply bored (remember, we are looking at between 2-4 hours), Dad or any member of your family can bring them for the first hour or the last hour of the session. Once the family and sibling images are finished, they would be free to leave.







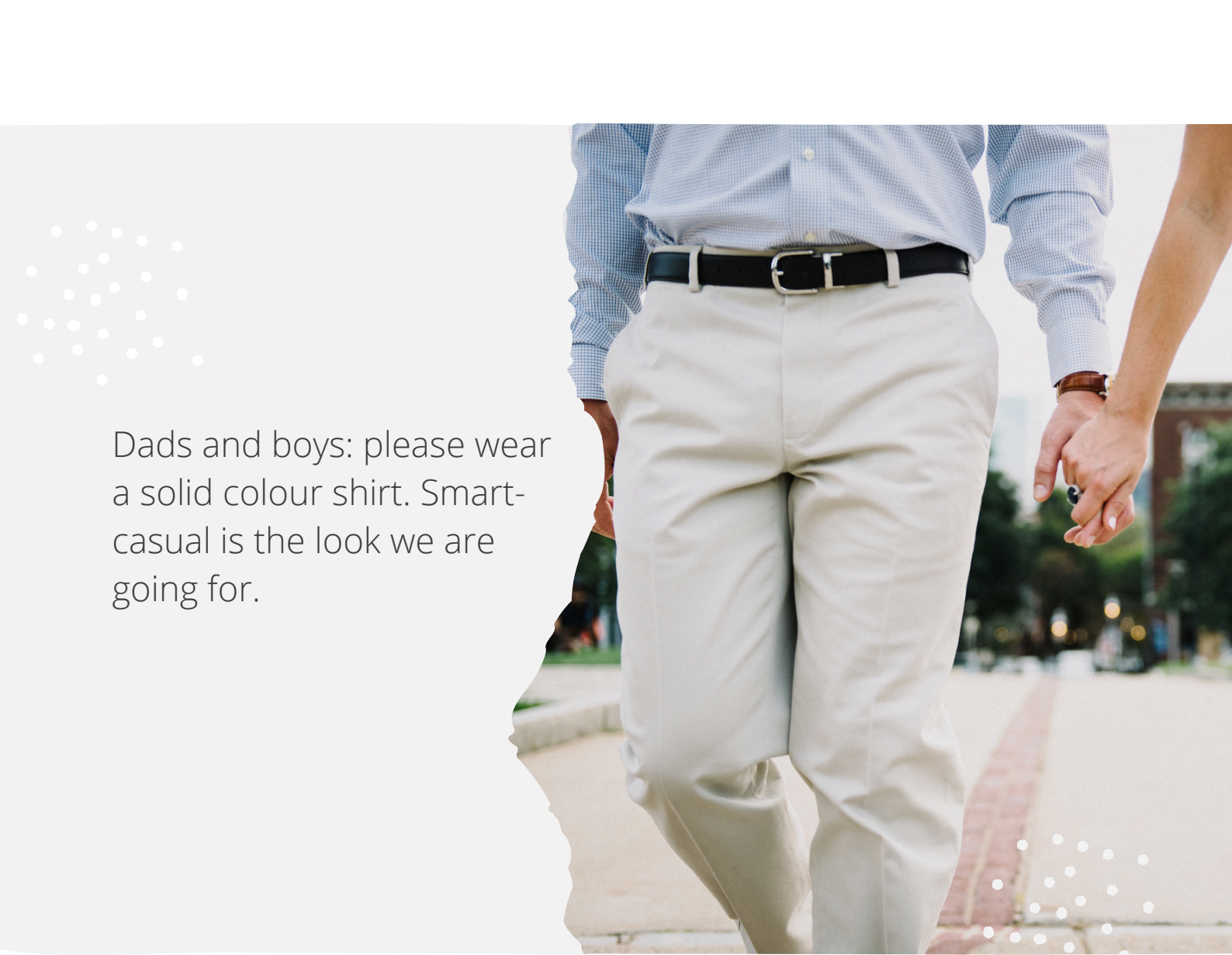
# What to wear

A newborn photoshoot is an important first milestone in your baby's biography, and you are a huge part of it! I love capturing the bond between a parent and baby.

I also want you to walk away having the absolute best experience, so we plan as much as we can together.







Dads and boys: please wear a solid colour shirt. Smart-casual is the look we are going for.

## So what works?

Think cotton, linen, sweaters, even lace. Texture is good as it brings a bit of interest to your images. No texture is good as well, as it will refocus our efforts on your baby.

Logos are what kills the timeless vibe in any photo, so please leave any heavily branded outfits at home.

Everyone's hands may appear in the photos, so make sure you don't have chipped nails if you are wearing nail polish.

# What to wear

## *Baby edition*

I will provide all the outfits for your dinky one ready at the studio. From clothing, wraps, props, to headbands and hats, it will all be taken care of.

On the day of the session, please dress your baby in loose clothing and fabrics that are simple to take off (please avoid anything with buttons and zips at the back). This will ensure that we do not wake our model upon undressing them. Please avoid tight socks or vests to prevent marks on their skin.

You don't need to bring anything for your baby to wear, unless there is anything unique and meaningful you would like your little one to wear for some of the photos. If that's the case, please let me know what colours and style you would like to incorporate with the outfit, or send me a photo of what you are bringing and I will make sure to plan the set around it.







# Before the session

## *Sleep*

We schedule most of our newborn sessions when babies are under 3 weeks of age, to make sure we get the best chance for those gorgeous, curled-up, sleepy poses everyone loves.

This however is not guaranteed, no matter what age, as babies, just like adults, have their good and not-so-good days. They can wake up grumpy or happy.

The good news is, within the first couple of weeks, we can almost always benefit from baby's fairly regular sleep pattern.

In order to maximise our chances for the peaceful and sweet images, I encourage all parents to try and keep their newest family members awake directly prior to the session.

Whether it's with a long, soothing bath or by tickling their toes and playing, it will help us get the best out of the session if our model is ready for their nap upon arrival.









## Arriving for your session

When arriving at your session please park in one of the two marked bays.

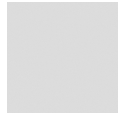
Then go through the gate to your left and on your right is the door to the studio. Please knock and wait to be invited in.

3 Tennyson way  
Spilsby  
Lincolnshire  
PE23 5GH

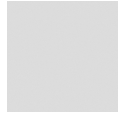




# CHECKLIST



Confirm date, time and check location



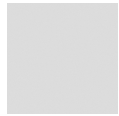
Choose your outfits (+ sibling outfits) and have them ready



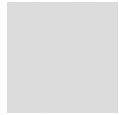
Bring nappies, baby wipes and milk



Bring a dummy if your baby is using one



Bring a change of clothing for your baby



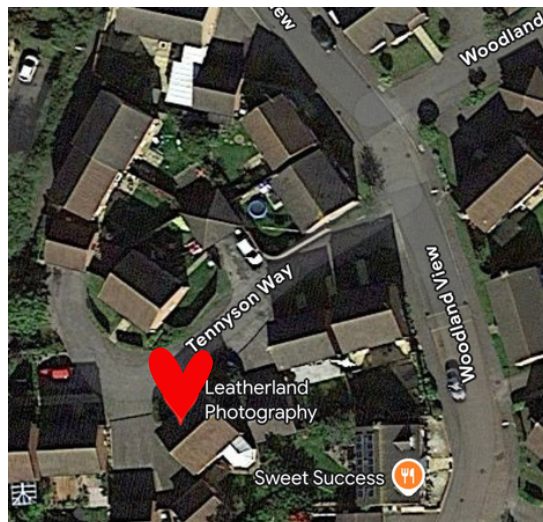
This is also your time to relax! Bring a book, iPad, nursing pillow - anything to make you comfortable

*Studio address:*



3 Tennyson Way  
Spilsby  
PE23 5GH

What3Words:  
///hours.match.chaos



# During the session

## *Studio temperature*

Our studio is heated during a newborn session, to make sure the dinkiest amongst us are as comfortable and warm as possible.

With that in mind, please avoid warm clothing or bring a t-shirt to change into, unless you enjoy tropical temperatures, which we can guarantee at our studio all year around.



# Feeding

Whether they are hungry or thirsty, remember that your baby's only option is milk, hence why it feels as though they are always hungry!


Due to the high temperature at the studio, your little one may feel as though they want to eat even more than they would at home. This is absolutely normal. We take regular feeding breaks when your little one gets fussy; this is completely normal. Do not worry. Most newborns require at least one feed during their session. Modelling is hard work!

If you are bottle feeding, please bring plenty of extra bottles for the session. You may be surprised at how much a little human can go through within just a couple of hours in a warm studio. Don't worry, we have bottle making facilities, premade infant formula and even a spare bottle just incase you forget anything!

Speaking of bottles, if your baby is happy with their formula, avoid changing in the last two days prior to the session, to make sure their new milk doesn't upset their tiny tummy, as this can make them a bit grumpy and uncomfortable on the day.

If you are breast feeding, avoid spicy or citrus foods a day prior to the session. Things like onion, garlic, cauliflower, green peas, mushrooms, apples, cherries, mango, peaches, pulses, wheat products and dairy foods high in lactose can upset baby's stomach and in some cases make them gassy, and being gassy will make them fussy! We want them to be as happy and comfortable as they can be on the day. It's very common for a breastfed baby's session to take a little longer, and for them to be a bit more unsettled. This is normal!





To make sure our model is sleepy and happy to pose, give them a good feed prior to arrival. This will make them more at ease from the start.

If you live more than 20 minutes away from the studio or anticipate a longer commute due to traffic or the rush hour, please feel free to arrive at the studio a bit earlier to feed your baby. (please confirm with photographer during scheduling)

After feeding and burping our model, they will be ready for their close-up!

### *Do I need a dummy?*

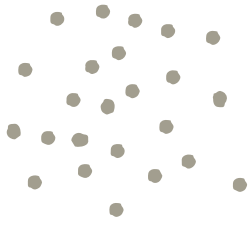
We would never force our tiny models to use a dummy as it's a personal preference of every mum. We can however say, from a personal experience, that there may be moments when dummies save a session and make our models calmer and happier to be photographed.

You can always dispose of it after the session, and never pick one up again. We have brand new dummies on hand in the studio too.

If your baby is getting soothed with a dummy, please remember to bring it with you on the day.

"My baby won't take one and spits it out". Bring one anyway! I've not yet had a baby I've not been able to get to take one.





## *Pooping: do's and don'ts*

If there is one thing I can tell you about babies pooping during their first photoshoot is this: expect it.

It may happen when you are feeding them, it may happen whilst they are naked on a piece of snow-white cashmere backdrop. It may happen whilst they are wearing a tiny, handmade outfit or when you are holding them during your family photos.

For this very reason, I recommend bringing a set of clothes for you to change into, just in case we have a poopspllosion.

Please don't feel bad or embarrassed when this happens. It's normal and totally ok for babies to poop or wee on my props. They get cleaned, washed and sanitised after each session, awaiting the next poopologist visit.







# Family Heirlooms

Are there any items close to your heart that you would like to bring to the session? Teddy bears you store safely, which belonged to your parents, maybe even grandparents?

A scarf that symbolises someone in the family, a wedding dress or a veil that reminds you of the happiest day of your life?

Maybe you have a passion or a hobby that means a lot to you and you would like to include even one or two images depicting this in some way?

Whether it's something big, or really small, if it's important to you, it's important to me as it's all a part of your family's story that we want to capture on the day.





# Freezing Time

Whether it's a close-up of your baby's lips, their dinky nose, the curl in their hair or the flaky skin on their belly and toes, it will all change in a blink of an eye, and I want you to remember every bit of it.



Leatherland  
Photography



# 5 Tips for a great *Newborn Session*

## 1. **Prepare your outfits the day before**

I don't want you to stress on the day, so anything that could potentially cause you any stress needs to be dealt with beforehand. Make sure your outfits are ready and ironed the night before.

If you are worried about getting anything creased in transit, or children spilling juice all over their new shirt, bring those with you separately. You can always get changed at the studio. We will have plenty of time.

## 2. **Prepare siblings**

On the day of the session, you may wake up a bit more anxious than usual, because you want everything to go smoothly. In the chaos of the day, we may not have the time for a sit-down meal prior to leaving the house with not just your baby but also the older siblings.

If they are anything like me, hungry almost always means angry, and we most definitely do not want to have them angry on the day, if as little as a sandwich would have solved that. If you are strapped for time, bring some snacks with you.





When it comes to preparing our main model: keeping your newborn baby awake directly prior to the session is the key. We want them to be ready for their nap upon arrival, but what's the best way to prepare your older babies?

Depending on their age, it may be good to sit down with your children and tell them a bit more about what will happen on the day of their session. If they are around 5-8 years old, they will most likely be really excited for the day ahead. If you can bring them to the consultation, it's even better as they can familiarise themselves with the environment. This will give them a confidence boost on the day, especially if they are shy.

If they are teenagers, they may be more excited if you tell them the session won't take long and they are free to go home when their part of the shoot is over (the same sometimes applies to dads).

### **3. Prepare for your arrival.**

If you haven't attended an in person consultation (recommended), then it may be beneficial to research and plan your arrival a day or so before your session.

Check the website/ google maps/ street view and make sure you're aware of the location and what to do when you arrive.

Allow more than enough time for travelling. Make sure you factor in possible road works, diversions, school traffic, and of course tractors

#### 4. **Bring an activity / entertainment**

We want your children to feel relaxed and forget about the camera, and toys are great for that. They also direct focus, so if we need your little one to look directly into the camera, I can always place their favourite teddy bear on top of it!

for yourself perhaps consider a book, or download a film. Or perhaps use the opportunity to take a nap! Our comfortable seating area can fold out into a bed (we even have a blanket and pillows) so feel free to take the time to catch up on your rest.

#### 5. **Enjoy it**

I know it's easy to say, but this is the time when we will be capturing you and your love as a family. Those will be the memories your children will pull out of the dusty box 20-30 years from now, at a Christmas table. Whatever is on your mind, put it aside for this hour and try as much as you can to enjoy this time.

Maybe your little ones will need more cuddles on the day, maybe they will be boisterous. Maybe they will run around for 20 minutes before they are out of steam. Please don't stress about it. I am here to document it all. This is life happening around us. Those are the memories we want to look back on.



What's next?



# Display your images

After your session is over, we will schedule a date for your viewing appointment. It's at this meeting when we choose your favourite images, your package and your ways of displaying the images purchased.

The majority of our clients choose a wall art collection for their photos, because it's hard to choose just one favourite sometimes, but I will be here to help you decide which images would look great as framed enlargements.



# Frequently asked questions

- **How much time do I need on the day?**

Our newborn sessions take between 2 and 5 hours, depending on our model's mood on the day. Sessions with family images included will take longer, especially involving children.

- **Can me and my partner and my parents join in?**

Absolutely! It's a family affair. Siblings and dads are strongly encouraged to join in. So are the grandparents.

- **When do we pick the wall art?**

Your products will usually be ready for pick up around 4 weeks after your payment. I will arrange a pick up time the moment your wall art arrives at my studio. For pieces larger than 30" by 40", we can arrange a delivery straight to your address, at no additional cost.

- **How long do I have to wait before the images are ready for the viewing?**

Usually, I will have your viewing booked for around 2 weeks after your session.

- **What happens if the siblings don't behave on the day?**

Whether it's a newborn session including a toddler or a baby, we cannot plan for their mood on the day. Just like adults, they may have a good or a bad day.

If the session doesn't go according to plan, I reserve the right to postpone it to another day. This is at no extra cost to you, and subject to availability

- **How do I view the photos after the session?**

After your session, we will schedule a date for your viewing at my studio. It's at this appointment you will choose your favourite images and it's also then that we decide on what to do with them!

If you are looking for a beautiful wall art collection to fill your walls, please measure the space available prior to the appointment.

- **What time does the session take place?**

All newborn sessions take place first thing in the morning, between 9:40 and 10am. That's when babies are usually at their happiest and most rested.





*... and now: relax*

It may sound cheesy, but those first few weeks will go in a flash and the photos you take now will be the best reminder of the days that blend into the nights, that made you so very tired, yet you'd still not swap them for anything!

I want this first photoshoot to be the most amazing experience for your family, so if there is anything else I can help with, or if you have any last minute ideas, please email me and I will be happy to assist.