

5 TIPS TO TAKE BETTER PICTURES OF YOUR KIDS

(Even Without a Fancy Camera)

1

USE THE SELF-TIMER



This method is great for when you know you're staying in the same place for at least a minute. Set your phone on something about five feet away from you. Frame the shot so your child and the place you will be standing in are both on your screen. Find the self-timer mode and set it for 10 seconds. Click as if you were taking a photo and quickly get back to where you were to continue what you were doing. The camera will then take a photo of you doing just that! Perfect for when your child is occupied or taking a nap on you because you'll need them to stay in one area.

2

RECORD A VIDEO



When you know you're about to do an activity where you can't keep going back to the camera to take your photos on a timer, this is where I set it to video mode instead. I set up my camera the same way as I would with a self-timer, and just press record. This way, I can stop the recording when I'm done and I can go back to screenshot my favorite moments. Bonus: having a video is a priceless memory that shows exactly how you lived!

3

HAND THE PHONE TO YOUR KIDS (NO, REALLY!)



One of my favorite things to do is give kids my phone to have them take pictures of me. I promise I'm not a narcissist. And I don't do it often (because, KIDS), but I do it once in a while, especially after we've done something together. Kids sometimes find my big head of hair so fascinating, that every once in a while, they'll ask if they can "style" it and I'll oblige. After they finish, I hand over the phone to the kids only for them to take photos of their work (they get really excited, and it's super adorbs). When I give them this responsibility and a purpose for the phone, it reduces the possibility that they'll take advantage and just run off with my handheld lifeline. In the end, you also get a neat perspective that shows you how they see the world.

4

SWITCH UP THE VIEW



People tell me that they take out their camera phone at the right moments, but the pictures still look "boring". My challenge for you is to keep your camera out and keep snapping those photos, but don't stay in one spot. When I was teaching high school photography, one assignment I gave was the 100 Photos Challenge. The object was to pick one object and take photos of it in 100 different ways. That meant they had to change the angle, or the lighting, their distance, etc. I challenge you to do the same. If your kid is eating breakfast, try getting a photo of her from exactly where you are. Then take a few steps back and see if you can get the entire room in the frame. Then try to get a photo from two inches away from her face. Stand on furniture and get a birds eye view. Get on the ground and get a photo of her feet dangling from her high chair. The possibilities are endless.

5

KEEP TAKING PICTURES (AND LOTS OF EM)



Seriously. Just be the crazy picture lady (or gentleman) for a little while until you get your groove. Take pictures during your child's naptime. Take pictures when they're happy. Take pictures when you're tired. Take pictures of the snuggles. Take pictures of those little grubby feet. You get the idea. The more you photograph, the more intuitive it'll become. And your kids will eventually stop freaking out every time you take out the camera, because they'll already be used to it.