

10 TIPS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO TAKE PICTURES

PLUS: BONUS 28-DAY PHOTO CHALLENGE



This tip sheet will cover basic photography principles that you can use with any camera. The best camera is the one you have - whether it's your phone, a point-and-shoot, or digital SLR. As you become more advanced you will learn more challenging technical skills that may require a camera with further capabilities. Start exploring and capturing the world with your eyes using whatever camera you have available along with these tips below. Let's dig in!

1



SUBJECT: The subject of your photo is the object or person you are photographing. The subject is the most important thing in the photograph. Your subject could be people, objects, nature, food, or animals.

2



FOCUS: Your subject should be in focus and sharp. Slow down to avoid blurry photos. Stop to get your subject in focus, hold the camera steady, and take the photo before moving again.

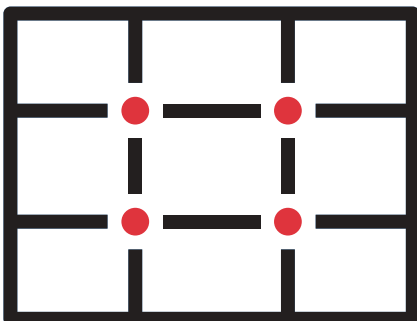
3



PERSPECTIVE: Don't be afraid to experiment with shooting from different angles. Shoot down low or get up high. Shoot from different sides of your subject. Shoot in close by zooming in or moving closer with your feet or shoot from far away.

4

COMPOSITION: The simple principle called Rule of Thirds can make an image more interesting when placing your subject along a line on a 9 square grid. Your phone or camera may allow you to display this grid to help you line up your subject at these points of interest. You can compose images horizontally (landscapes, large groups, sideways lines) or vertically (portraits of people, single subjects, up and down lines).

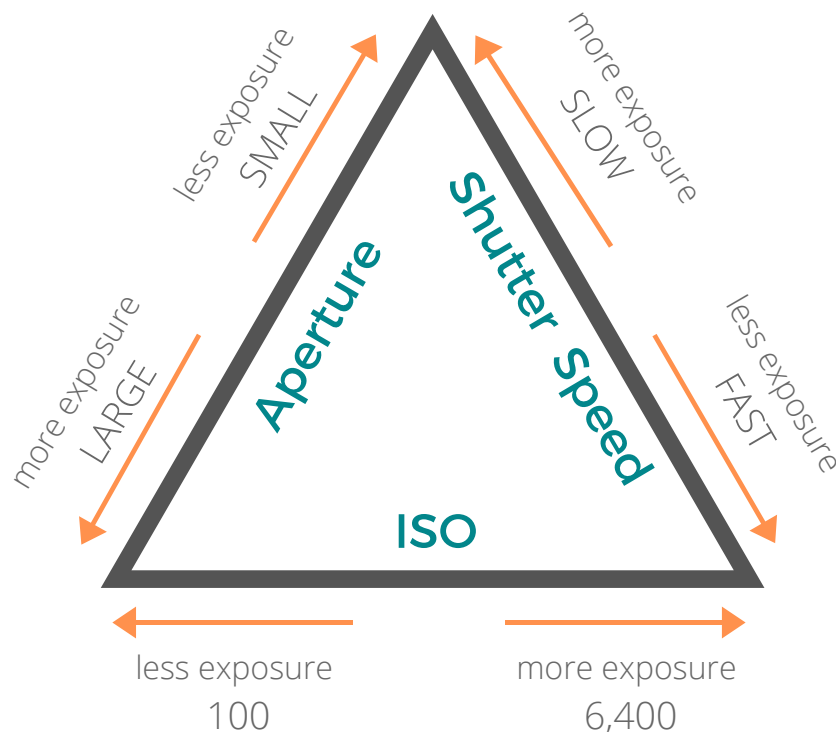


5

LIGHT: Lighting will depend on the look you want to achieve. Generally, you will place your subject in even light such as near a window or soft shade. However, for a moody photo you may want more contrasting shadows or try direct sunlight for a fun and bright shot. Backlighting with bright light falling on your subject's back can be magical. Play with natural and artificial light and when you are ready you can also incorporate flash.

6

CAMERA SETTINGS: Your ability to set specific camera settings will depend on your camera. I recommend starting in Auto Mode and moving your subject or changing the lighting to improve the photo. Feel free to play with other shooting modes. To adjust your exposure (how bright or dark the photo is) in-camera you will need to refer to your camera's manual. An advanced skill is shooting in manual mode while manipulating the shutter speed (controls the amount of light let into the camera), aperture (the hole or opening that controls the amount of light and the depth of focus), and ISO (light sensitivity of your film or digital sensor determines how dark or bright your image is) to create the desired exposure.

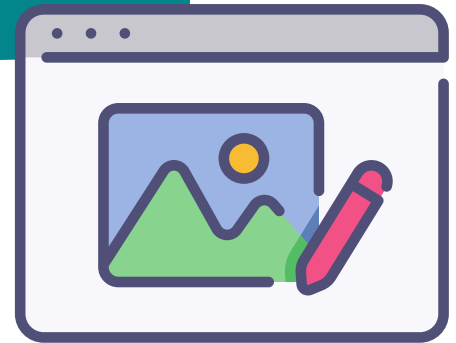




DECISIONS: Before taking a picture, ask questions like... What's the main subject here? What part should I focus on? What angle do I want? What do I want this photo to tell others about how I see this subject?

EDITING: You can take your photos to the next level by adjusting and editing either in-camera, on your phone, or using computer software. Photos can be adjusted for exposure and color including turning your photo black and white. You can improve the composition by tweaking the cropping and straightening the image.

8



9

REVIEW: Review images with family or friends to discover the images you love more than others and identify why. Also, find images that are blurry or out of focus, too bright or too dark, and understand why this happened. Then go try again to improve your photos. Ask questions like - why did you take this photo? What do you like? Would you take this photo again? What could you do differently or better? What story is this telling?



10

CAMERA CARE: Do not drop your camera or get it wet. Keep it in a safe spot. Use a carrying case or camera bag when not in use. Wipe off your lens with a soft cloth before you shoot to help your images be sharp.



Learning should be fun! Practice makes perfect so don't give up as you work on building your skills. Photography sparks curiosity, exploration, and decision making in kids. Allow the process to be less about rules and more about letting creativity blossom. A legacy can be left through the tangible snapshots that tell our stories and are passed down through generations.

28-DAY PHOTO CHALLENGE

Grab your favorite camera and practice some of these tips using the prompts below! Remember to think creatively and try experimenting as you learn!

Your Favorite Toy	Something Blue	Shadows	Looking Up	Something That Starts with the Letter A	Something Red	Reflection in a Window or Mirror
An Animal	Looking Down	3 Photos From One Location Without Moving	Something Green	A Tree	Water	Sunlight
Two Different Photos of the Same Subject	A Family Member	Something That Starts with the Letter B	Action or Movement	Something Yellow	Food	Your Favorite Book
Something That Starts with the Letter C	Your Bedroom	A Car	At Night	A Friend	A Building	Your Choice - Have Fun!