

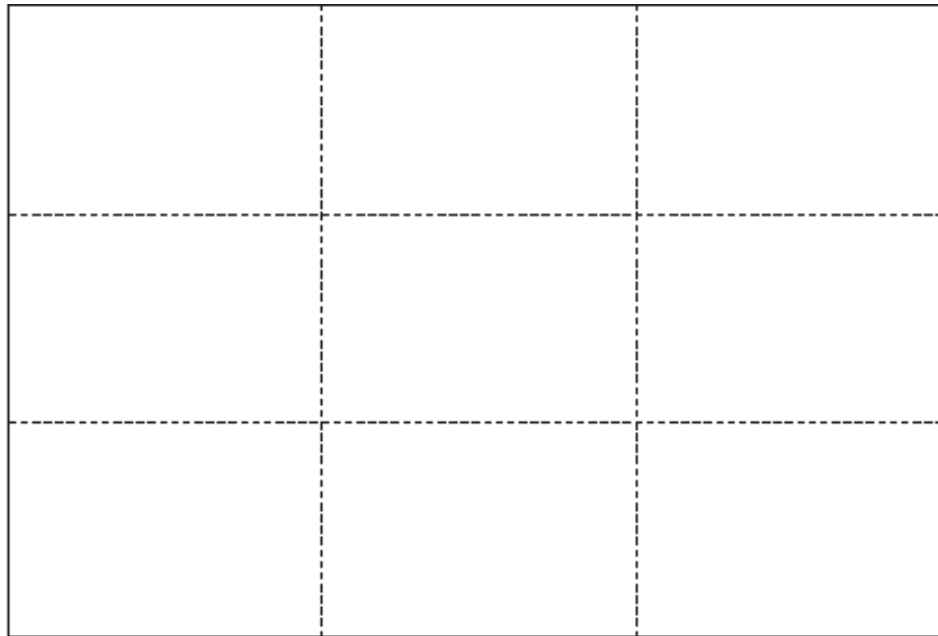
What to Keep in Mind when Photographing Family

Composition

- How do you make a compelling photograph?
- What is the center of interest?
- How do you get the viewers gaze to focus where you want?
- What should be included or excluded in the frame?

Rule of Thirds

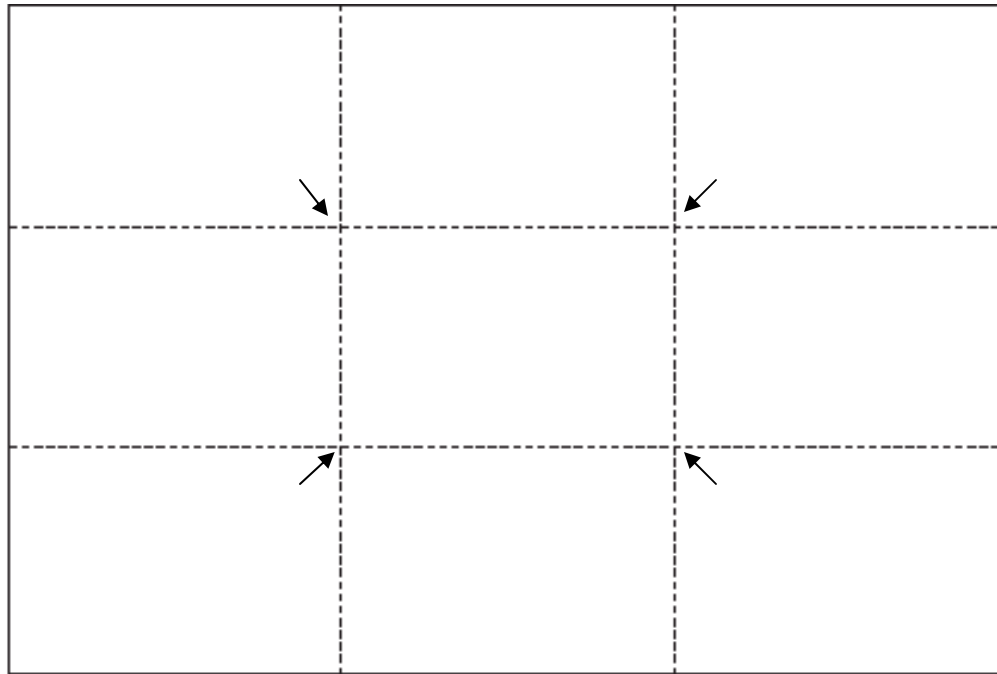
- The Rule of Thirds breaks your frame into nine parts



The Rule of Thirds is a visual tool to identify interesting locations to place your primary subject for a balanced composition.

Framing is Key

- Place important image elements along the lines of the thirds, or at their intersections.



The Rule of Thirds is a visual tool to identify interesting locations to place your primary subject for a balanced composition.

Rule of Thirds

- View the white arrows in the image below.



Fill the Frame

- Get the subject into the frame so it is clear what the photograph is about.



Angle of View

- The best angle for a photo is not always upright. Try a birds eye view or worms eye view.



Foreground & Background

- Careful framing of your subject can make a dramatic difference in your photos. Remember, every photograph has a foreground and background -- use them together to add an interesting element to the shot.



Balance

- Achieving good balance requires the correct combination of shapes, highlights and shadows.



Light & Shadow

- Use light to highlight certain areas of your image. Light tones advance while dark tones retreat. Most people look at the lighter portions of a photograph first. This technique can also add drama to your image.



Symmetry

- Another way to achieve balance is through symmetry. Reflections of the landscape in still water are an example of almost perfect symmetry.



Color & Shape

- Colors or shapes can be used as an element of composition or as the basis of a composition.



Chaos

- Place people or objects throughout the frame to make an interesting composition.



Focus on the Subject

- Use the aperture to create depth. Make objects in front and behind your subject a little out of focus (shallow depth of field). Attention will be drawn to the subject because the subject will be isolated from the foreground and background.



Capture Motion

- Use a slow shutter speed to capture motion.



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Stop Motion

- Use a fast shutter speed to stop motion. Notice the ball is frozen below.



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Visual Cropping

- Present a Clear Message - Try to avoid anything that would distract people from your main subject. Check the edges of the frame before pressing the shutter. Notice the tree coming out of the back of the girls head and the hat tie on the side of her face. Both distract and detract from the subject.



Draw the Viewer in

- Vertical lines denote strength, height and power
- Horizontal lines connote width and stability
- Diagonal lines give a sense of movement & energy
- Curved lines are sensuous



Simplicity

- Simplify the composition by assuring that nothing in the viewfinder competes or distracts from the subject. Everything visible in the photograph helps to support the theme and the background does not distract from the subject but adds to the composition.



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Perspective

- Perspective is defined as the appearance of depth or spatial relationships between objects in an image. To capture the essence of what you experience when viewing a scene, it helps to add an element to your photograph to convey perspective.



Helpful Tips for Photographing Family

- **Are your subjects doing something they love?** If you're shooting them "happy" – be it playing in the park, or listening to a bedtime story, you'll get the best results.
- **Be creative.** Photograph your subject from a variety of angles & distances.
- **Consider location.** When choosing a location, be sure to assess the background.
- **Understand your equipment.** Ready your manual so that you can achieve your technical and artistic goals.
- **Available light.** Find the direction of your light source and place your subject accordingly.
- **Fill Flash.** Use your flash to fill in shadows around the eyes and the rest of the face even on a sunny day.
- **Timing is everything.** Be patient and wait for the right moment to press the shutter – even if that moment comes on a different day.
- **Have another adult on the scene.** It's tough trying to be a successful mom *and* photographer at the same time!
- **Back up your work to an external hard drive.**

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