



NATURAL NEWBORN PHOTO TIPS

USING JUST YOUR I-PHONE

YOU CAN DO IT!





WELCOME

..to my simple guide on taking natural and candid like pictures of the tiny new person in your life, using just your phone.

It's tricky times just now and although you may be planning on getting a professional to take your images it may be a while before we are actually allowed into homes.

So here's a helping hand to get the most from taking images on your phone. All the pictures in this guide were taken using no flash, relying on light from the window alone. Yes, I have a professional camera but phone cameras are very sophisticated now and you can achieve the same effects if you know how.

It's all about getting the right setup which is really very simple.

LET'S DO
THIS..



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Before you start clicking away it's best to make sure that your baby has been fed, changed and is generally content.

OUTFIT

What they are wearing isn't a make or break but try to keep it simple and stick to a white sleep suit or vest. You may even want them just in a nappy.





USE WINDOW LIGHT

keep that flash off!

Find a warm room with good natural light, the bedroom is ideal. Ensure that any blinds are fully up to let as much light into the room as possible. Make sure your bed is neat. Place them on the bed but first find a cosy blanket and lie them on top. You'll want another blanket to hand as you will use this too. Plain pink, blue, white blankets all perfect.

POSITIONING



Face them towards the window so their faces are not in shadow. You could wrap them in a blanket or have a blanket laid over them as if they were in bed.

Swaddling them is good if they are used to that and it minimizes any movement that may make it tricky to snap sharp pictures.

TIME FOR SLEEP

They may well nod off at this point if they are warm and comfy. This is a perfect chance for you to get some pictures of their smaller features when they are nice and still! REMEMBER to put your phone on silent.





*When wrapped in a blanket,
leave their feet sticking out for
something a bit different*

WHEN THEY ARE ASLEEP

Most phones will allow you to focus in relatively closely on objects and still look sharp. Here's where you can photograph their toes and hands without worrying about the images looking blurry because they are wriggling!

Even if you think you can't get too close you can always zoom in and crop them on your phone later. Remember to disable the flash function on your phone. You will achieve the most natural look when you make use of the window light alone.



There is nothing more pure than a sleeping baby. It's when you really notice their tiny eyelashes, perfectly bowed lips and baby skin, beautiful with all it's blemishes.

A W A K E

Have confidence to photograph them when they start to wake. That's the beauty of a digital phone, take as many as you like and if they don't work out it doesn't matter. The more pictures the better!





ADORABLE YAWNS

*Position yourself above them by
kneeling on the bed*

Try and catch a yawn when they wake (or are about to fall asleep) this is one of the loveliest moments you can capture at this age. Stand on a chair or kneel over them on the bed and you can get some great results. (just try not to topple over them) It can require a bit of patience but it's worth it.

MUMMY I'M AWAKE!

There are lots of things you can do when baby wakes from their slumber. They may be hungry so again wait until they have been fed, changed and are content.

Get you partner to stand near the window, again with the light falling onto baby's face and get an adorable over the shoulder shot.



You get some wonderful expressions in the early days, while they are figuring out what their facial muscles can do. A great way to capture these is to position them on the bed again (in window light) and kneel next to the bed on the floor so your face is level with theirs. Be careful not to cast a shadow on their face.





A lovely photo is to hold up your baby, resting them on your forearm making sure you are near a window. They can get a good look at you too as you gently rock them.

If there is an older sibling, try getting them to kiss their little brother or sister while they are lying on the bed. Bribe them with a sweetie if you like!



TRY TO PHOTOGRAPH EACH OTHER WITH YOUR NEWBORN



These are all taken with natural light



Of course you want photos of yourselves with your newborn. Get your partner to capture you holding baby close to you in window light, or if you want a more candid style image, getting some of daddy doing his duties is always a treasure to look back on in years to come!



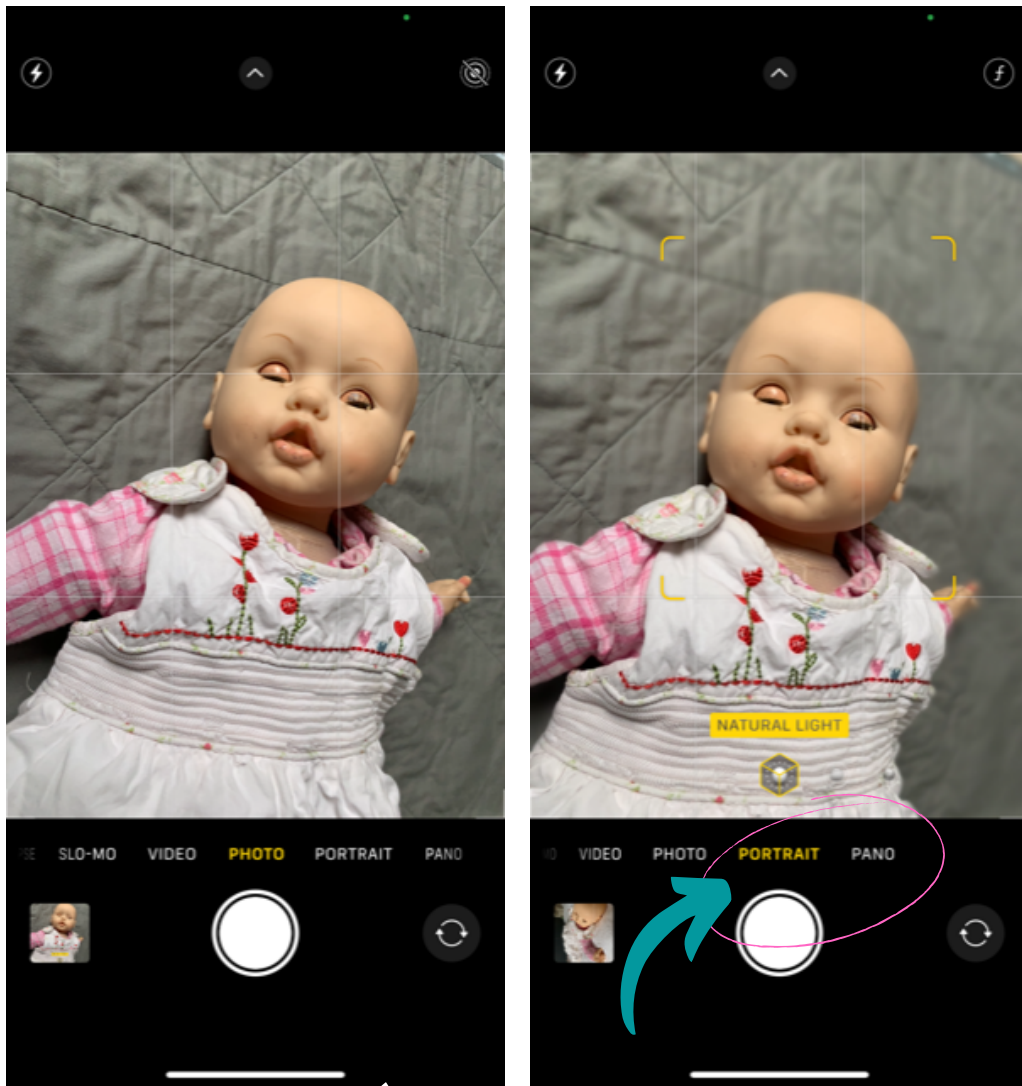
SETTINGS & EFFECTS ON YOUR I-PHONE

Many people have i-phones so I'm going to give you some advice about what settings to use. I'm honestly so blown away with this camera phone.

Excuse my daughter's doll (meet Lottie) but it's the only way I can demonstrate what you can do and I don't have a baby...



She was a bit scary with her eyes open...



Comparing the photo and portrait settings

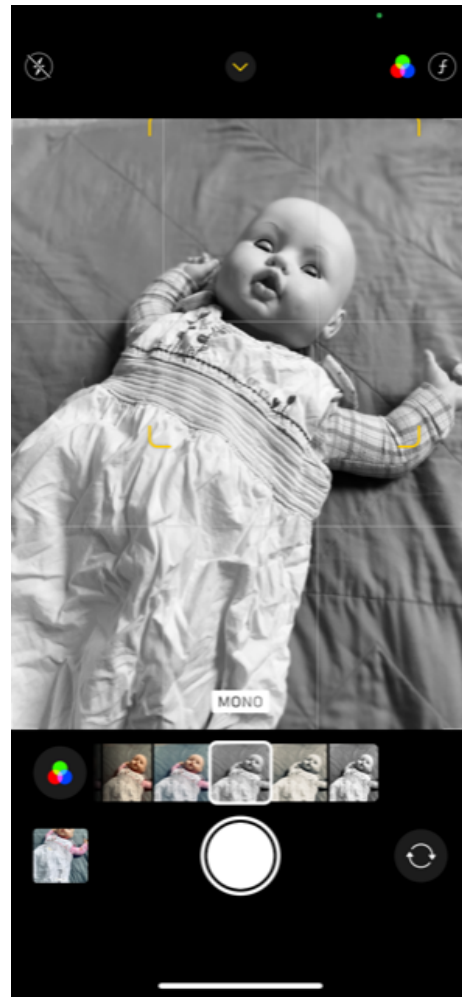
The setting I love the most is the portrait setting. It is AMAZING. When you click on camera you'll see it as one of the options. (*Note, this feature is on the more recent i-phones - I have an XR and there have been many more upgrades since then.*) What this does, is it recognises a face (it will only work on faces, not hands and feet as I've tried!) and blurs out the background so you get a more punchy image and all that focus is on the more sharpened features of your baby. It instantly makes your images look more professional.

As a photographer I use this feature ALL the time with my kids and always love the results.

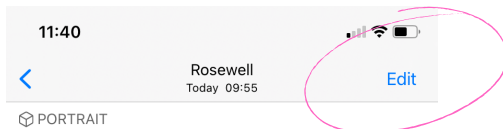


Different light settings

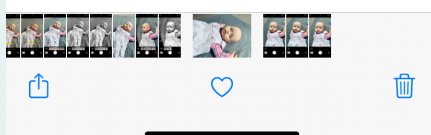
You can also adjust the look of your image while you are taking the picture by selecting from Natural, Contour and Studio light. I know you don't see much difference in these pics, it was more obvious while I was doing this.



Different Filter Settings



See the tiny arrow at the top of the screen? Click on this and it will reveal some filters that you can apply to your pictures, (while you are taking them) but you can also edit them afterwards if you wish. I would edit them afterwards as it's very easy. In photos, click on 'edit' in top right and you get the same filters and light options.





After you've taken some beautiful pictures of your baby, you can have a well earned snooze!

I hope you have found this guide useful but the main thing is, ENJOY snapping away. You may be surprised by the results! Which I would love to see by the way....

