



Creating  
summer  
photos  
with *feeling*

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PHOTOGRAPHY

You absolutely do not need an expensive camera to take meaningful photographs of your family. Your phone can do that perfectly. Most of what makes a photo feel special is **light, connection, and noticing moments.**





me age 6



Taken by my Dad in 1982.

He was a wonderful hobbyist photographer and would never go on holiday without taking many, many pictures.

They included mundane events in the day, such as having breakfast in the caravan.



No one wants their photo taken when they are tucking into their cornflakes, right?

BUT, I'm getting taken back to that caravan and re-living that day in 1982.

The best bit about this photo? No-one is looking at the camera.

But then he would also take pictures like this.

A spur of the moment image of me with my mum feeding some seagulls.

He was and still is my inspiration. I can hear those seagulls.



What are we looking at? You're guess is as good as mine! But that's what draws you in.





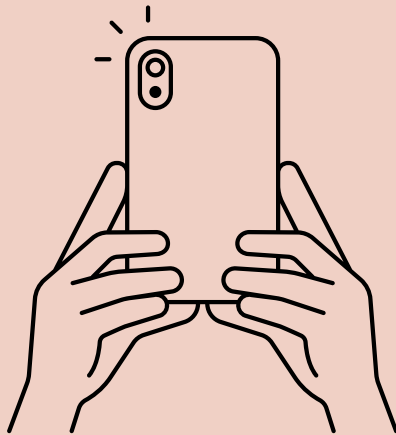
Then quite some time later, I got inspired to take pictures like this.



This is about stepping away from convention.

So let's start with;

# 3 simple photography mindset shifts



# #1 Stop asking children to smile...



You're more likely to get a strained, forced expression like this.



I remember making a silly face before I took this - SO much better!

Photographing them **doing** something creates distraction which in turn also creates natural expressions and emotions.

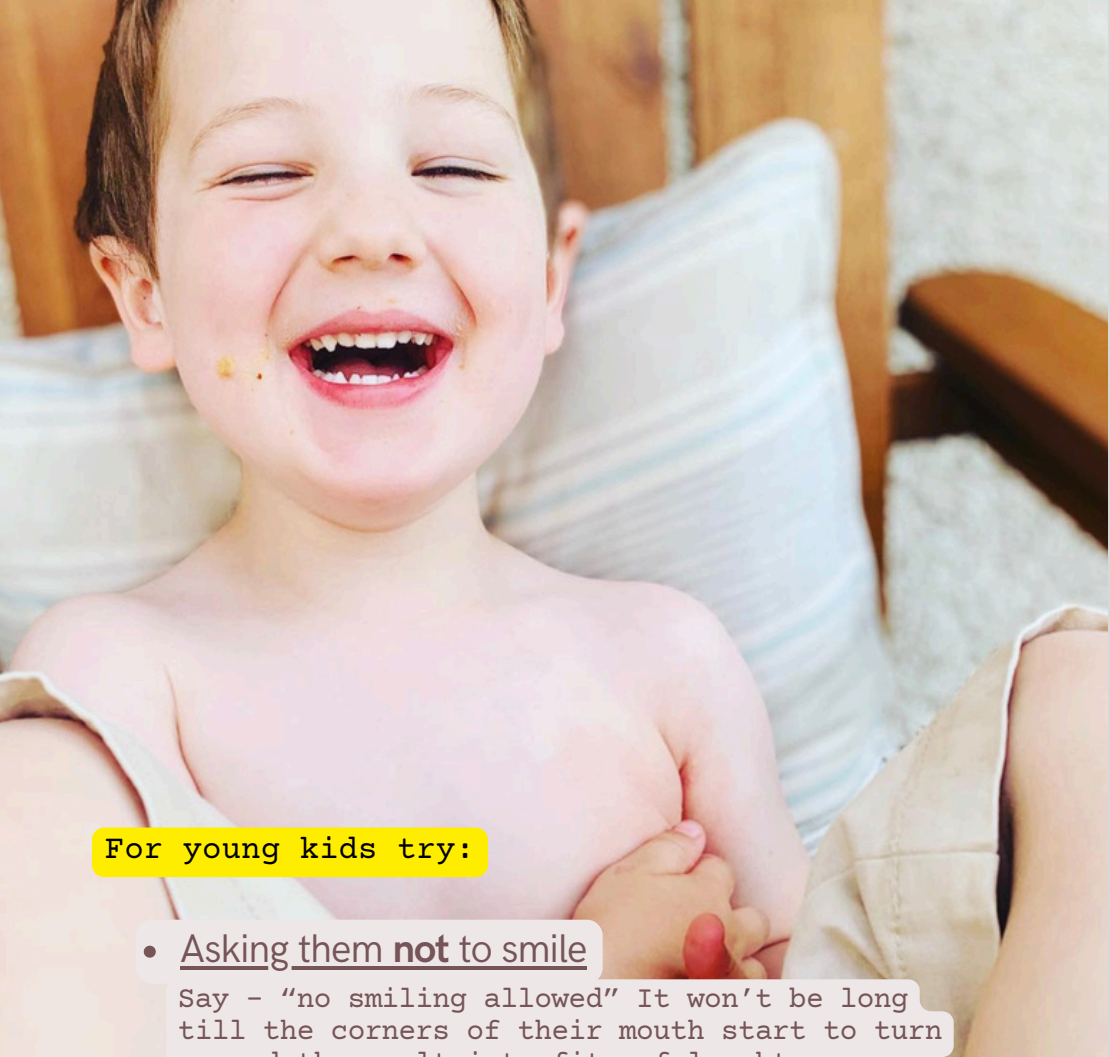


Totally in the moment!

Opportunities to get snapping;

- running
- cuddles
- exploring nature
- garden fun
- splashing in water





For young kids try:

- Asking them not to smile

Say - "no smiling allowed" It won't be long till the corners of their mouth start to turn up and they melt into fits of laughter.

- Every question you ask them has to be answered "sausages"

A bit of silliness can work a treat!

- Toilet talk...

Perhaps one of the times a few fart jokes may be worth their weight in gold.

## #2 Photograph the in-between bits

It's not just the main event that's worthy of a photo. The bits before and after can give you some nuggets of gold if your timing is good.

- sandy feet
- wet hair after swimming
- sticky hands
- tired kids after a busy day
- someone looking out a window

Kids tired after a day out? Photograph them getting all cosy and comfy under a blanket after they've got home.





Lost in thought...



There are opportunities even on those days when not much is happening. It's all about noticing and observing.



These sort of shots tell more of a story than any 'say cheese' picture.

# #3 Get in the frame

How many pictures do you have on your phone with *you* in the picture? (not including selfies)

I'm guessing not many - I'm the same!





Phone tripods are very handy and easy to carry in a bag.



- use self-timer
- prop camera/phone on a bag/drink/bottle
- ask partners/friends to take more than one
- stop waiting until you "look better"

The perfect time is now.



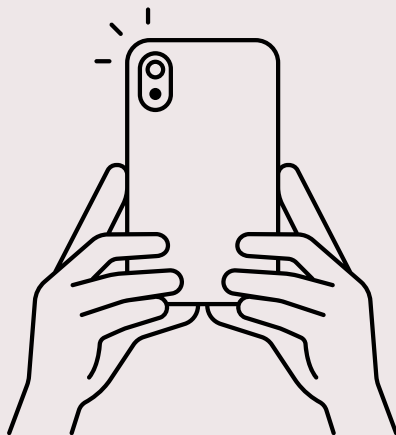
Instead of everyone looking at the camera, try interacting with each other ...



- look at each other
- do a fake laugh (it works!)
- ask everyone to look at the person next to them

Summer can be a tricky season to photograph in purely because of the sun!

# how to photograph in bright sun





## Shoot in the shade

Seek shade under a tree, in the shadow of a building or simply facing away from the sun.

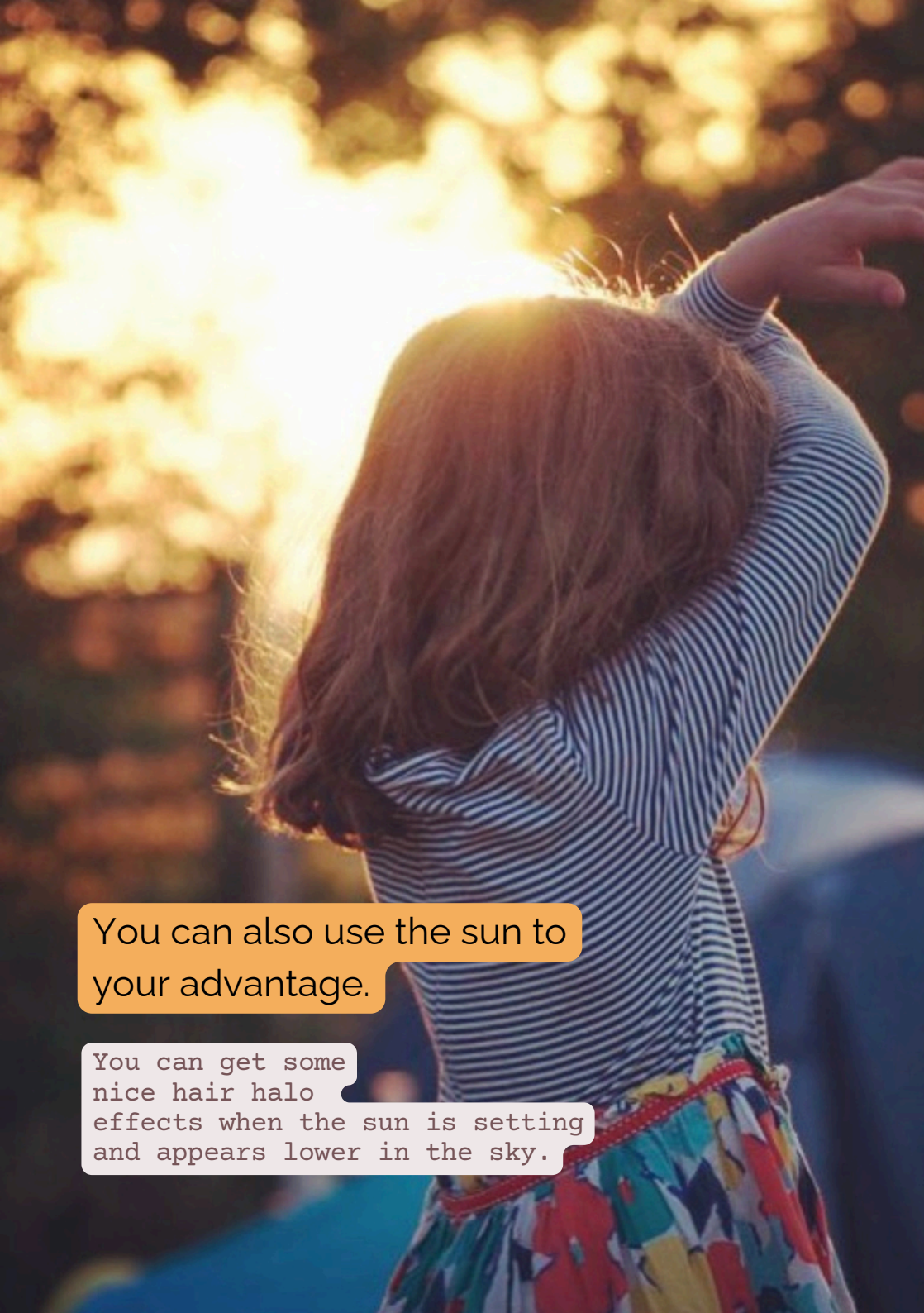
- shade is a natural filter
- takes out harsh shadows
- deepens colours



No-one wants a squinter!

No immediate shade?

Get your subjects to face *away* from the sun



You can also use the sun to your advantage.

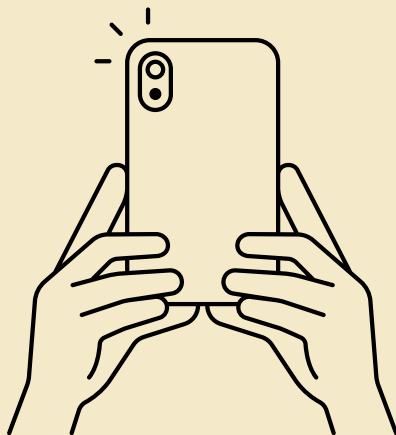
You can get some nice hair halo effects when the sun is setting and appears lower in the sky.

Or, wait for the  
right moment and  
capture a sun  
silhouette.



There are some very simple things you can do to make your pictures more interesting.

# 3 practical tips to create interest





**#1**

## Move Closer

People often stand too far away from their subjects and the resulting image lacks any depth.

Moving closer captures;

- freckles
- details
- eyelashes



**#2**

Get lower or change your perspective.

Looking through objects towards the person you are photographing or photographing from above can completely change the feel of a photo.

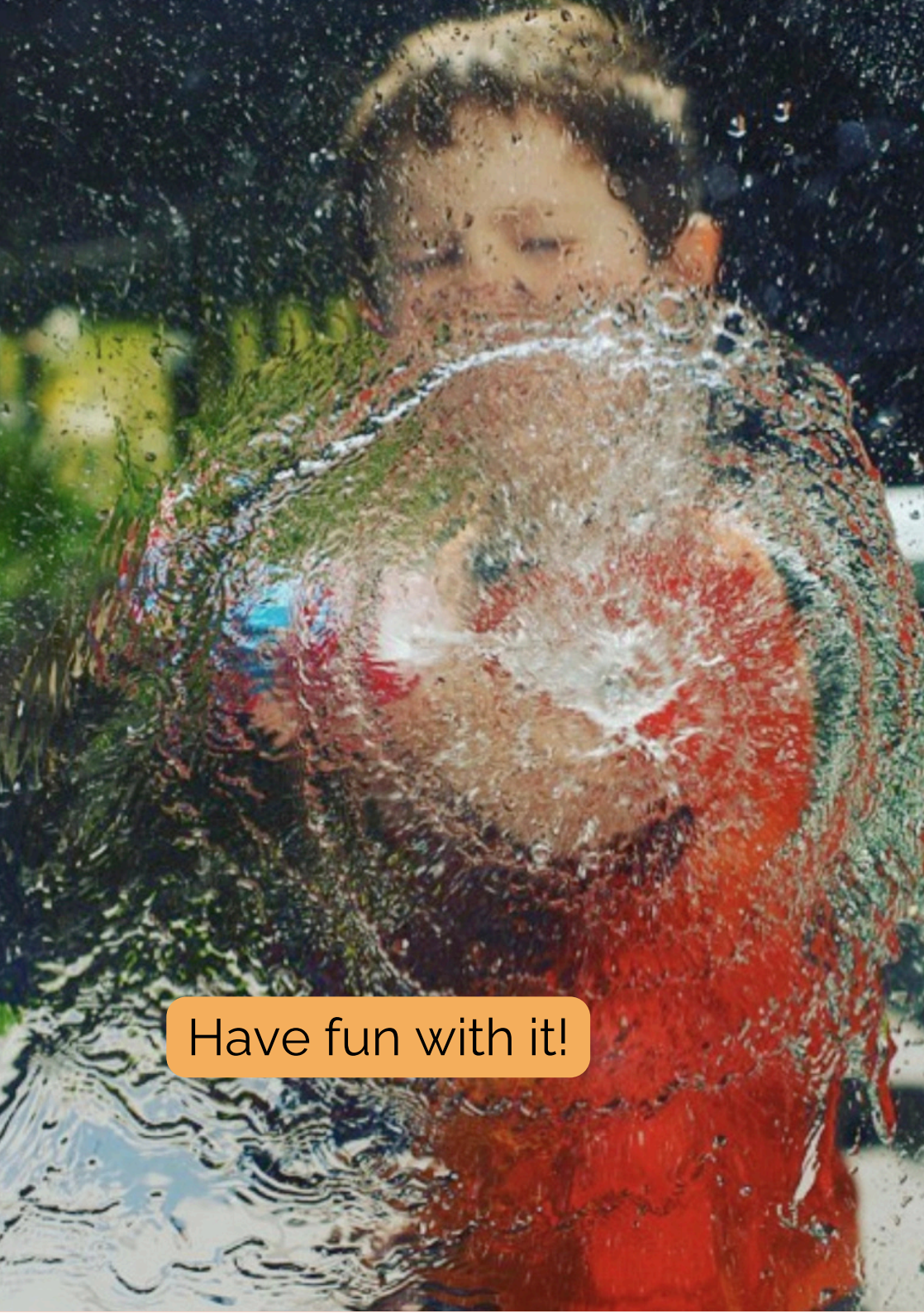




#3

Movement

Try catching kids mid air, dancing, doing star jumps - anything really that involves movement of some kind!



Have fun with it!

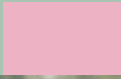


Shoot from below



reflections





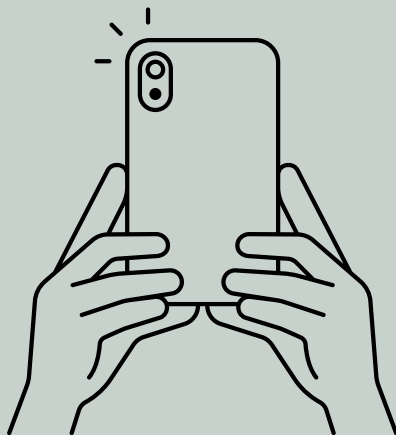
bubbles and  
the sun are  
a great  
combination

shadows



Phone cameras are getting better and better.  
Get to grips with the basics;

# 5 simple phone settings



# #1

Use burst mode  
for action shots



Sometimes this could simply be to hold your finger down on the release button and you'll get multiple shots close together.



**#2**

Use portrait mode for a blurred out background

(Not suitable for fast moving objects.)

### #3

Avoid a maxed out digital zoom

Move closer instead



The quality will lessen if you use a lot of zoom.



# #4



Tap your screen  
to focus  
and adjust  
brightness



Ps get kids to  
look up and you'll  
get lovely wide  
eyed shots!

- avoids blown-out skies
- keeps skin tones softer
- helps in bright summer light

#5

## Use fill in flash

When backs are turned to the sun

This can help to fill in harsh shadows and keep your subject better lit



Photography is a huge amount of fun and experimenting to see what works and what doesn't work will reap rewards. BUT, ultimately;

Your children won't care whether the photo was technically perfect. They'll care that you were there, and that someone thought their ordinary life was worth remembering.



Happy Snapping!