

Little Smiles Photography - Extensive F.A.Q.

Maternity specific answers are marked with a 🤰 emoji.

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PHOTOSESSION • CLOTHING • PROPS

What to expect from a Session?

Newborn sessions are relaxed and slow-paced, designed to make you feel as comfortable and at ease as possible. I understand you might be lacking sleep and feeling tired. During the session, while I focus primarily on your baby, you can relax in the comfort of your home, watch me work (or enjoy some Netflix), and have some juice or tea. There's no rush; I take my time to ensure a calm environment. Ideally, your baby will be awake when I arrive and ready for a big feed, which will help them settle in for a nice long sleep.

👩 Maternity sessions are also relaxed and calm. I know that every moment you can relax and take a deep breath is much appreciated. My goal is for you to feel more energized after our photo shoot, not less.

Should I prepare any props?

I provide all the props and setups needed for our photoshoot. Based on our conversations beforehand, I will create a scene that best suits your wishes and surroundings. If you would like to include a specific item, such as a toy or a personal object, you are welcome to provide it. If it is safe, I will do my best to incorporate it into the photos.

👩 During our pre-photoshoot conversation, we will discuss the best attire for the session, as this can depend on various factors. I also have some props to create a warm and cosy atmosphere. If you have special dresses or outfits you would like to wear, please feel free to bring them.

What should I/We wear?

My style of photography is minimalistic and modern. I usually recommend that parents wear calm colours. For example, combinations such as white with light brown (creamy), dark blue, or black work well. During our pre-photoshoot discussion, we will go over wardrobe choices in detail. If you prefer to incorporate more colour into your photos, please feel free to do so. Your comfort is my priority. Wear anything that makes you feel comfortable and confident.

👩 We will discuss wardrobe choices during our pre-photoshoot conversation to ensure your clothing fits your overall character and home ambience. My style is minimalistic and modern, focusing on you and your amazing pregnant stomach, rather than the props. Calm colours like white, light brown (creamy), dark blue or black usually work well. However, if you prefer more colour, please feel free to incorporate it.

Will you hold my baby?

During the wrapping and posing, whether on a beanbag or one of the props, I will carefully position your baby to ensure their fingers are open and their head and feet are in the right position. If your baby doesn't settle after feeding, I may hold them until they calm down. Rest assured, you will always be near your child and can take and hold them at any moment if you wish to do so.

What will I do while you are photo shooting my baby?

Hopefully, you will be able to relax! This might be the first time since giving birth that you can just sit back and unwind. It's not uncommon for parents to fall asleep during the photo shoot.

What if my baby doesn't settle or cries?

As you may have read on my About Me page, I have firsthand experience with newborns, having welcomed my daughter in 2018 and my son in 2023. One thing I've learned is that when it comes to newborns, things often don't go as planned! I typically plan for up to a 4-hour session to ensure that we are not stressed, and most importantly, that your newborn isn't stressed. Sometimes the baby falls into a deep sleep within 20-30 minutes after feeding, while other times it can take up to 2.5 hours. And sometimes, they just don't sleep at all! Even if the baby is awake, we can still capture wonderful photos. If after 2.5 hours we find that the baby doesn't settle at all, we can reschedule the session for a later date at no extra charge.

Can the siblings be included in the photos?

Yes, of course! Siblings can always be included in these unique moments. During our pre-shoot conversation, we will discuss the best time for them to join us, as this may depend on their age and the flow of the session.

👧 Yes, of course! Please let me know about including siblings during our pre-photoshoot conversation. It's important for me to know their ages and how many will be joining us. This way, we can decide on the best time for them to join the photo session and ensure everything runs smoothly.

What if I or We don't want to be in the photos?

That is not a problem at all! However, please consider that these photos are primarily for you. A photo with you and your child can be a precious memory for your eyes only, if you choose. I will never pressure you to take any photos you're uncomfortable with. You can decide afterwards which photos to share with friends and family and which to keep just for yourselves.

👧 If your partner or friend doesn't want to be included in the photos, that is perfectly fine. However, please remember that these photos are primarily for you. You can always decide afterward which photos to keep and which to exclude, giving you the freedom to make the final decision. Having the option allows you to choose the photos that best capture these special moments.

BOOKING • STUDIO • SAFETY

Best time to book:

The best time to start being in contact is after your 20-week scan. During our first conversation, you can ask any questions you might have, and we can schedule the session. Don't worry, we will stay in touch before your due date and the actual birth.

👩 For maternity sessions, the ideal booking time is the same: between the 20th and 32nd week of your pregnancy.

Best time for the Photoshoot:

Please let me know as soon as you have an approximate due date, so we can plan a more definitive session date. Ideally, the photoshoot should take place within the first 10-14 days after birth. I usually suggest planning from around day 7 after birth, as this is when newborns are the calmest and sleepiest.

👩 For maternity photoshoots, the best time is usually between weeks 32 to 36 of your pregnancy. By this time, your beautiful stomach is ready to be captured. Since a full pregnancy is considered to be around 40 weeks, this timeframe allows us enough flexibility to plan the perfect session.

How do I book?

You can book your session either online using my booking form or by emailing me if you have questions before making the booking. We can discuss your photo session and expectations to ensure everything is tailored to your needs.

What happens if I must postpone/cancel?

I understand that not everything can always go according to plan, especially with newborns. Here are the solutions we can offer:

- **Rescheduling Due to Postponed Due Date:** If your due date is postponed and we need to reschedule, it's not a problem as long as you inform me as soon as you know.
- **Illness:** If you or your baby get a cold or any other illness, we can postpone the session.
- **Cancellation with Medical Reason:** If you need to cancel due to medical reasons, please provide a letter from your doctor or paediatrician.
- **Cancellation for Other Reasons:**
 - **31 Days Before the Session:** Free of charge. The session fee paid at the time of booking will be reimbursed via bank transfer or Twint, excluding any bank transfer fees.
 - **30 to 15 Days Before the Session:** A fee equal to 50% of the session cost will be charged.
 - **14 Days or Less Before the Session:** A fee equal to 100% of the session cost will be charged.

For cryptocurrency payments, the reimbursement will be based on the CHF equivalent at the most current exchange rate. In case of Ethereum or Bitcoin transfers, the gas fees are always at the expense of the customer.

Do you offer newborn and/or maternity sessions on location?

Yes, the photo session will take place in the comfort of your home, where everything is familiar to you and your newborn. If you have a special venue in mind for the photo session, please let me know your thoughts, and I'll see if I can accommodate it.

I would like the froggy pose, can you do it?

No, there are some poses I do not offer or photograph, including the froggy or potato sack poses. These poses are not safe for any newborn for several reasons. For example, the froggy pose puts too much weight (the head) onto the small wrists of the newborn. The wrists contain many small bones that are not yet fully developed at 7 or 14 days. The damage this pose can cause may not be visible for many years. Even with an assistant, this pose wouldn't be 100% safe, as someone would have to hold the baby's head quite firmly the entire time. The safety of your newborn is my top priority, and I will always prioritize their well-being over any pose.

But I've seen it on the websites of newborn photographers...

As I've written at the top of my photoshoot page: "Each successful photoshoot starts with a personal connection between yourself and me." What I mean by this is that I would love to photograph your baby, but you and I, need to be a good match. I strongly stand behind my principles, especially when it comes to safety. Just because something is done by others doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. The safety of any newborn child is of utmost importance to me and is not worth any risk-taking, no matter the price.

Have you had training with Newborns?

Yes, I have received notable training with Melanie East, a leading newborn photographer based in the UK with numerous international awards. Melanie is a specialist and is considered one of the safest, if not the safest, newborn photographers. You can see my safety certificate issued by her under the details and information on my photoshoot page. You are also welcome to see my previous work in my gallery.

PHOTOGRAPHS • ORDERING • PAYMENT

How many photos will I get?

- **Digital Images:** After the photo session, I will do a quick preselection from all the images taken. You will then have at least 30-40 images to choose from for post-processing. You can purchase as many or as few digital images as you like. There is no minimum purchase requirement. Only the images you choose to buy will be professionally post-processed.
- **Professionally Printed Photography Products:** The starting price includes one printed product. This printed product comes with 10 fully and professionally edited images. During our viewing session, I'll show you the available products, their pricing, and the number of images included with each product.

In summary:

You can receive as many digital images as you wish to purchase from the 30-40 pre-selected images. The starting price for printed products includes 10 professionally edited images. Additional printed products and images can be discussed and purchased according to your preference. You are under no obligation to purchase any images or prints if you do not like them, although it has never happened before.

Am I getting the RAW images as well?

No, photography businesses typically do not include the original RAW files from the camera.

Session Fee and Images/Printing products fee: Why?

The session fee covers my time spent photographing you or your newborn, the use of my equipment, and my expertise. After that, you can decide exactly what you want based on your budget. Whether it's 1 image or 30, an album, or a single printed image to display on your wall, the most important thing is your happiness and the memories these images will represent for you and your family for years to come. Newborn or maternity photography is not a necessity, but a cherished luxury.

Do I have to order all the photos?

No, you only order the photos you truly want. If you're happy with 15 photos, I won't pressure you into buying 25. I don't believe in hard selling because I never liked it happening to me, and I wouldn't do it to anyone else.

Viewing session and how do I order the printed photo art/album

About two weeks after our photo session, we'll schedule a viewing session where you can relax and enjoy all the photos you've chosen and I've created for you. If you appreciate my art and work, I will guide you through the albums and wall art options I offer, along with their pricing. You'll have the opportunity to choose the materials for the album cover, right down to the ribbon color. Once you've decided on your selections, I will provide you with an invoice detailing the payment information. After receiving your payment, I will place your order with my suppliers. Every order is handmade and crafted especially for you.

Order cancellation

Since every order is handmade specifically for you with your chosen specifications and materials, once an order is placed, it cannot be canceled or refunded.

Payment methods

At the moment I accept the following payment methods:

- Bank transfer
- Twint
- Paypal (QR Transaction +1.20% or Normal Transaction 3.40%)
- Cryptocurrencies: Ethereum, Bitcoin, BNB, Solana. (All the payments in Crypto are at the current CHF equivalent price. Gas fees are always at the expense of the client.)

How does the payment work?

- **Session Fee:** The session fee is due on the day of booking or within 3 working days from the booking date. Your booked date is reserved and confirmed only after the funds are received. If no payment is received within 3 working days, the date will become available for others to book.
- **Payment for Photos and Printed Products:** Once you choose the photos you'd like to have or during the viewing session for printed products, payment is due by the end of that day. Since viewing sessions usually happen on weekends, a bank transfer by Monday evening is acceptable.

Delivery duration and method

Digital Images are sent as soon as the funds have arrived. Printed products usually take around 2-3 weeks to arrive. If you live in Zug or close surroundings, I will personally bring it to you. If you live further away, I will mail it with Swiss Post incl. a tracking number as soon as I've received it.