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It's birthday time!

Why do these babies have to grow so fast? Time is both a gift & a thief. We love to see our babies grow, but we know how much we will miss them at each and every stage.

That's all part of why we do these photoshoots. We do them to celebrate their first full year and all the huge changes that year brought. We do it to freeze time on such a precious little age, so we can look back at these sweet photos and their little one-year-old self.. we know just how much they'll change before their next birthday. We do the photos so they can also look back, many many years later, and keep the photos in their own family albums that they will also pass down to their own kids one day.

Those are all the reasons we take the extra-special good photos to celebrate out babies turning ONE!

Location

First things first:

What are you thinking for location?

When you think of the theme/vibe you wanna go for, is it in studio or is it outside?

My studio is a beautiful option. It's bright and white and a great backdrop in itself. We can also do paper backdrops etc if we do the shoot in studio.

Outside as sunset is also beautiful. Flower field for a spring cake smash? SO cute.



Things to consider:

Time of day-- For a studio shoot, we can do basically any time of day! For an outdoor shoot, it's best if we wait until the last hour before the sun sets. But golden hour isn't an absolute must either, as long as we choose a location with shade! Want golden light, though? Has to be sunset... and that gets pretty late in the summer months. (Late nap before photos can help though!)

Clean up/Comfort-- Studio makes for easy clean up. There is a sink, a bathroom, running water, and A/C. No need to worry about weather. But if you're fine with working around weather, that's not a big deal. We also can easily bring towels, water, and a change of clothes for baby for after the cake smash if we do outdoor.

Also, even though we always say cake smash, a first birthday shoot does NOT have to include a cake at all.



A theme?

Where do we start...?

Okay, theme can be tough. People tend to either know EXACTLY what they want... or they have no idea where to start. They just know they want photos.

Either way, I'm here to help!

We start with a questionnaire. You can tell me all the details you want in this form. If you don't know anything besides "muted colors, earthy colors, light pinks, light greens/blues"... even that is helpful. If you have more of a vision than that, tell me all the details on this.

Major theme helper:

A helpful thing when planning a theme is to turn to Pinterest!

Make a board for "First Birthday Photoshoot". Pin all your absolute favorite photos you see after searching through examples.

We will not copy anything exactly-- it's all just for inspiration! We want to be on the same page.

Send me the link to your board in your questionnaire and I can look it over too.

Important thing about this step:

Be sure I offer the style of photos you want before you book! Look through my website and see the editing tones/simple and natural style of my photography. If you're wanting anything really cartoony- like a Barney/Batman theme- I am likely not your person.



A baby with light skin and dark hair is eating a piece of cake. The baby is wearing a white lace-trimmed vest over a white shirt. The background is filled with out-of-focus pink and orange balloons. The word "Preparing" is written in a large, black, cursive font across the middle of the image.

Preparing

After we get a general idea of what we want to do, it's time to get it together:

Next I will direct you on where to purchase outfits you need and props we may need to order/find ahead of time.

I will also tell you what I already have and can provide for your photos.

I don't usually buy outfits for first birthday shoots. Usually people want to keep that special outfit!

I also don't promise to purchase elaborate props for photos. I already have a lot of options on hand, though! And sometimes, If I feel an item fits my brand/will be used a lot for other sessions, I will buy it for the photoshoot.

If we do a cake for the shoot...

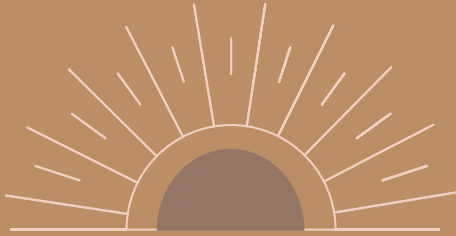
I can provide a very basic plain, white frosted cake for no extra charge if your baby has ZERO allergies.

If babies have allergies, mom and dad are in charge of the cake.

Also, if you want a cake with more detail, let me know what you're wanting and I can contact bakers I've worked with to arrange your order. I can have your cake delivered to Bravely Studio before your session!

The cost of the cake will be added to your total if it exceeds \$25.

What to expect:



THE DAY OF PHOTOS

Before photos:

Try to have baby well rested! But also don't stress if they miss a nap/are behind schedule. We can work with anything! Relax- we got this.

What to bring:

We will review exactly what props/outfits you need to bring before photoshoot day, depending what we planned. Besides that, I will have everything for photos and clean up. Just have your usual diaper bag and you're good to go.

Arrive right on time for photos- no need to be early! And don't stress- I've worked with literally countless small children and babies. We never know what mood we will get. That's okay- we always get the photos done!

Above all: Expect this to be fun! Don't stress over any bumps in the road that your soon-to-be-toddler throws your way. The whole point is to celebrate the joy of having them here with you a whole year (already?!). We can have lots of patience for your 1 year old bundle of joy!



After the Photos

Once allll of this is done, it's time to edit!

My turnaround is 3-4 weeks.

If you plan to book a cake smash, you should always try to get on the calendar for right when your baby turns 11 months old!

It's okay if it's not that soon though. I try to always get clients the top THREE images from the photoshoot TWO days before their actual birthday, even if they were a late booking.

The full gallery is still a 3-4 week turnaround though, regardless of birth date.

I hope this guide has been helpful!

Please let me know if you have any other questions- I'm happy to give you the answers you are looking for!

