PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY BY
NATARSHA MARCH

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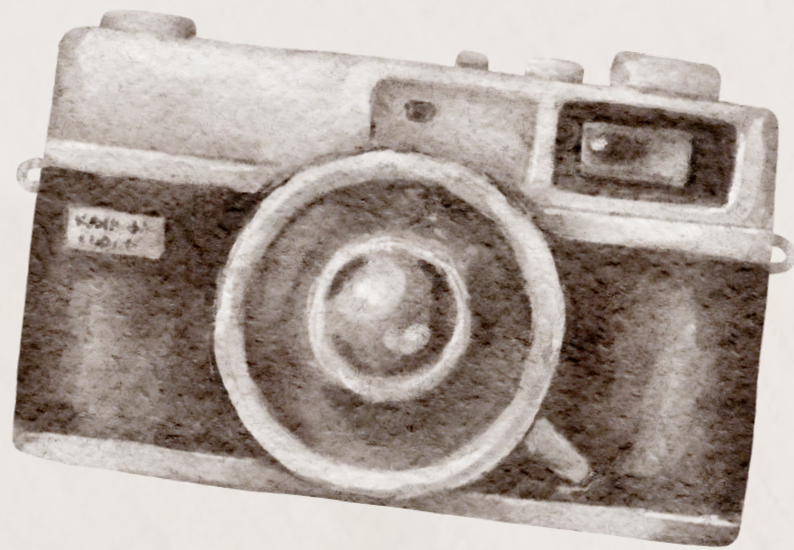
Hello!

I'm Tarsh, from Family Photography by Natarsha March. Since 2011 I have captured the special life milestones of over 800 Brisbane families.

I have won many awards in the industry for my family and newborn portraits due to my love of creating imaginative and fun photos for families.

This guide will take you through the foundations of photography because getting the basic elements right is the first step!

Natarsha March

About Your
CAMERA

From your basic phone camera to DSLR I have tips to help improve your photography no matter what you are capturing it with.

Understanding your
DSLR

F STOP

The f-stop controls how much light enters through the lens. It's like the "eye" of the camera. Lower numbers (like f/2.8) let in more light and higher numbers (like f/16) let in less.

ISO

ISO is like the camera's "night vision." Low numbers make the picture clear in bright light, but if it's dark, we use higher ISO numbers to help the camera "see" better.

SHUTTER SPEED

Shutter speed is how fast the camera "blinks." A quick blink (fast shutter) catches moving things without blurring. A slow blink (slow shutter) can make things look blurry if they're moving.

Tips For Using Your
PHONE CAMERA

CLEAN YOUR LENS

You cant fix a blurry lens! From food to sunscreen your phone lens will cop a lot. Always give it a wipe before taking a photo.

TAP FOR FOCUS

Make sure the best part is in focus by tapping it to lock on

ADJUST BRIGHTNESS

Once you tap on your subject, you can drag your finger up or down to adjust the brightness of the image.

Other Noteworthy
CAMREAS

GO PRO

GoPro cameras are compact, durable, and waterproof, making them perfect for capturing high-quality action shots and videos in adventurous environments, whether you're surfing, biking, or hiking

DRONE

Drone cameras offer stunning aerial perspectives and unique angles for photography and videography, allowing you to capture sweeping landscapes and dynamic shots that are hard to achieve from the ground.

INSTA 360

Insta360 cameras capture 360-degree photos and videos, allowing you to immerse your audience in the scene and relive experiences from every angle.

About
LENSES

Different lenses are like different tools. Some are great for close-up details, others are perfect for wide landscapes. Zoom lenses can be good for both. Each lens has a special way of seeing the world.

My Favourite
DSLR PRIME LENSES
Prime lenses are set sizes and don't zoom.

50mm

The best thing about a 50mm lens is how it captures images that feel natural and close to what our eyes see. It is the #1 lens for portraits, everyday scenes, and low-light settings. Plus, it's usually compact and sharp, making it a favourite for both beginners and pros.

80mm

This is known as "the Portrait Lens". It It provides beautiful background blur and performs well in low light, making it versatile for different shooting situations.

200mm

I love my 200mm lens for its ability to zoom in on distant subjects, making it ideal for sneaky spy shots of kids and also sports photography. It captures sharp details while creating a nice background blur.

The Best
ZOOM LENSES

The two best zoom lenses for a beginner kit are:

18-55mm
Versatile for everyday photography and landscapes

55-200mm
Great for capturing distant subjects like wildlife or sports.

LENS HOODS

A lens hood helps prevent unwanted light from hitting the lens, reducing glare and lens flare, while also protecting the lens from scratches and accidental bumps.

Photographing
KIDS

Photographing young children is all about capturing their natural energy and curiosity, so it's important to be patient and let them play while you snap candid moments that showcase their joyful personalities.

Go with the chaos

www.familyphotographybynatarshamarch.com.au

KEEP IT NATURAL

Let kids be kids, their chaotic energy is what makes them so awesome!

GET IN THE PHOTO

It's so easy to take photos of your kids but it is just as important to be in photos with your kids too. This can be tricky to photograph yourself, so a great reason to book a family photoshoot with Natarsha March.

GET SHADY
Photograph in the shade so no sun spots ruin the photo.

NATURAL SMILES
Get them to say anything <u>but</u> cheese!

Check the background and try to avoid distractions.

Photographing
NEWBORNS

Newborns are pure magic—tiny bundles of sweetness with those perfect little fingers, button noses, and squishy cheeks that melt hearts instantly.

SAFETY FIRST

Always make sure your baby is safe and comfortable.

CAPTURE ALL THE DETAILS

From cute facial expressions to tiny fingers, babies change constantly so take lots of photos of all the little things.

Simple, gentle, newness

Add a prop for size comparisons.

NOSES
Try not to shoot up baby's nose, it's not a flattering angle!

SNUGGLES
Sibling photos are adorable, take lots of them!

Photo editing brings out the best in an image, adding just the right touches to transform a good shot into a stunning, unforgettable moment.

3 Software Options for

PHOTO EDITING

SNAPSEED

It's got all the essentials—exposure, contrast, and brightness adjustments — and a bit extra, like selective editing and a healing tool for spot removal. It's completely free with no hidden costs.

LIGHTROOM

There is a free mobile version where you can use most basic tools without a subscription, and it syncs across devices if you want to take edits from your phone to your computer later.

PHOTOSHOP

Photoshop is the ultimate powerhouse for photo editing, giving you precise control to transform, retouch, and bring your creative vision to life.

Top tips for
PHOTO EDITING

NAIL THE WHITE BALANCE

Start every edit by adjusting the white balance. Getting the colours right instantly makes skin tones look more realistic and helps all the other colours pop naturally. Look for the whites in your image—like a white shirt or the whites of eyes—and adjust until they're a clean, natural white without being too cool or too warm.

KEEP SKIN NATURAL

Over-smoothing is a common editing trap. Keep texture in the skin to retain that real-life look, especially with newborn and family photos. Start with gentle spot healing on blemishes, then lightly reduce any redness or shadows, especially around the eyes. If you're using software like Lightroom or Photoshop, stick to low-opacity brushes for a subtle touch.
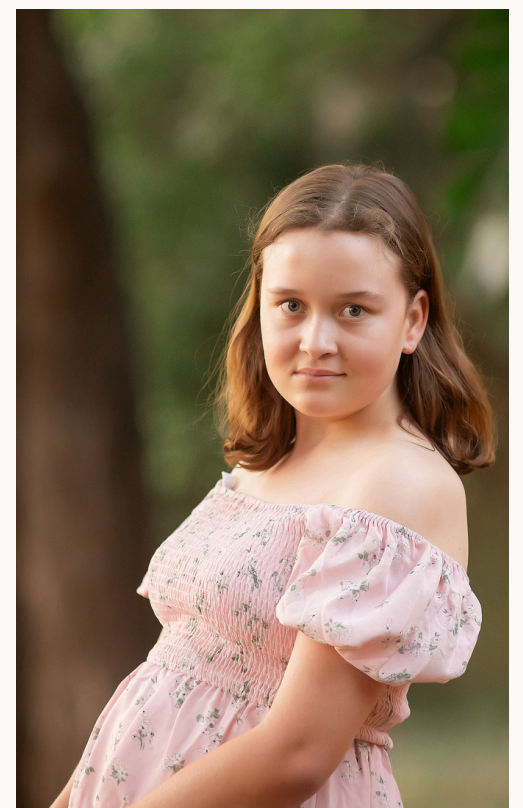
CONTRAST WITH CURVES

For that professional finish, use the curves tool to control contrast. Try creating a slight "S" curve in the RGB channel—this will deepen shadows and enhance highlights without flattening your image. You can also adjust individual colour channels to give the image warmth or coolness if it feels slightly off, without needing to crank the saturation.

Notes About

PRINTING

Printing turns digital memories into tangible keepsakes, making moments last beyond the screen and come to life in your hands.

Print what you love.

PRINTING MATTERS

The best photos become prints.

Skip the department stores because they don't care about your print quality, they just care about keeping the price as low as possible.

Use a pro-lab. I recommend RGB Digital in Brisbane as a quality print company available to the public.

Let's Connect

I hope this beginners guide has given you some inspiration on how to get started with the amazing world of photography. For me, it is my world.

If you're ready to experience a professional photoshoot for your family, please get in touch - I'd love to hear from you!

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