



PLAYFUL IDEAS

Family Photo Prompts



Hi there, I'm Orsi!

I've been a family photographer for more than 13 years, and for the past 8 years, I've been teaching hundreds of other family photographers. People see me as a first lifestyle family photography here in Hungary.

Over 600 photographers have reached out to me in the past few years, and I feel so proud to reflect on everyone's journey of growth that I've had the chance to be a part of.

I teach with the same spirit that I once wished for: someone who genuinely shares knowledge, guides you along the way, and helps you move ahead with their insights.

Today, I'm on this mission! I want to help you take those exciting steps that will bring you closer to your photography dreams.



WHAT TO EXPECT?



This playlist comes straight from my heart. It's filled with ideas and tips for the games I've used during my photo shoots over the last 13 years. I hope you can use it as inspiration for capturing moments with children and families.

I've organized the list by age groups, but many of the ideas can use for any ages.

I've added plenty of example images for you to check out, so you can see what can be done in each situation!

Before I dive into the list, let me tell you why I'm such a fan of the game and how I built them into my photoshoots.

39

Show me your most stunning dance!

WHY DO WE HAVE FUN?

I experienced with my own kids that when I needed them to do something serious that seemed boring, if I turned it into a fun game, they would jump right in and get it done super quickly without any complaints.

The same is true for photo shoots: when kids are playing, they're not bored, they don't feel the cold as much, and they don't try to force a smile (or a funny face) on their faces. They're just having a blast, and they do it all with genuine, happy gestures and movements.

When I want to take pictures of kids who are a bit shy or a little stubborn, I like to include a game or activity to make our time together enjoyable. There are so many options, and since every child is unique, you're bound to find one of the game ideas below that will help you capture natural, lively, and fun moments.




28

Run underneath the blanket

"Just a spoonful of sugar, helps the medicine go down, in the most delightful way!"

Mary Poppins



“Why we play as children is not because it is our work or because it is how we learn, though both statements are true; we play because we are wired for joy, it is imperative as human beings.”

-John Thorn

33

Notice the little moments and details in between.

HOW DO WE PLAY?

Get to know the kids!

Before I start playing with a child, I like to get to know them a bit, or at least learn some things about them. There are three great ways to do this: a fun questionnaire before the photoshoot, just watching them for a while, and having a little chat during the photo shoot where I can ask some questions.

01

Questionnaire



02

Observation



03

Chat



HOW DO YOU PLAY?

Get to know the kids!

01

Questionnaire

Before each photoshoot, I send out a little questionnaire to collect some fun details about the family. I like to find out each child's name, age and what they enjoy the most. It really helps during the photoshoot when I know that someone loves Peppa Pig or is a big fan of Lionel Messi.

In this image, I tried to put smiles on faces with Peppa Pig's funny grunt. (The girls say I still have some practicing to do!)



43

Pretend to be their favorite
fairy tale character.

HOW DO YOU PLAY?

Get to know the kids!

02

Observation

Pay attention to what your kids enjoy. Are they looking for bugs? Hugging mom's leg? Showing off their dance moves? Are they full of energy? A bit shy?

I had a child who was spinning around during the entire photo shoot. Since he also practices a lot "at home", it became one of the mother's favorite pictures. Perhaps more importantly, the child felt appreciated and valued in doing what he loved.

If I see that a child isn't really into something or isn't reacting to one of my ideas, I switch things up or give them a little space. If they seem like they want to run around, we play a running game. And if I notice they feel happiest when they're close to a parent, I focus on that.

39

Spin

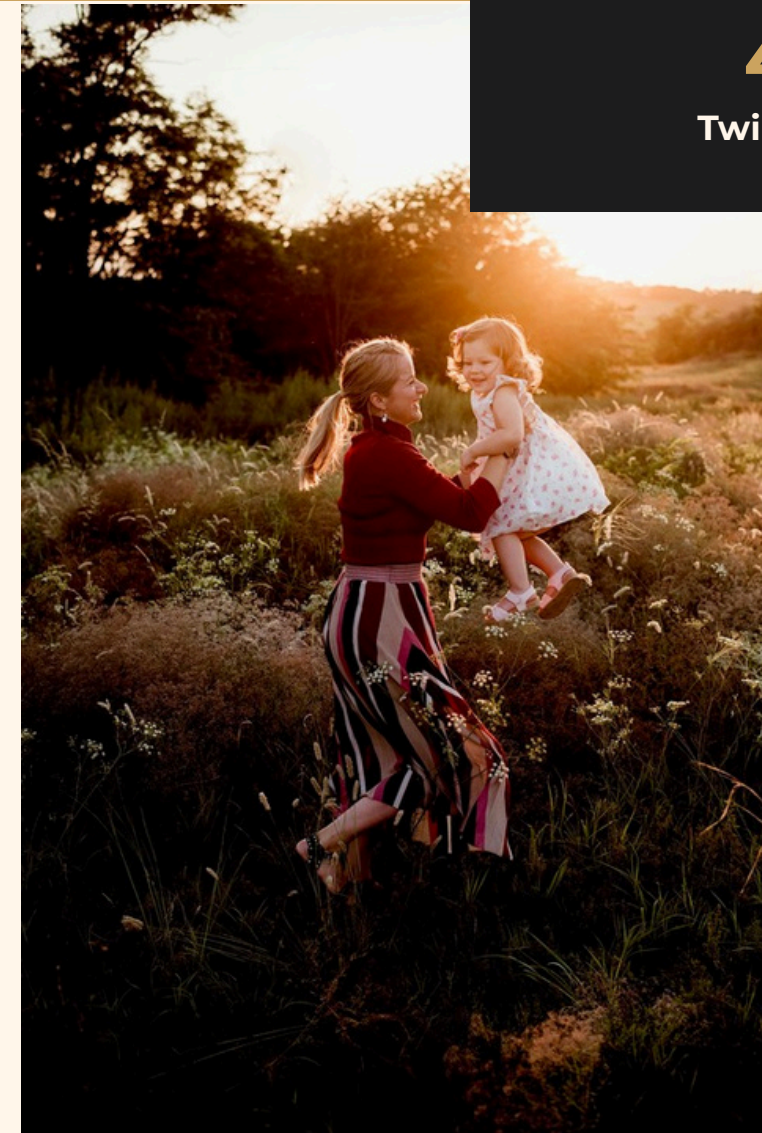


HOW DO YOU PLAY?

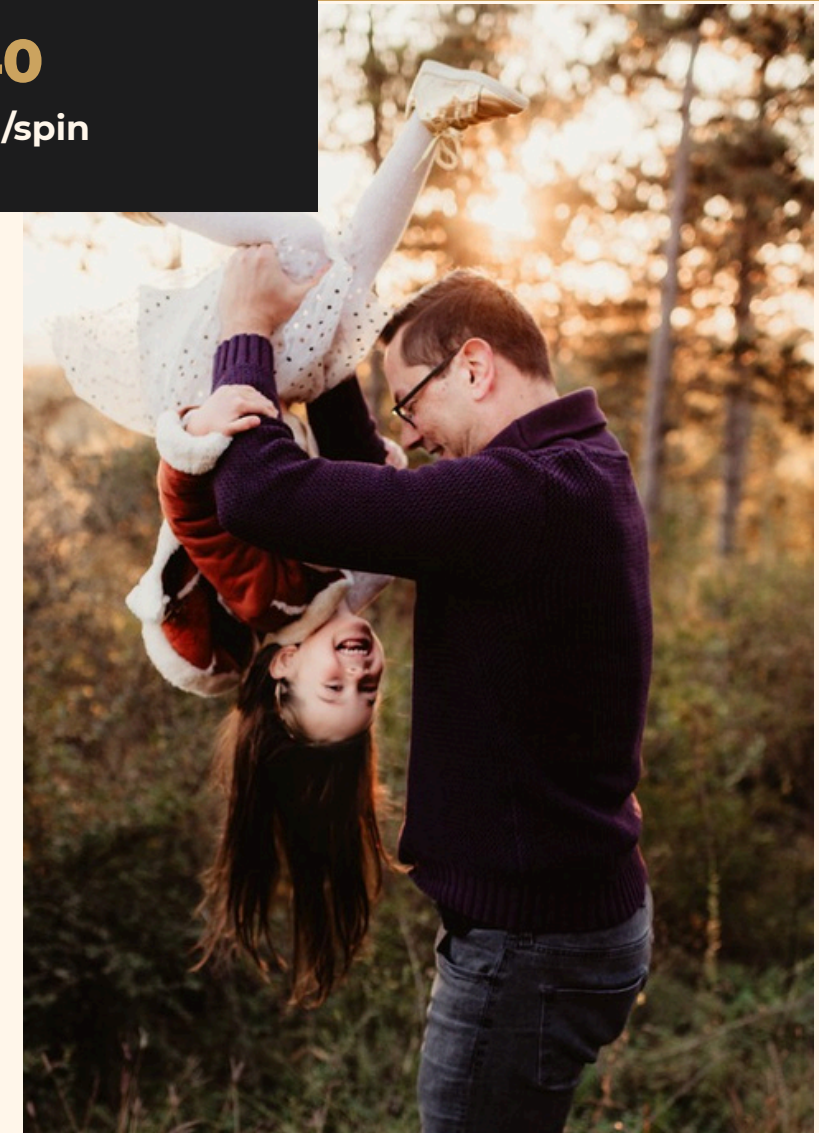
Get to know the kids!

Read them!

Let kids share their feelings at their own speed. Always go with the energy they have right then: if they're all cozy, take a moment to catch them snuggling with a parent. When they feel ready, bring in fun games and activities they can enjoy. Once they've warmed up, it'll be easier to connect with them. And if a child is full of energy and wants to run around, try some fun plays to capture their movement and happiness.



40
Twirl/spin



A little ones might start the session nestled in their parents' arms. Lots of those early images capture sweet moments with their mom or dad. But soon enough, the kids open up and feels totally at ease. By the end of the photoshoot, they're usually running around, laughing, and chatting with me like old friends — sometimes even begging their dad for a few acrobatic lifts! I let them open up in their own time, because every stage of the session is beautiful and helps tell the story of who they really are at this age.

HOW DO YOU PLAY?

Get to know the kids!

03

Let's Chat

While you're observing them, don't be afraid to start a little conversation. Ask the parents, ask the siblings — or talk directly to the child. What do they love doing the most? Who's their best friend, and what do they like to do together? What's their favorite toy or story character?

Even while you're chatting, you're already helping the kids relax - and you can sneak in a few shots during those explaining moments, too. If you respond with playful questions or funny little comments, you'll often catch the most genuine smiles.

17

Kiss sandwich



HOW DO YOU PLAY?

Get to know the kids!

Safety

If any idea, game, or request seems even slightly risky, the **final say should always belong to the parents**. Instead of directly asking them to do something that could be unsafe — like swinging the child by the arms or tossing them in the air — I phrase it as a gentle suggestion or a question:

“If swinging is something they usually enjoy, would you like to show me how you do it?”

or

“Do you ever toss them up in the air?”

If the answer is no, I don’t push it. I also try to avoid situations that might feel scary or even slightly dangerous for the child.

Consent

One important rule: kids never have to do anything. **If they’re not in the mood for something, I never push it** — I simply try another idea or a different game. I like to use gentle phrases like *“Would you like to...?”* or *“How about...?”* to keep things light and give them a sense of choice.

12

Lift or gently
toss child into the air



HOW DO YOU PLAY?

The plan

Have a plan

It's always smart to have a plan — think about their ages, how many kids there are, and which games or activities might work best based on their questionnaire answers.

The photoshoot

- When we first meet, I always try to connect with the kids first. I crouch down to their eye level and start chatting with them. During these first few minutes, I begin to read the family dynamic - who's more outgoing, who's a little shy - and from there, I decide how to start the session.
- If the kids are relaxed and open, I start with their individual portraits as a warm-up, then move on to photos with each parent and finally to the full family shots. If someone isn't quite ready yet, I give them time — maybe start with their sibling or jump into the family photos first, where they can stay close to their parents. By the end, everyone's usually relaxed and just enjoying themselves.
- During the last 15 minutes before sunset, I always take family photos — and a few special ones with the mom (let's be honest, she's usually the one who wants the photos the most!).
- When I feel we've got all the must-have shots, I tell them they can do whatever they like for the next 5–10 minutes. I keep snapping little moments during that time, and by the time the good light fades, we're truly done.

PLAYFUL IDEAS

The list

This is a toolkit full of ideas to inspire you when working with kids and families. Every suggestion comes from my own experience — these are the things I've been using for years myself.

To keep it clear and easy to follow, I've grouped the ideas by age category. But don't feel limited by that — **many of them overlap and work beautifully with different age groups, too.** That's why you might see example photos that don't exactly match the age mentioned in the section title.

There are no rules when it comes to using these play ideas. I often find myself mixing them up during a session — or switching to something completely different when the situation calls for it.

You might even come up with your own twist or brand-new idea inspired by one of these — which is great! Try it out and make it yours. Sometimes the kids themselves end up changing the games, and honestly, they love it even more that way.

....**HAVE FUN!**



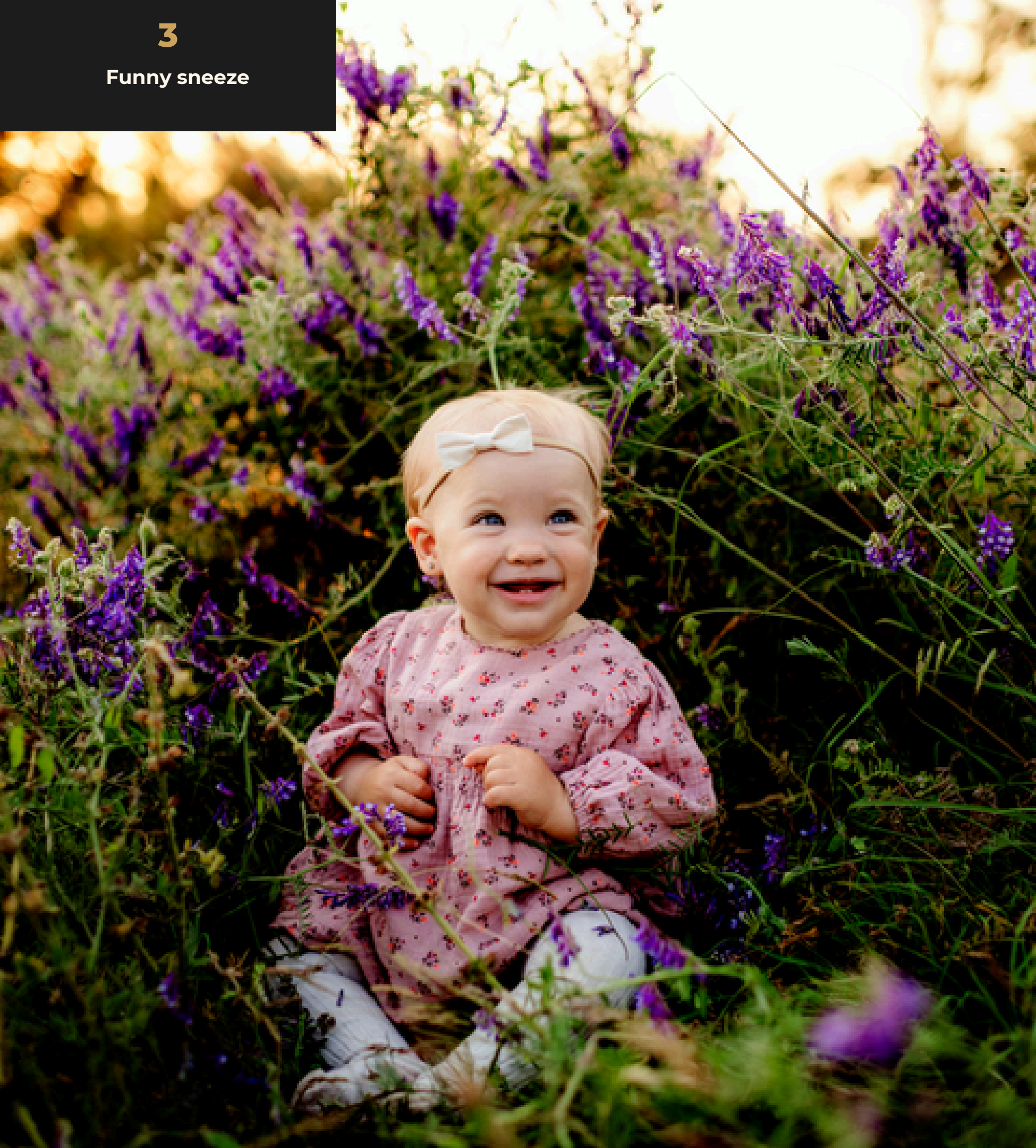
BABIES: 1-18 HÓNAP

In my experience, babies respond best when you engage their senses. It makes perfect sense — at this stage, that’s how they explore and communicate with the world around them.

- **Sound:** With babies, it’s often the soft or unusual sounds — not regular speech — that get their attention. A little humming, a clicking sound with my tongue (hard to describe, I know!), or even playful kissing noises can make them turn toward me with curiosity.
- **Sight:** Visual stimulation works wonderfully for catching and keeping a baby’s attention.
- **Movement & Interaction:** When parents move and engage with their baby, it’s a beautiful and important part of their development — and something worth capturing. Babies are just beginning to discover the world, full of curiosity, often fascinated by their own toys or the little wonders of nature around them.

At this age, I always involve the parents — after all, they’re with the baby 24/7. When I ask questions like *“What usually makes them smile?”* or *“What do they love when you do?”*, the answers often lead to the most genuine and natural moments — better than anything I could come up with myself.

Engage Their Senses!



BABIES:

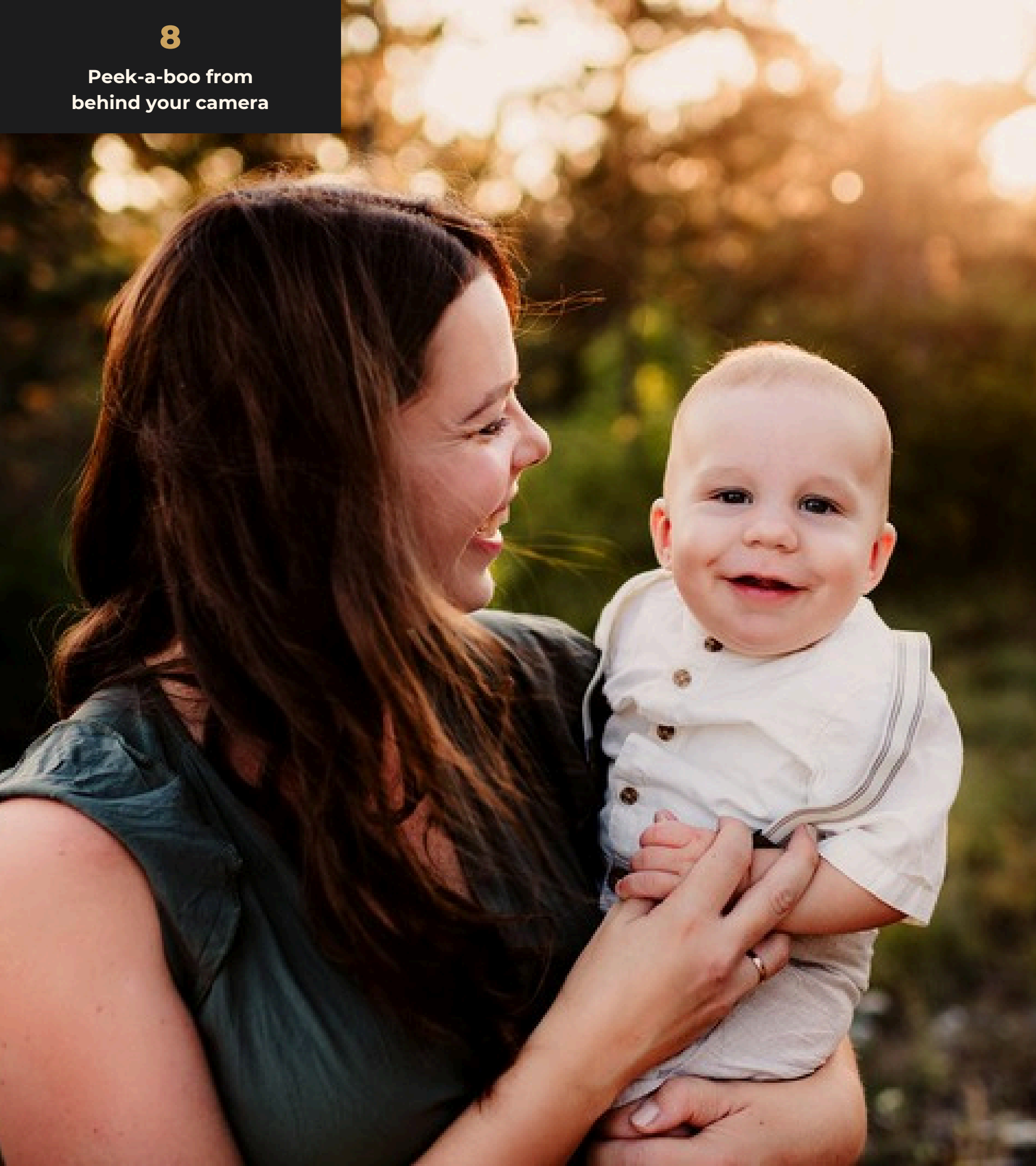
Sound

Try These:

1. **Sing or hum** one of their favorite little songs.
2. **Make a new or interesting sound** (a buzz, a click, anything playful).
3. **Pretend to sneeze** — make it funny or cute!
4. **Use a squeaky toy**, rattle, or any sound-making prop.
5. **Involve the parents** and use their go-to tricks — the ones that always make their baby smile.

Tip: Place the parents where you want the baby to look — their gaze will naturally follow.

Any new or unusual sound will catch a baby's attention — and of course, this is far from a complete list.



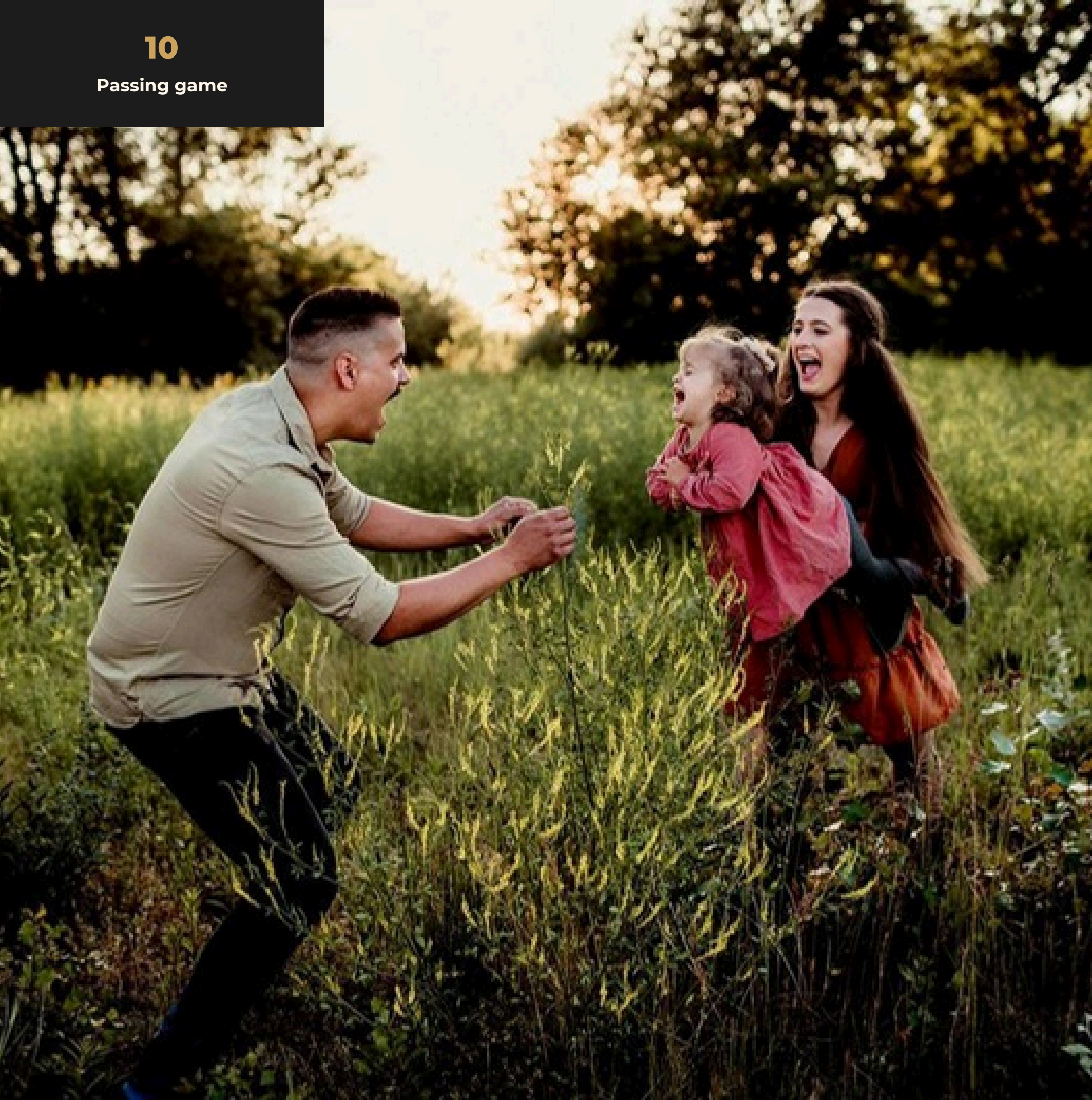
BABIES:

Sight

- 7. Use finger puppets** or a stuffed animal around your lens. You can even balance the toy on top of your camera (or your head!) and let it “fall off” with a funny sound.
- 8. Play peek-a-boo from behind your camera** or your hands — the classic “peekaboo!” sound never fails.
- 9. Try blowing bubbles!** It can be magical, but test it first — some babies love it, others aren’t so sure.

10

Passing game



BABIES:

Movement & Interaction

10. Passing Game: Gently pass or toss the baby between the parents — keeping it light and fun, of course!

BABIES: *Movement & Interaction*



11

Spin

11. Have mom or dad hold the baby and **spin gently** — just fast enough to make them giggle, but still comfortable.

12. Up in the Air: Ask the parent to lift or carefully toss the baby up in the air — only if it's something they normally enjoy, of course.

13. Grass Ticks: Try a little tickle with a long blade of grass — you or the parents can do it, adding a playful “tickle-tickle” sound for extra smiles.

14. Give the baby a simple toy or prop to hold and let them explore it freely.

15. If they start to get sleepy, ask one of the parents to cuddle them. And if they drift off, **capture that peaceful moment** — those quiet shots are often the sweetest.

16. I love capturing those **first steps** or early moments of standing — they're such big milestones at this stage.



24

Fly like an airplane

BABIES: *Emotions*

With babies, it's often the easiest to capture real emotion — not just because they're irresistibly cute, but because they love staying close to their parents and haven't started running off yet. These are the moments to look for:

17. A sweet kiss from a parent or sibling — or even a “kiss sandwich” with both parents, or a tiny kiss on those little toes.

18. A gentle cuddle always makes a beautiful, emotional moment.

19. And sometimes, **those small, curious touches, hugs** or gestures as the baby explores the world are pure gold to capture.

20. Ask the parents to lean in close and take a deep breath — can they still smell that sweet baby scent? You can even suggest they close their eyes and really soak it in. Remind them that it won't last forever — and that's exactly what makes this moment so special to capture.

19

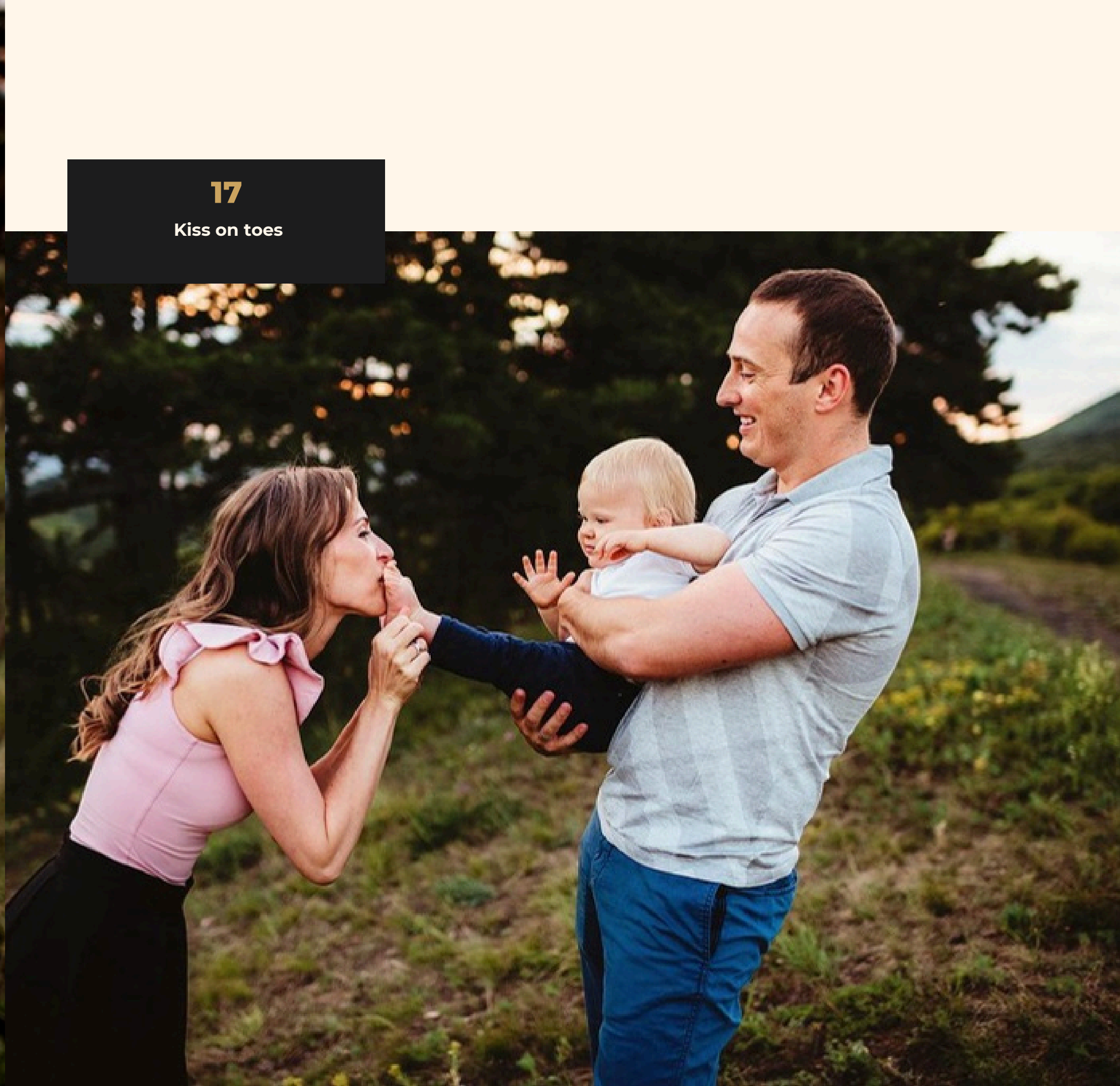
Details of discovery



20

The Baby Scent Moment





17
Kiss on toes

19
Gently touches

MORE PHOTO EXAMPLE

What determines what I allow into my photoshoots as a prop or toy?

The first and most important rule is safety. I never give a baby anything small enough to swallow, or any plant or object that could be harmful — prickly, toxic, or unsafe in any way. I always keep an eye on them to make sure nothing ends up in their mouth.

Secondly, I make sure the toy fits the environment. Whenever possible, I recommend natural-colored or wooden toys that blend beautifully into the setting.


Of course, if the parents have a favorite item they'd love to include, I'm always happy to make that part of the session.





16

First steps

A photograph of a family of four sitting in a field of tall grass at sunset. In the foreground, a young child with red hair, wearing a brown cardigan over a patterned top, is crawling towards the camera. In the background, a woman, a man, and another child are sitting on the grass, looking towards the camera. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun, with a small white house visible in the distance.

Sometimes, we just need
to let them explore.

10

Ask the parent to lift the little one up.

+ Extra Tip

Try to find the angle that best shows the baby's facial expression in these moments.

15

Capture them while
they sleep.





Tiny details

With babies, every tiny detail can be a photo on its own. Little feet, hands, ears, and wisps of hair are such precious memories — the kind every parent adores. Years later, these photos can take them right back to those baby-scented first months.



Safety

Even as you give them the freedom to explore, make sure a parent is always within arm's reach.

Safety is always more important than the shot!



A young child with blonde hair is peeking from behind a tree trunk in a field. The child is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a field.

TODDLERS: 1.5–3 YEARS

At this age, most toddlers can't sit still for long.

Photo sessions often feel more like a game of chase! This is the stage where they truly lead the session, and we have to follow their pace.

That said, there are a few tricks that can make things easier — but it's important to remember: never “lose the child.” Forcing anything at this age can backfire, so it's always better to flow with their energy.

Most of my favorite games and ideas for this age fall into the following categories:

- **Movement:** Toddlers love to run around (and run away!), so be ready to move with them!
- **Nature:** One of the best ways to slow toddlers down is to help them connect with nature. Most of them are naturally curious and fascinated by the little wonders they find outdoors.
- **Silly Photographer:** At this age, kids love playing with other adults too — so don't be afraid to bring out your silly side! Use the ideas on the next pages that parents can try with them as well. This approach works beautifully all the way up to around age ten.



TODDLERS: *Movements*

21. **Catch Me If You Can:** Ask them to try and catch you — kids love a little chase!

22. **Play a round of peekaboo** or hide-and-seek together.

23. Ask the parent to “pour” the child toward the camera, as if they were pouring tea from a teapot — it always gets laughs.

24. **Ask the parent to “fly”** the little one like an airplane — start with a playful “Do you want to be a plane?” to spark excitement. Then the parent can lift the child using their chest and legs, following the “flight path” you suggest, depending on the light and your vision for the shot.

25. **Give them a simple little task** — “Can you bring me that stick?”, “Can you throw this to me?”, “Show me how high you can jump!”, or “Can you stack three rocks?”

26. **Passing game:** Have the parents gently pass or toss the child between them — keeping it fun and light, of course!

NOT DOING WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND?

Many toddlers won't follow instructions — and that's completely normal for their age. Work with their energy, not against it! Learn to let go of your original ideas, switch things up, or simply follow their lead.

21

Catch me if you can

TODDLERS: *Movements*



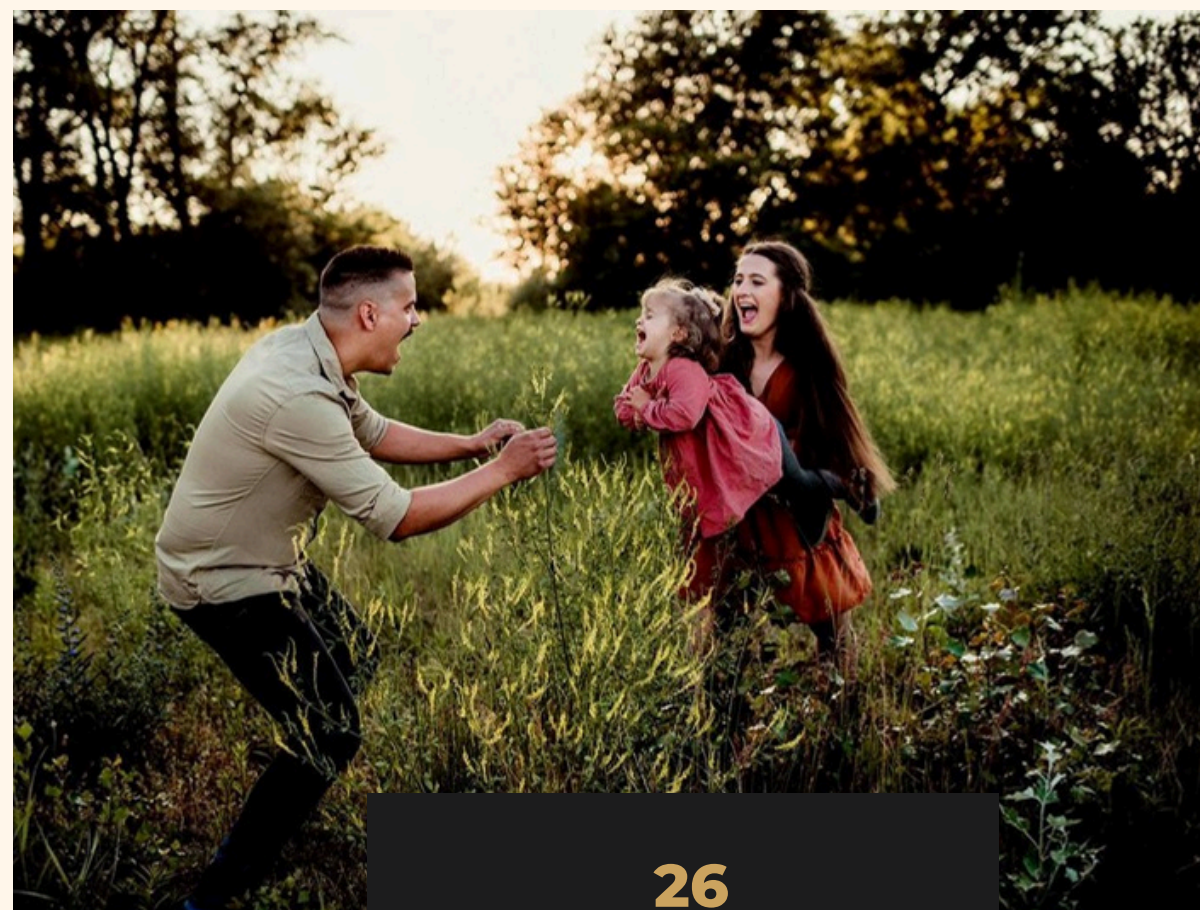
29

Swing in the blankets

27. **Through the Legs:** Ask the parents to stand with their legs apart and have the child run through.

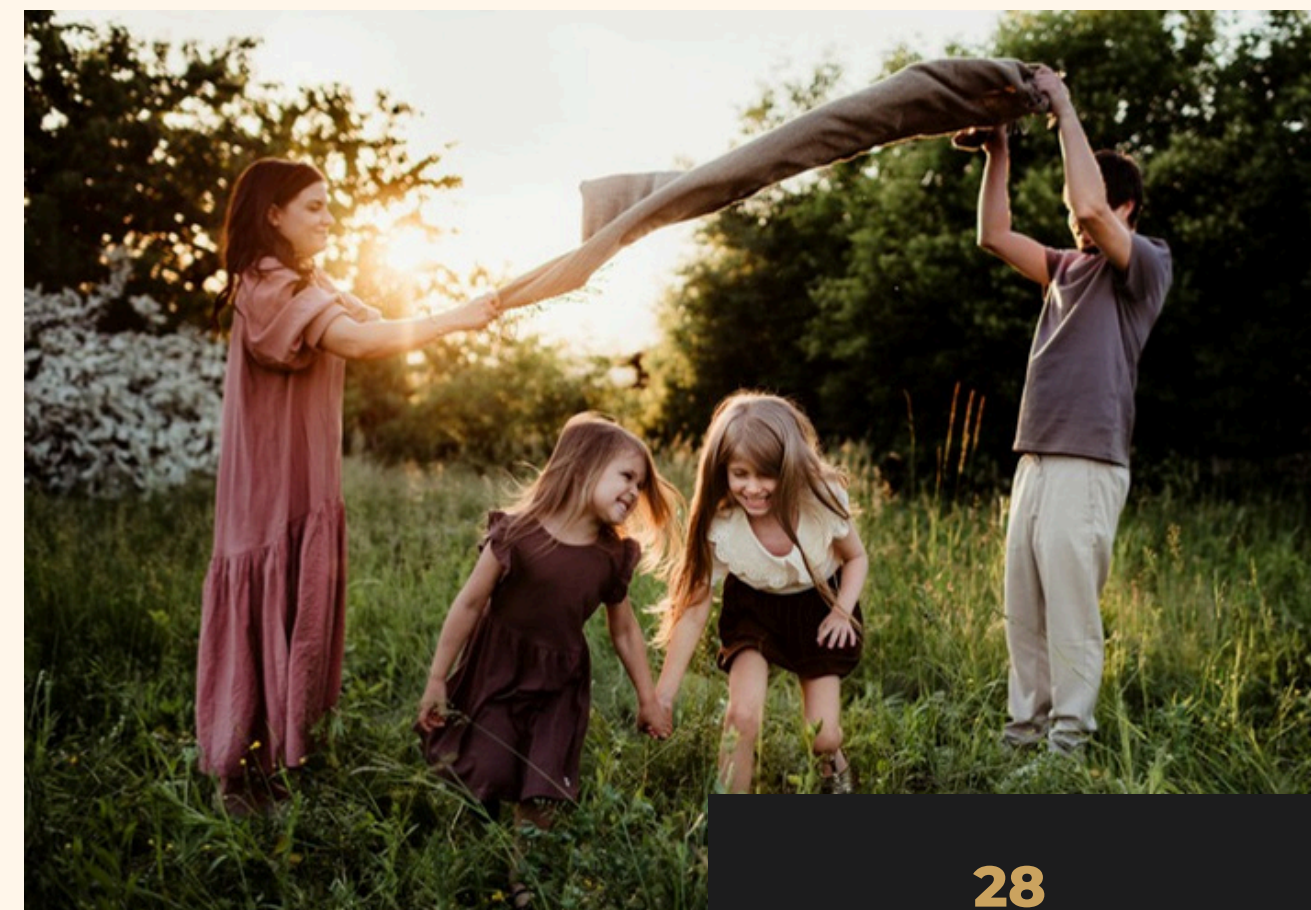
28. **Blanket Waves:** Have them run under a blanket while the parents wave it up and down.

29. **Blanket Swing:** Sit the child in the blanket, let the parents lift the corners, and gently swing them — it always brings giggles!



26

Passing game



28

Run underneath the blanket



31
Blowing dandelion

TODDLERS:

Nature

30. Flower Picking – Go pick some flowers together.

31. Dandelion Blowing – Kids usually love this! Younger ones might need a little help from their parents.

32. Point out birds, bugs, passing dogs, or even a plane flying overhead — anything that catches their curiosity.

33. Watch for those quiet, in-between moments. When they pause to look at something, get excited, or simply focus deeply — that's your cue to click. These calmer moments are also perfect for capturing little details.



30
Picking flowers



34. Treasure Time: Whatever they find — a bug, flower, or acorn — ask them to show it to you.

34
Treasure time





TODDLERS:

Silly photographer

35. Animal Sounds Game – Make some cute animal noises and ask them to guess which animal you are. Depending on their age (and your vision), this can be done one-on-one, with siblings, or as a family moment in the parents' laps. It's a great way to get them looking toward the camera for those classic portraits.

36. Tickle Time – Let them tickle their parents — or you — if they already trust you. You can also join in and use little “tickle tools” you find in nature.

37. Blanket Peekaboo – Hide under a blanket and pop out again for some giggles!

38. Character Imitation – Pretend to be their favorite story or cartoon character — instant smiles guaranteed.

You might think, “Oh no, I must look ridiculous right now!” — but trust me, the parents don't care for a second. They share the same goal as you: to make their kids happy, relaxed, and full of joy.

36

Try to tickle me

Classic

Sibling Tickle



MORE PHOTO EXAMPLE

KIDS: 3-10 YEARS



39 Dancing



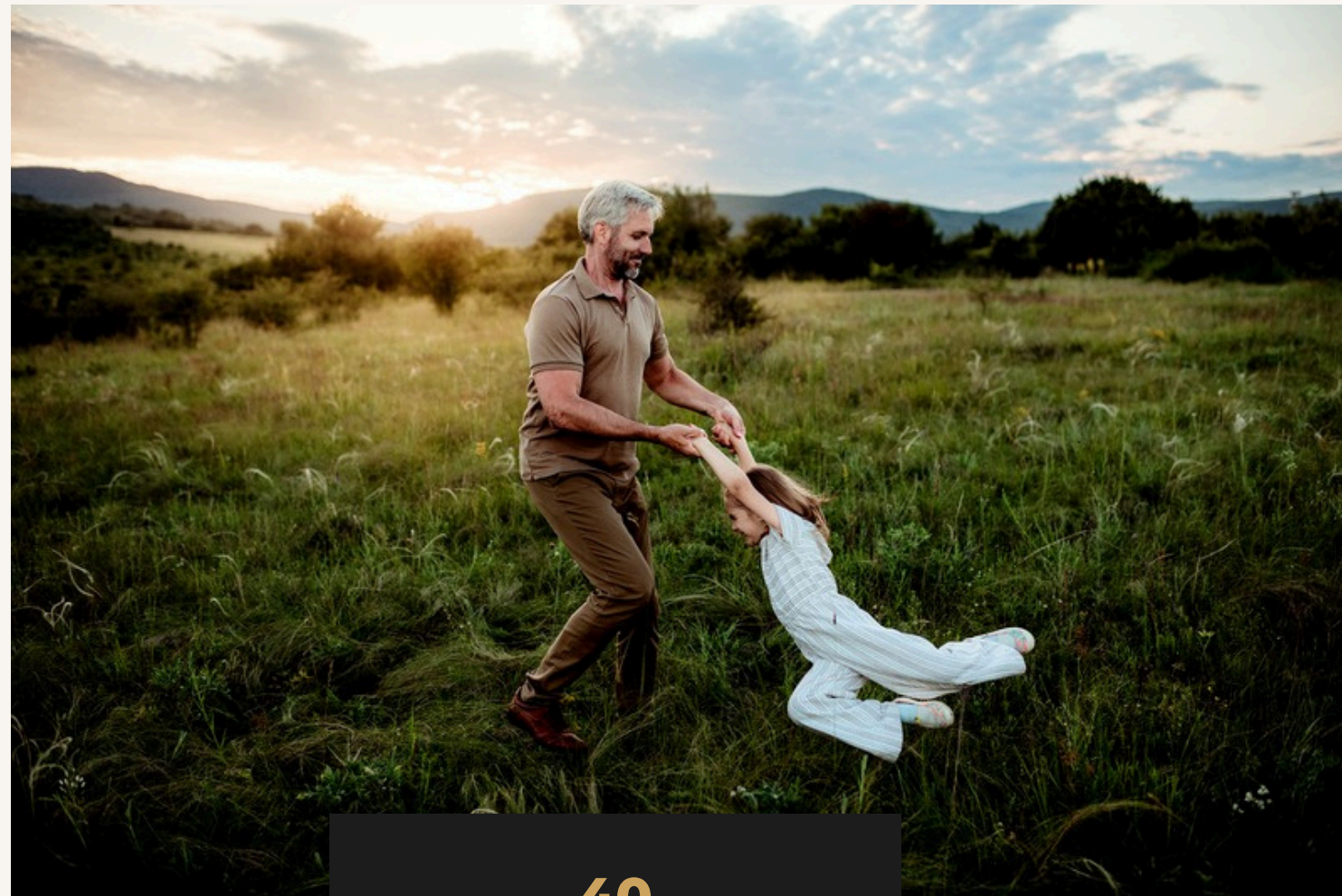
39. Dancing creates wonderful opportunities for real connection and interaction — but it's important to sense who feels comfortable with the idea. I usually save it for the end of the session, once everyone has relaxed and gotten used to my presence. I don't use it at every shoot; it really depends on the family and the children.

With younger kids, ask if they like to dance — if they do, tell them you'd love to see it!

(See the family example in the Family section.)

40. Flying Spin – When a parent holds the child by the hands and spins them around in the air — it's pure joy for most kids! Just make sure it's something they're comfortable with.

41. Spinning Skirts –Can I see how your skirt spins? Give it a big twirl!



40

Flying
spin



39

Spinning skirts

42. Play with the Pet – If there’s a family pet, let the child play and interact with them — these moments are always full of genuine joy.

43. Character Time – Pretend to be their favorite story or cartoon character — or ask them to show you their best impression!

Both of them were moving the whole time (especially the puppy!). I had a few specific poses in mind that I wanted to try, but with an active child and an even more energetic dog, I eventually let go of my plan and just allowed them to play. And of course — that’s when the magic happened.

Note: Once I “let go,” the only thing I focused on was keeping the light and angle right, no matter what was happening.



42
Playing with Pet



43
Pretend your favorite cartoon character

SHOOT WITH INTENTION!

For this shot, I gently moved the rest of the family to the side and asked the little girl if everyone was still there — or if they'd secretly run away, since it had gotten so quiet. When she looked over to check, that's when I took the photo — I wanted the soft, diffused light to fall perfectly on her face.

With younger kids, you can ask the parents or siblings to make funny faces or jokes instead — it works just as well.



43

Tickle Battle

43. Tickle Battle

You can use tickling anytime — sitting, standing, or in completely unexpected moments. How wild it gets really depends on the child's personality.





44. Hide and Seek

Ask them to hide somewhere — but give them a small, defined area to make it easier for you. It could be in their mom's arms, or behind a few plants or flowers.





46

Simple task
“just look at me”

Every Moment Matters

45. Intimate Moments: Sadness, tiredness, even tears — these can all happen during a session. Don’t be afraid to capture them. Years from now, these images may mean so much to the children — reminders that their parents were always there for them, even in the hard moments.

46. Simple Tasks: Give them an easy little mission — “Can you bring that stick or flower to mom?”, “Can you throw this to me?”, “Show me how high you can jump!”, or “Can you stack three rocks?” Simple prompts like these keep them engaged and natural.



45

Intimate moments

47

Eskimo kiss



48

Staring contest



47. Eskimo Kiss: Also known as a “nose kiss,” this is a perfect way to bring family members close together. It works beautifully with dads or between siblings too.

48. Staring Contest: Ask them to look straight into each other’s eyes — no blinking, no smiling allowed! Who will win? Within seconds, those sweet little smirks and giggles always start to appear.

49. The Giggle Challenge: Try this fun little game: gently press or tap your fingers up along their leg — from the knee toward the thigh — counting each touch as you go. The goal? To see if they can make it through seven touches without laughing!

50. Floating Blanket Run: Run while holding the blanket high — make it float without letting it fall on your head! It's simple, silly, and always brings laughter.



50

Floating blanket run



49

The Giggle challenge

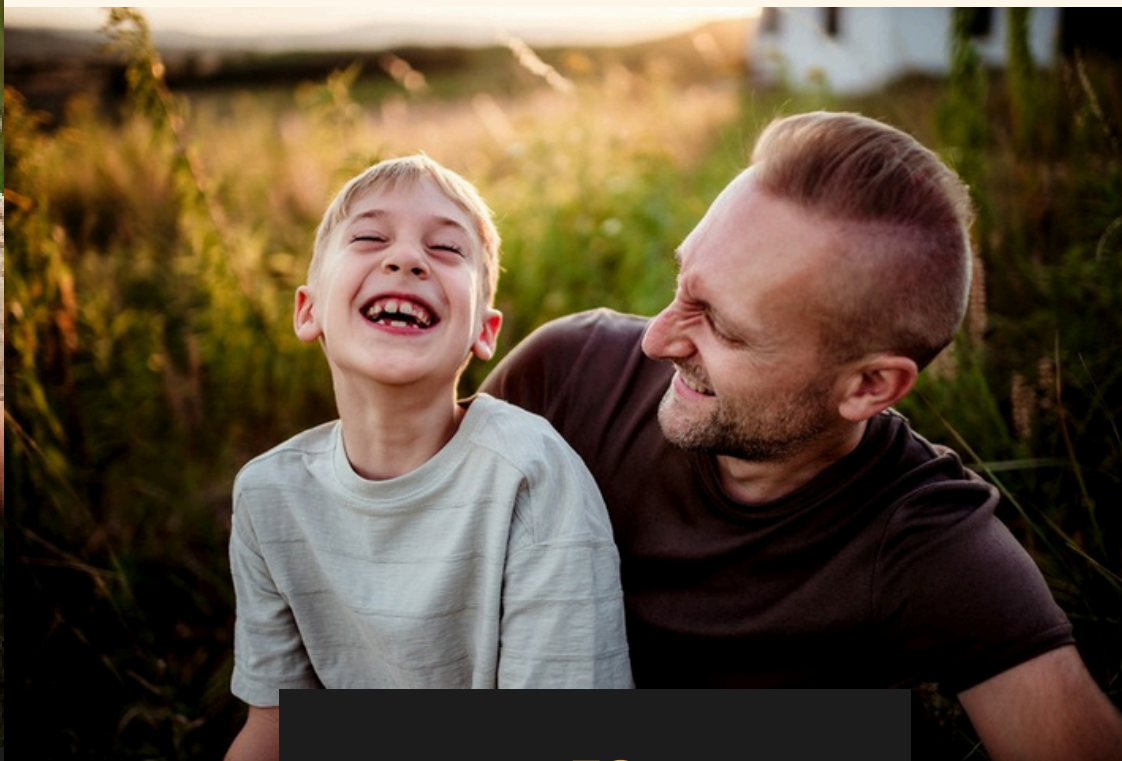


51
Daddy attack

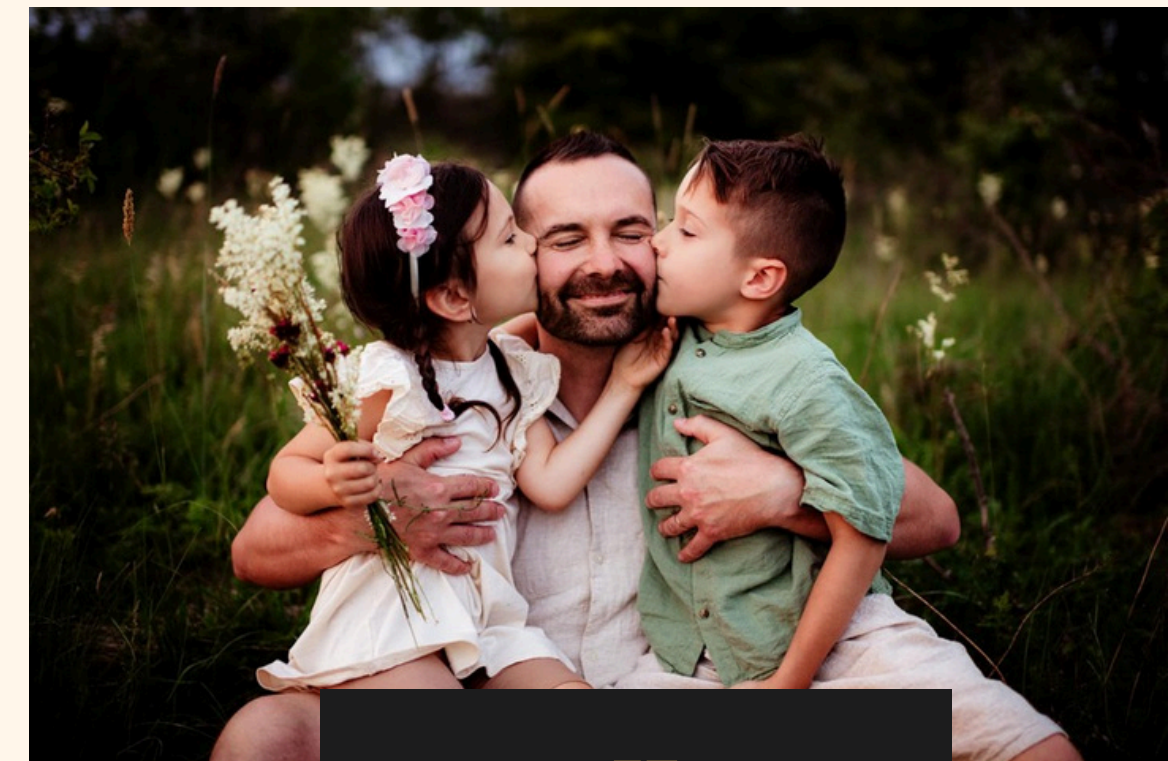
51. Daddy Attack: Have Dad kneel or crouch down, and give the kids one mission — try to knock him over! (Don't worry, dads usually love this part.)

52. Dad's Secret Whisper: Ask Dad to whisper a funny word or sentence to the child — something he knows will make them laugh.

53. Kiss Contest: Have Mom or Dad stand in the middle, and on the count of three, everyone gives them a kiss! Who's the fastest — or who can give the biggest, loudest smooch?



52
Secret whisper



53
Kiss contest



FAMILY PROMPTS

During a family photoshoot, when we talk about play, there are two types: the games you play with them as the photographer, and the ones they play with each other. You can give them ideas for both — or gently guide and direct their play to create those natural, joyful moments.

54. Chase the kids: Line up the kids in front, and a few meters behind them, place the parents. Count to three — and let the chase begin! The kids run, the parents chase, and laughter is guaranteed.

Pro Tip: If the parents are a bit slow, give them a secret wink to start a second earlier 😊

55. Green, Yellow, Red Light: Have the family stand side by side, holding hands, and call out commands: green means go forward, yellow means step back, and red means stop.

As you speed up the commands, it gets funnier — and that's when you'll catch those lively, natural shots

55

Green, Yellow, Red Light



56

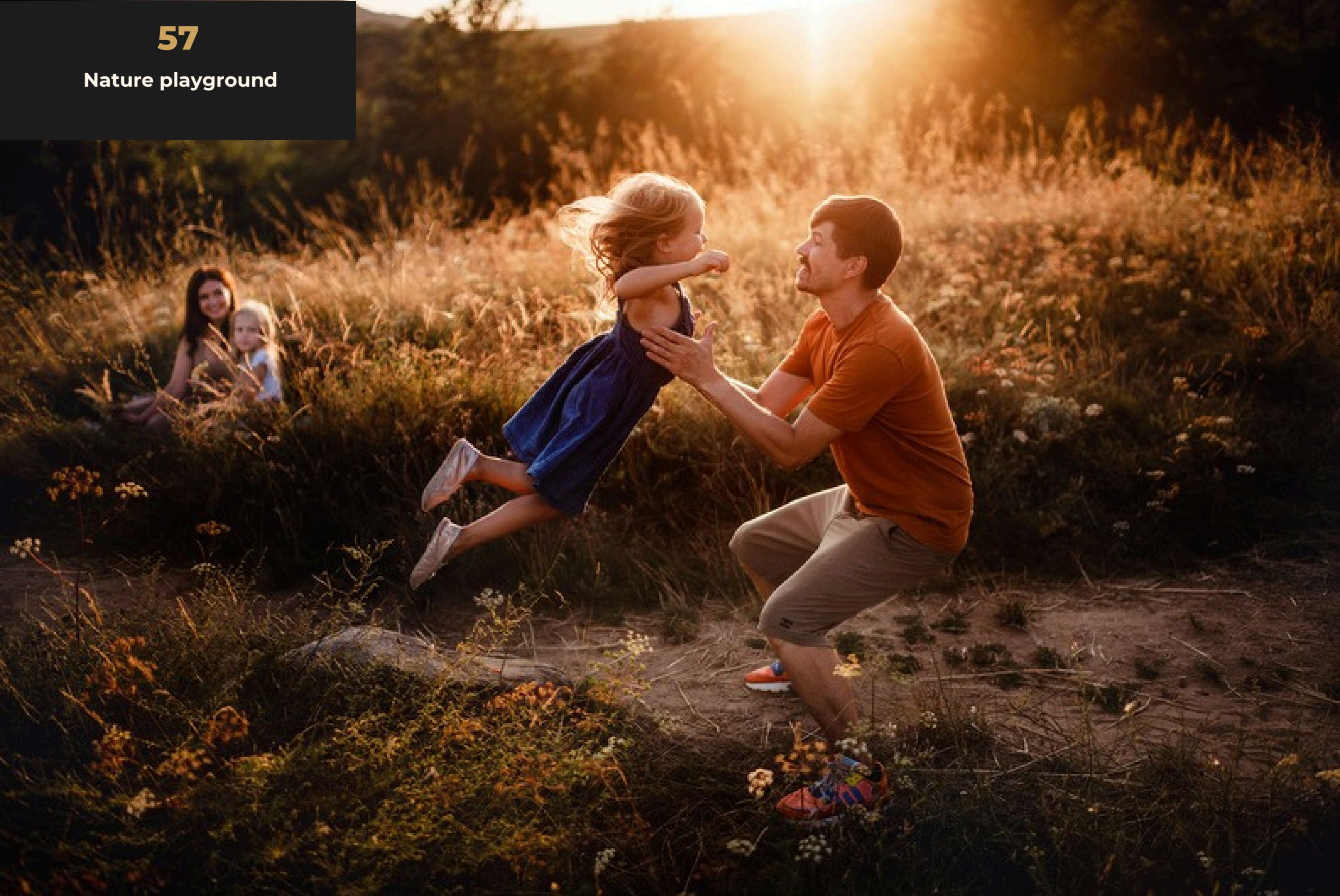
Whisper chain



56. Whisper Chain: Start a word — something funny, secret, or a family favorite — and pass it along from one person to the next, whispering it ear to ear. When it reaches the last person, have them say it out loud! It's a beautiful way to capture those quiet, intimate moments between family members.

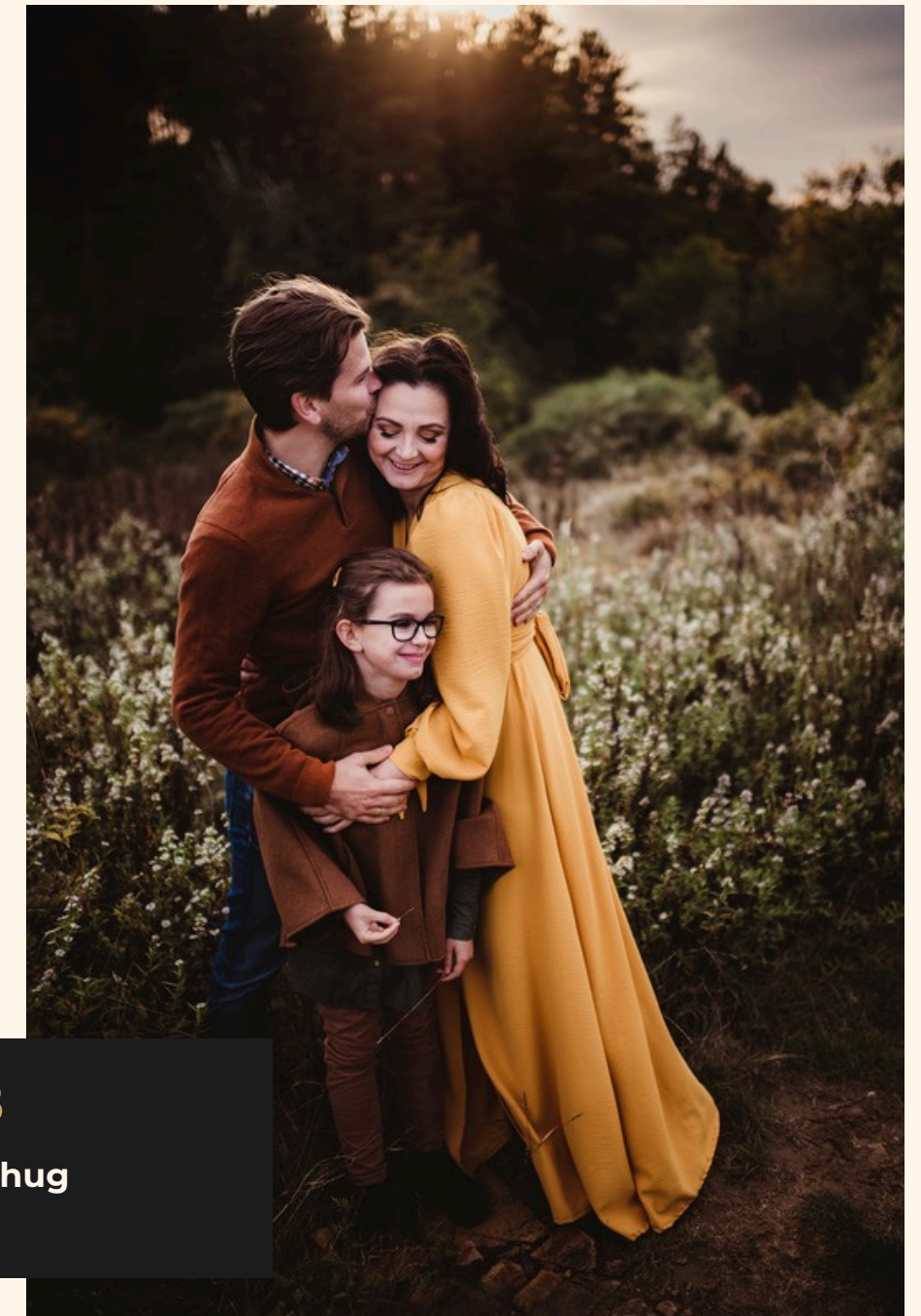
57

Nature playground



57. Nature Playground: Sometimes nature itself makes the best playground. If you find a safe spot to jump from — don't skip it! Kids love it, and it brings amazing energy to your shots.

58. Big Family Hug: Ask for a giant family hug — simple but always powerful. You can also turn it into a fun prompt: have the child run to their parents, and let them scoop them up into a big, warm hug.

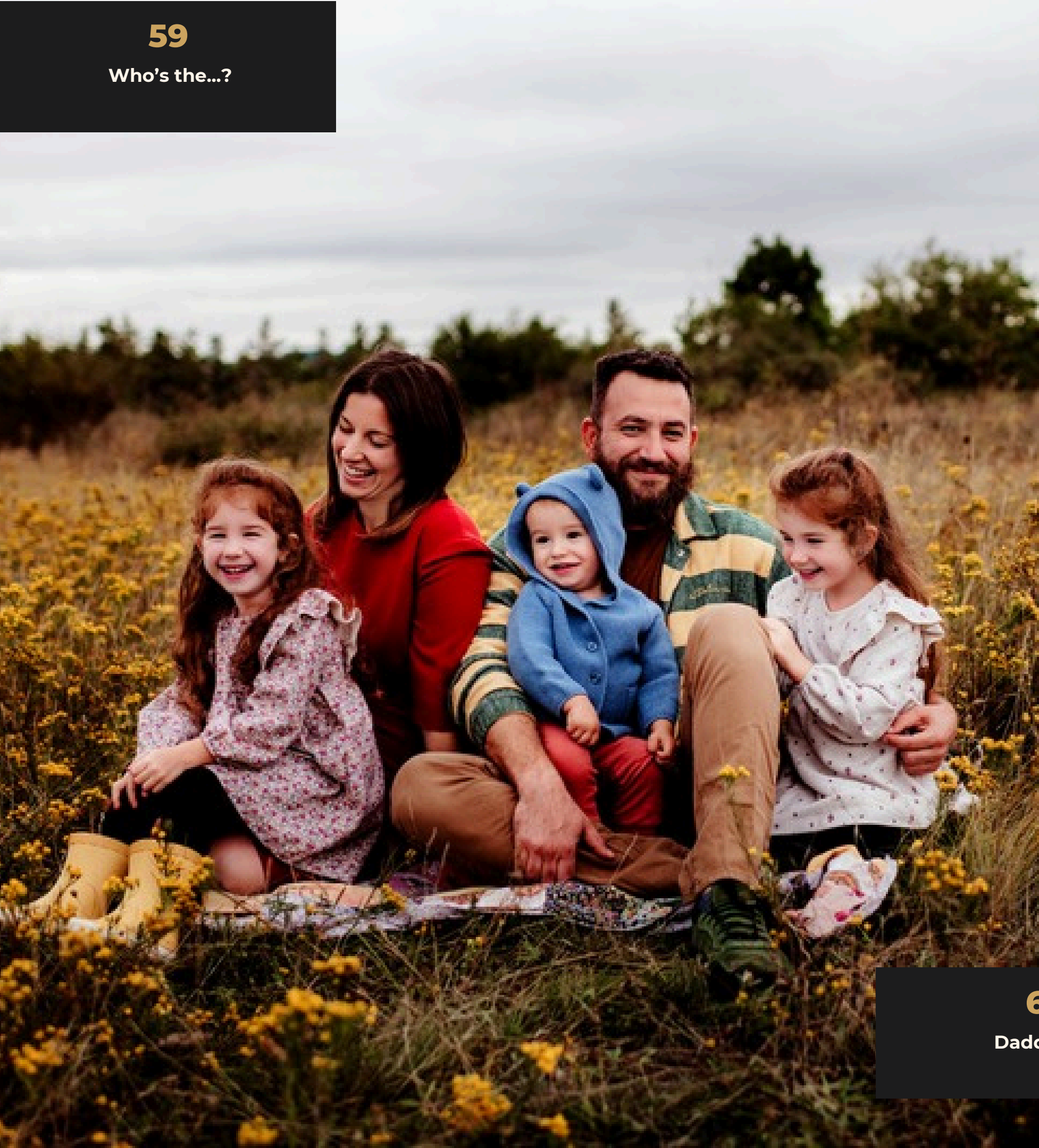


58

Family hug

59

Who's the...?



60

Daddy taxi

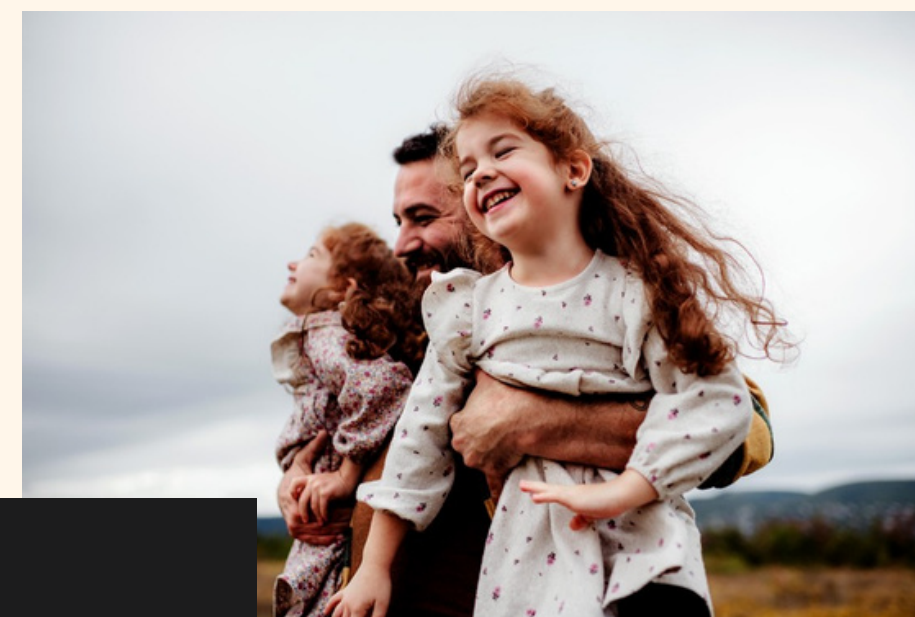
63

Lóbálás



59. Who's the...? Who has the messiest room? Who eats the most? Who's the best cook? Who burps the loudest? Ask a few funny "who's the..." questions — they can look, point, or even tickle the person they choose! The moments before, during, and after are all worth capturing.

60. Daddy Taxi: For little kids, ask Dad to pick them both up and run a few meters with them — pure joy every time!





61
Chase around the parents

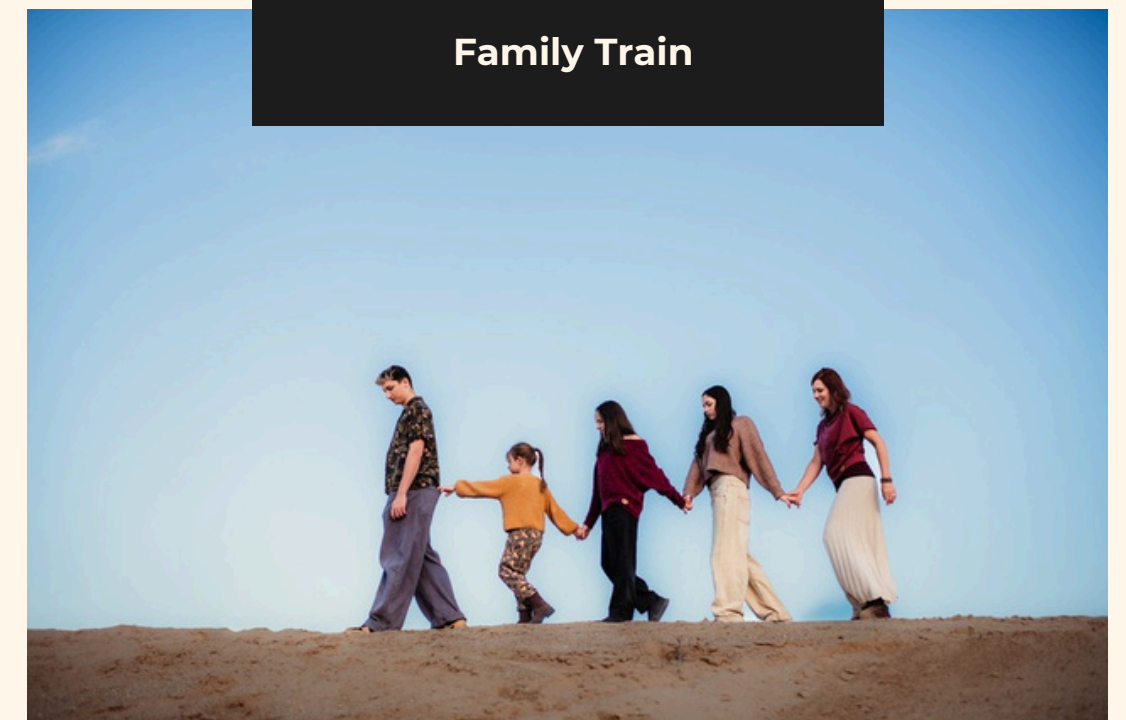


61. Chase around the parents: Ask the parents to stand close together in a little huddle, and have the kids run around them in circles — trying to catch each other. It creates beautiful movement and lots of laughter around the parents.

62. Family Train: Ask the family to form a “train” and move from point A to point B. It can be a straight line, or the kids can playfully “pull” the rest of the family across the field. If they’re moving toward you, line them up by height for a fun, dynamic composition.

63. Swing Walk: As long as the kids are light enough — and the parents strong enough — have them swing the child between them as they walk. Step, swing, repeat! The motion keeps it looking natural and full of energy.

62
Family Train





64

Pile on

64. Pile On! Encourage the kids to climb onto their parents' backs — a fun, chaotic moment that always brings out genuine laughter.

65. Animal Fun: Ask them to act out their favorite animal — with sounds or movements! Even though the example photo might just show the kids, it's hilarious (and heartwarming) when the whole family joins in.

65

Animal fun





Let things unfold naturally sometimes — that's part of family photography too.

66

Walk together

66. Walk Together: A simple walk can lead to beautiful moments. Sometimes, just moving from point A to point B is full of unexpected photo opportunities.





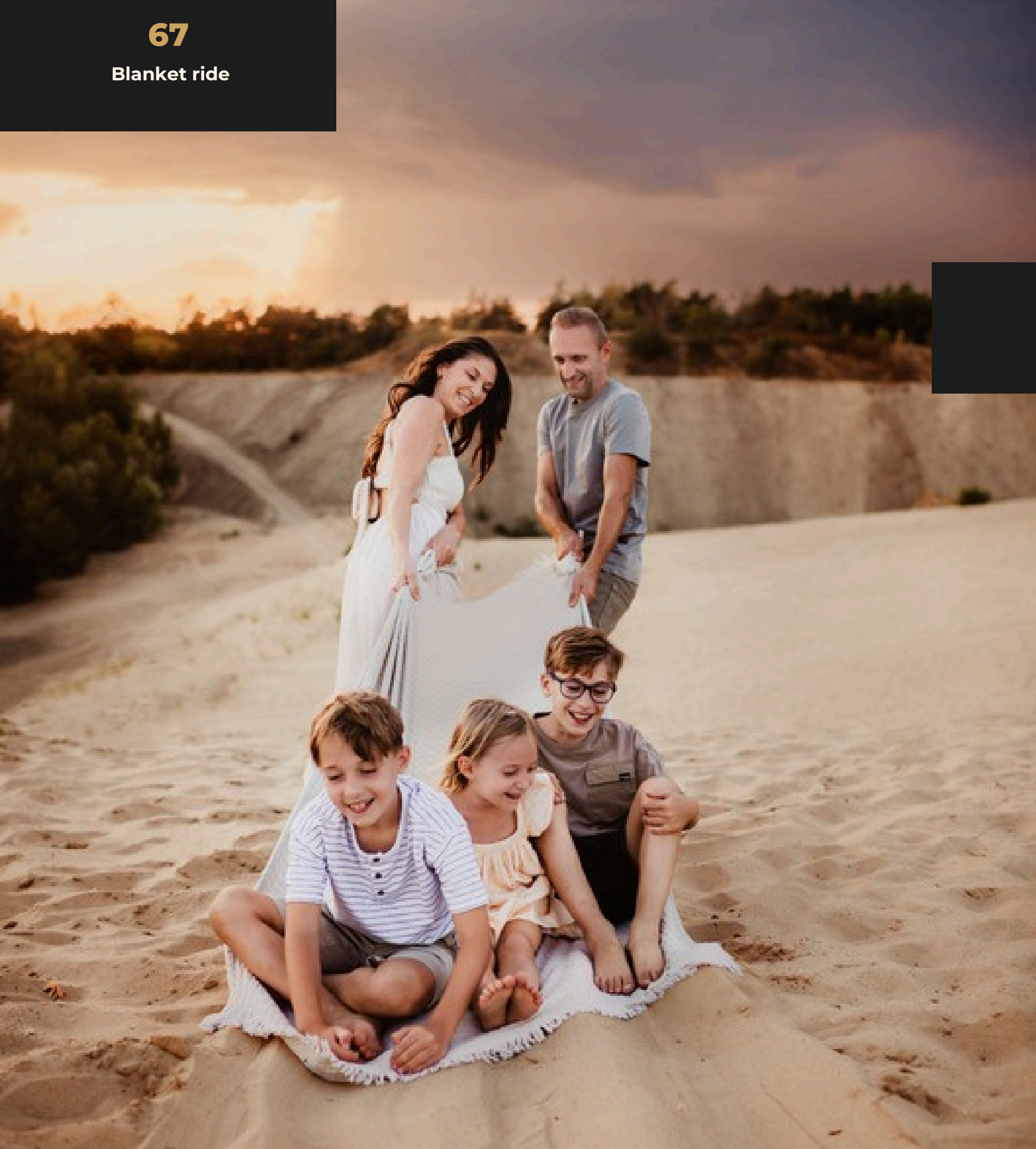
MIX IT UP!

Feel free to combine different ideas and games. A train ride with a blanket, a chase with some tickles, a spin followed by a lift — and so on. The more you mix, the more natural and fun the moments become!



67

Blanket ride



68

Run Together



67. Blanket Ride: Have the kids sit on a blanket, and let the parents pull them along gently — it's like a little “family sled” on the sand (or grass). The laughter and movement make it a perfect moment to capture!

68. Run Together: Have the whole family hold hands and run toward you! It's simple, full of energy, and always brings out the biggest smiles. Let them laugh, stumble, and enjoy the moment — that's where the magic happens. *“Run like you just heard there's ice cream!”*

57

Nature playground





TINIK

As kids grow into their teenage years, they become more self-aware. Some enjoy being photographed — especially since they're already used to seeing themselves on Instagram — but many start to feel awkward about family photos, or even embarrassed to take part at all.

This age can be just as challenging as trying to get a two-year-old to cooperate... maybe even more so!

But here's what I've found: once you manage to break through that little "wall," they often crawl right out of their teenage shell — the one they love hiding in so much — and suddenly, the session doesn't feel scary anymore. In fact, it can even become fun... for both of you!

A Few General Tips

- **Be empathetic:** Ask them if they actually want to be there — and if the answer (or their body language) says no, reassure them that you'll make it quick and as painless as possible.
- **Treat them like adults:** Yes, I know — they're still technically kids, but let's not remind them of that 😊
- **Start a conversation:** Ask about what they like doing, what games they play (probably online!), or what sports they're into. Let them talk about themselves a bit — it helps them relax and feel seen.

And remember:

They can't really escape a few photos with their parents (especially Mom!), but tell them there are no forced poses or fake smiles. Suggest they think of it as doing something important for their parents — and maybe they can even negotiate a little reward in return.



70
Classic portrait

71

Their ideas



69. Sibling Time: It's often a good idea to start with the siblings. They're usually more willing to interact with each other than with their parents at first. The older one can try giving the younger a piggyback ride, a little spin, or you can even let them come up with their own ideas — they often love showing that they “know better” than you do!

70. Classic Portrait: At this age, you can easily go for a classic portrait — they're usually patient enough and know how to hold a pose naturally.

71. Go With Their Ideas

Anything they come up with on their own can be pure gold — let them take the lead and see where it goes!



72

The negotiation



73

What I Love/Hate About You



72. The Negotiation: I love capturing those little “what do we get for doing the photos?” moments — they’re honest, funny, and so real.

73. What I Love/Hate About You: Ask a few fun and honest questions like: “What do you love most about each other?”, “What drives you crazy?”, or “What’s one habit that really annoys you?” These prompts (especially the last one!) almost always lead to laughter — and real connection. It’s important to balance it out with positive questions too, so the mood stays light and warm.

Pro Tip:

The “Who’s the...?” game (see #59) works perfectly here too! Try things like: “Who’s on their phone the most?”, “Who turns everything into a competition?”, “Who hates admitting they’re wrong?”, or “Who actually helps the most with chores?” (Okay, maybe a rhetorical question 😊)

75

Pranks



74

Final hug



74. The Final Hug: I like to finish with a photo of them hugging their parents — usually with a little tease like, “Okay, last one and you’re free to go!” It always brings out genuine smiles and a sweet sense of relief.

75. Parent Pranks: Teens love a little teasing — and that can make for amazing photos! In the picture above, they decided to “troll” their parents’ couple shot by covering them with pinecones. Moments like these are just as valuable as any classic, camera-facing family portrait — maybe even more so.

More Ideas:

- “You set the pose!” Let the kids decide how their parents should stand or sit — they love being the directors for a change.
- “Parent Swap!” Ask them to pretend they’re the parents and act out what it would be like if roles were reversed.
- “When do Mom or Dad get embarrassing?” Let them show or act it out — this always leads to laughter and great expressions.

76

Their world



76.Their World: If they have something that really represents them — a musical instrument, a favorite sport, or anything they want included — I'm all in.

Their enthusiasm instantly goes up, which is exactly what you want during a shoot.

And no matter how strange their request might seem... remember, they're teenagers



Time to Play

I hope these ideas inspire you — I can't wait to see how you bring them to life!

