

**CHERYL MACHAT DORSKIND'S FOOL-PROOFING FOR FAMILY PICTURES:  
TEN SURE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR PHOTOS THIS SUMMER**

**1. Think before you click.**

Don't just snap, snap, snap.

*As a guide recite the three Ws: What, Where, Why?*

**What is this picture about?**

**Where are we?**

**Why are you taking the picture?**

**2. Watch your background.**

*Make this your mantra (watch your background, watch your background, watch your background!!!)*

Be certain trees are not growing out of your child's head.

**3. Vertical works wonders.**

*Turn the camera.* While it is more comfortable to hold the camera horizontally, a vertical format is often more effective-- especially when photographing only one person.

**4. Move. Do something.**

*It's your family, so don't be shy.* Look through the viewfinder (quickly) canvassing the boundaries; know what is touching the perimeter on all four sides. Is it relevant to the picture? Does it detract? If so, move. Move closer, bend, stand on a step ladder; go around to the other side. **Do something.**

**5. Off center.**

Today we hear so much about balance—balancing money, your time—but this logic ideal does apply to photography. Contrary to common thought, off centered subjects make more interesting pictures.

**6. You are not a surgeon.**

Be a conscientious cropper.

Rule of thumb is: crop above the head, below the knees, don't chop feet or hands.

**7. No cheese, please!**

*To pose or not to pose.* To avoid plastic smiles, have a conversation with the child and wait till the moment is right.

**8. Patience is an essential virtue.**

*A great picture recipe is: 1- part serendipity and 1- part waiting. Be patient and wait for the magic.*

**9. WOW with color versus timeless black-& white.**

Plan ahead selecting clothing that is color coded: Bold colors for shocking impact; homogeneous colors for family unity, soft colors for a quiet inspiration. Black and white pictures are often timeless.

**10. Lines, shapes & pattern.**

Geometry shapes our world – circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles draw the world as we see it. Find the hidden shapes and strategically place them to frame and/or shape your pictures.