



Portraits by Sarah

Newborn Session Information Sheet

If you are reading this information sheet you are most likely embarking on a brand new and unknown chapter of your life or perhaps you are taking the plunge again! Either way it is an incredibly exciting time and I am delighted that you are considering trusting me with creating portraits of your new baby. My aim is to provide the most beautiful timeless images of your precious baby to adorn the walls and coffee tables of your home. I can assure you that time really does fly, although you will probably disagree with me when you are in the middle of a 3am feed!

Newborn sessions are most effective within the first 2 weeks of birth although anytime up to 3 weeks is usually fine. After this I can still get some gorgeous images but it is not so easy to get those sleepy, snuggly newborn positions. I would therefore recommend booking your newborn session as soon as possible to avoid disappointment, just after your 20 week scan is a perfect time. We can reschedule your session, if necessary, if baby arrives earlier or later than expected (which most of them do!).

A session fee of £65 is required at the time of booking to secure your session. On receipt of your booking fee I will send you a welcome pack confirming your session and providing the studio address and any other information you may need for your session.

Location

Sessions take place in the comfort of my studio in rural East Hertfordshire as I have all my lighting equipment, backdrops and props available. There is plenty of secure parking available.

Duration

Newborn sessions usually take between 2 and 4 hours. (2 hours for the basic package and up to 4 hours for the Premium & Deluxe packages). A happy and relaxed baby is not a rushed one and I make sure there is plenty of time for feeding, changing and cuddles. I do not book any other sessions on a Newborn Day so that you have my undivided attention. Please don't worry that your baby may not settle. The majority do at some point but even if they don't I still manage to get some lovely images. I've only had to reschedule 1 session to date and that baby was a bit older than the recommended newborn age and was suffering with reflux.

How should I prepare?

Babies look their cutest in their birthday suit or swaddled in a wrap so you don't need to worry about outfits for baby. I will provide plenty of blankets, hats and props, however, if there is a particular comfort toy that you would like a photograph with please bring it along.

If you are not breast feeding baby please bring an extra bottle or two as it may be required to help baby settle during the session. I keep the studio warm to help keep baby comfortable when unclothed and this can also lead to baby being thirsty and feeding a bit more.

I do always provide refreshments but please feel free to bring your own, especially if you have any particular dietary requirements. It's important for new Mums to keep hydrated and to eat regularly so please feel free to tuck in at any time during your session.

I highly recommend having a photograph taken of yourselves with the baby. I understand that you will probably not be feeling at your best just after having a baby but in a few years time you may wish that you had taken the opportunity. A very flattering set up is a black backdrop, subtle lighting and some skin to skin head and shoulder shots so a strapless or thin strapped top for Mum and black t-shirt or bare chest for Dad. Neutral coloured outfits (whites, creams, beiges and browns) are also very flattering for photographs with your baby. Please be assured that I will be very careful about ensuring any remaining baby tummy is not in the images!

If this is not your first baby you will probably also want some photographs with siblings. I usually ask for the siblings to attend for either the first or last part of the session if possible as it's a long time to expect them to sit in the studio. However I do appreciate that this is not always an option, especially if you are travelling a bit of a way to me. I have found that an iPad/tablet loaded with some games and favourite TV programmes usually helps!

What should the siblings wear?

Little boys look great wearing just jeans or trousers with no top or a plain t-shirt/shirt and girls look fabulous in a pretty white, pastel or floral dress or top and leggings. I usually take the sibling images on a cream or other neutral backdrop. If you prefer a bit more colour that's fine, they are your photos and stripes and checks can look really good but please steer clear of patterns or logos and please ensure that the outfits compliment each other.

Little Accidents

There will be accidents so please don't worry. Wee, poop and possetting are all part and parcel of a newborn session, it's what babies do! It's not a problem. I have my own children and have been there and done it so please don't give it a second thought.

What happens next?

I usually aim to get an image on the blog or Facebook/Instagram page the same or following day for you to see, providing you are willing to sign a consent form at the end of the session. The remainder of your images will be available to view in an online gallery within 2-3 weeks of your session date and I will email you a link to the gallery when they have been uploaded. Orders must be placed within 1 week of the date your online gallery becomes available. Your finished products will be ready for collection or delivery 2 to 4 weeks after your order has been placed.

Portraits by Sarah offer a wide range of products to suit all tastes and budgets including Fine Art Canvas Wraps, Bespoke Frames, Wall Mounted HD Acrylics, Bamboo Panels, Acrylic topped print boxes and Digital Files on a full or mini USB. Please see the current price list for further information. I will make sure the products are available for you to view and handle during the session. Please remind me if I forget!

How do I pay?

You can make payments by cash, cheque, Bacs or by PayPal to portraitsbysarah@btinternet.com. A 50% deposit is required at the time of ordering and the remaining balance is payable in full once the order is ready for delivery/collection. A delivery fee may be payable for certain products.

And finally

I wish you good health and plain sailing for the remainder of your pregnancy and the birth of your baby. Enjoy and treasure every minute and I will look forward to helping you capture those precious first moments.

Sarahx