

Fall & Winter Sessions

Vickshots Photography · Kansas City

The short version: **coordinate, don't match.** A family in identical white shirts and jeans looks like a uniform. A family in a shared range of colors and textures looks like a family. Here is how to get there.

Build a palette first

- **Pick two or three colors** that sit well together — think of a cozy room, not a rainbow.
- **Spread them across everyone.** One person in the anchor color, others picking it up in smaller amounts, a couple of neutrals to calm it down.
- **Vary the shade, not the color.** Three people in the exact same green competes; three people in olive, sage and forest green looks considered.
- **One quiet pattern, maximum.** A plaid scarf or a subtle check on one person is plenty.

Fall palette (September–November)

Kansas City fall gives you warm foliage and low golden light. You don't need to wear the leaves — earthy tones with one warm pop read best. These are the twelve combinations from our color chart on the next page. **Pick one row and build the whole family around it.**

Warm and earthy

- **Rust & Cream** — rust · cream · warm taupe · deep brown
- **Forest & Rust** — forest green · rust · sand · espresso
- **Terracotta & Sage** — terracotta · sage · bone · walnut
- **Copper & Denim** — copper · denim · oat · dark denim
- **Olive & Camel** — olive · camel · ivory · chocolate

Soft and muted

- **Burgundy & Oatmeal** — burgundy · oatmeal · dusty rose · charcoal
- **Dusty Blue & Tan** — dusty blue · tan · off-white · slate
- **Plum & Gray** — plum · soft gray · blush · deep charcoal
- **Mocha & Blush** — mocha · blush · cream · cocoa

Rich and bold

- **Navy & Mustard** — navy · mustard · cream · warm gray
- **Emerald & Cream** — emerald · cream · gold · dark teal
- **Cranberry & Camel** — cranberry · camel · ivory · deep olive

Autumn does most of the work for you. **Skip** bright kelly green, cool pastels and anything neon — they fight the season instead of sitting in it.

Fall Family Photo Color Palettes



Winter palette (December–February)

Bare trees, flat light, maybe snow, holiday settings like the Plaza lights or Union Station. Jewel tones and rich neutrals do the work here.

- **Core:** deep forest or emerald green, burgundy and cranberry, charcoal grey, ivory and cream, navy, camel
- **Accents:** plaid used sparingly — buffalo check or tartan on one person or as a scarf, not the whole group
- **Skip:** all-white outfits against snow (you disappear) and head-to-toe black (loses shape and detail in dull winter light). A little contrast keeps everyone visible.

Texture and layers do more than pattern

- **Fall:** chunky knit sweaters, cardigans, flannel, corduroy, a denim or field jacket, a felt hat, ankle boots, a light scarf
- **Winter:** wool coats, turtlenecks, cable knits, faux fur, tights, tall boots, gloves or mittens, a beanie, a blanket scarf
- A cable-knit sweater adds depth to a photo the way a busy print never will — and it photographs the same in every color.

Footwear

Boots — ankle or tall — or clean loafers. Bright athletic sneakers pull the eye straight to people's feet; skip them unless that is genuinely your family's everyday look. Check the kids' shoes aren't scuffed or light-up.

Kids and toddlers

- Dress them for the actual temperature. A cold kid ends a session early.
- Layers they can move and play in — nothing stiff or itchy.
- Bring a **full backup outfit** in the car.
- Avoid character and costume clothing; it dates the photos fast.

Before the session

- **Steam or iron everything** the night before.
- **Lay the outfits out together** on a bed and look at them as a group, not one at a time.
- **Dress warmer than you think.** Golden hour in November is cold and you will be standing around between shots — bring coats you can slip on and off.
- Hair and makeup done before you arrive; a little more than an everyday look reads well on camera.
- Not sure? **Bring two or three options** and we will pick on the day. You can also text me photos of what you are considering beforehand.