



Adoption Resource Exchange

Tips for taking portraits with a smart phone:

KEEP IT SIMPLE! Take a quick look around and think about what will be in the background of the photo. It doesn't matter if it is a brick wall or curtain because the background isn't the focus of the photo for a Mission WV ARE portrait. With that in mind, you still want to avoid cluttered areas.

On the left is an example of a good portrait for the ARE, it focuses in on the face/smile of the youth and there not a lot of background to take in. The photo on the right would be a great photo to give to a youth but doesn't make the best photo for the ARE post, there is too much background in the photo and it isn't necessary to have their whole body.



Stand an arm's length away from the subject: The better photo is one where you can really see the person in the portrait, when you stand too far away from your subject you end up getting a lot of background clutter in the image. Also, having your subject in the center of the photo is fine but play around and take shots from a couple different angles. See how the photo on the left has a little more background area on the left side of her face than the right?

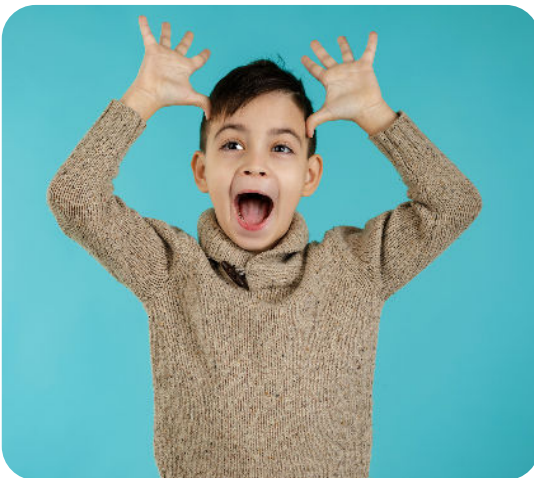
If you can go outside: You'll have better light and you'll find better viewpoints. If there is a park, have them sit on a picnic table, swing or on the slide. If there is a pretty tree or garden area on campus.

Focus on the eyes: You can tap on the screen of your phone screen on the spot you want to focus on. Also, the newer update on the iPhone has a feature with a small box and a little sun image that appears when you tap on the screen to focus in on one spot.

The photo on the left has too much background and you can't clearly see the child's face. The photo on the right has far less background and focuses on the child's eyes and face. The photos below were not taken with a camera phone but the same rules apply.



Another example of subject placement for ARE. The photo on the left is a fun nature shot for the kids to have but there is too much going on. The photo on the right is a good "head shot" for ARE.



Choose portrait mode if you have an iPhone: With Portrait mode, the camera creates a depth-of-field effect. This lets you capture photos with a sharp focus on the subject and a blurred background. The Camera app lets you know when you're too close, too far away, or if the area is too dark.

Show at least a photo or two to the kid: Show the photos to the youth and make sure they are comfortable with the photos you have taken. If not, take some more. This is the youth's photo listing and they should be proud of it.

MAKE IT FUN! It isn't unusual for a Youth to act a little silly when getting their photo taken and even request specific photos. DO IT! Let them have fun and express themselves. Those poses can be posted as additional photos on the youths ARE posting. and also shared with the youth.