



Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Oregon, Inc.

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Tips for Taking Photographs

- Be sure to send a few photos to your local chapter! Email to liz@orwish.org.
- Digital camera users: Be sure to set your camera's resolution (image quality) to its maximum level (3-5 MB per picture is fine).
- Show the entire subject in relation to his or her surroundings.
- Shoot close-ups to show important aspects of the subject in greater detail: a face or a pair of hands doing things. Fill the frame and get one or two steps closer than you normally would.
- Vary your camera angles. Don't shoot everything at eye or waist level. Get up on a chair or table and shoot down for some pictures. Shoot another from ground level looking up. Especially with children, lower the camera to their eye level to minimize foreshortening and distortion.
- Make use of available lighting. If you're shooting indoors, make use of the sun for side lighting and back lighting, in addition to shooting with the sun at your back. Improve outdoor portraits with a combination of light (sun and flash); the background is not disrupted, and the flash softens the harsh shadows on the face.
- Show action. Show people doing things and avoid posed shots.
- Look for human interest; show human relationship. Keep each picture simple by having a single focal point. Avoid crowding too many people into one picture.
- Use a plain background if possible. Ensure that no light poles grow from anyone's head and that no cars seem to dangle from their ears.
- Take many, many pictures. One shot is not enough. It's always better to take too many pictures than to take too few.