

Tips for Taking Reference Pictures / Selfies

It's very important to have high quality reference photos. The quality of your portrait dependent on your photos: the clearer the images I have to work from, the better the portrait I am able to produce.

The photograph has to be clear, up close, and of a pose that is typical of the person. Please send me multiple pictures as well.

Lighting

- The best possible lighting is achieved outside in natural light. Avoid direct sunlight as this will make the person squint, create dark shadows on the face, hide important features, and discolor the skin tone. If the sun is out, have the person stand in the shade, with the photographer's back to the sun.
- The perfect lighting is a bright but overcast day. Again, stand with your back to where the sun would be if it were out.
- If taking a picture outdoors is just not possible, try posing next to a window with the light coming from the side. Morning light is best.

Position

- Photograph your child at their level. **Photos pointing down don't look right.** Position yourself right down on the floor: if need be.
- Avoid straight on or completely side view shots: slightly angled poses make better portraits. It helps having an extra person there to focus the attention of a small child to the direction of the camera.
- If your child won't hold still and / or is small enough, have someone hold him / her in place - being careful NOT to cover up major body parts. I can leave the hands and arms out of the painting.

Personality

- Try to capture their personality. Give them time to get comfortable.