

Roots of Empathy Photo Guide

Photos are an important part of the Roots of Empathy program. Placed on a bulletin board in a classroom for everyone to see, they remind all involved in the Roots of Empathy program just how far they've come on their year-long journey with your Roots of Empathy family. But the process of photographing your class can be tricky. Here are a few tips to help you make the most of the fantastic photo-ops in your classroom.



Getting a great shot

Family visits give children the opportunity to explore their fascination with the baby by close observation and interaction. You can use the camera to document the little moments that make family visits so worthwhile.

Resist the temptation to capture the whole class in every photo. In the tightly focused (professional) shots above and below, note how close the photographer is to the subjects. They capture expression and emotion in a way that would be impossible if the photographer was worried about getting *everyone* in the shot. Also, the details of the baby stand out – how much hair he has, how alert he is, can he sit up? etc. These are characteristics that will change over the course of the year and are valuable to look back on. To capture this type of shot, you'll need to be on the ground, at eye level with the children, a foot or two away from the action.

Often, planned activities (like measuring the baby) provide the perfect opportunity for an action shot. Invariably, they are more exciting and impart more information than 'posed' shots, as they spontaneously capture the reactions of both the baby and the children. People interacting and reacting make the most interesting photos. Again, don't miss the details – get in close!

Pass these tips on to your classroom teacher. As a Roots of Empathy Instructor, you'll be too busy to take the photos yourself – ask the teacher, a student, or classroom helper to shoot instead.

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Snap often, print often

You'll likely be taking photos digitally with your phone or a camera. Print your photos after your family visit to bring with you to the next family visit, where you can post them on your Roots of Empathy display. If you can't print them at home or at the school, you can take your phone or camera memory card to a photofinishing shop to have the photos printed.

If you don't have access to a camera, ask the teacher or parent if they could bring theirs to the visit or if the school has one you can use.

Please refer to the Roots of Empathy Communications Guidelines for important information on permissions and how to safely share your classroom images on social media.

Have fun and snap away!

