

STYLISH & HIP KIDS PHOTOGRAPHY'S GUIDE TO BRINGING FAMILY PHOTOS INTO YOUR LIFE AND TO ENSURING THEIR SURVIVAL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



Use Them, Don't Lose Them



Hi there!

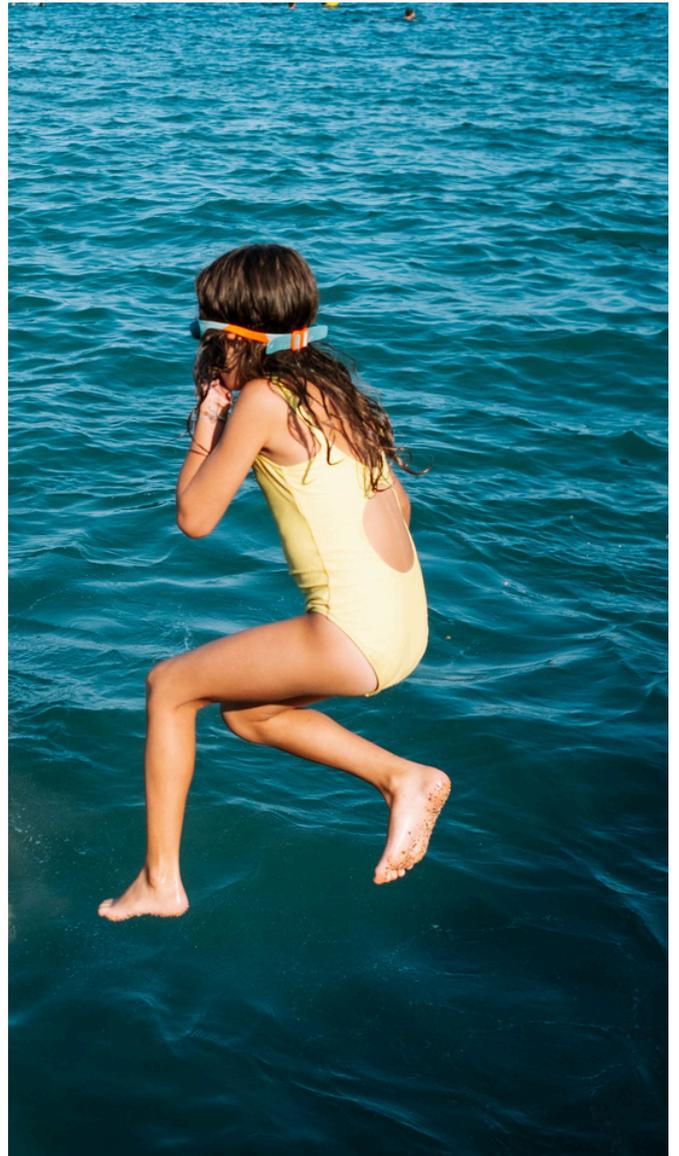
This guide is about family photos, whether they're professional images or everyday snapshots on your phone.

The principles are the same: use them, don't lose them.

We'll show you how to preserve what matters and bring it into daily life, simply.

What you'll find inside:

- **Why this matters** – a personal story about albums, memory, and presence that shows why we created this guide.
- **Don't lose them** – practical steps to safeguard your photos so they last for future generations.
- **Use them** – simple ways to weave your photos into daily life so they spark joy and keep your family's story present.



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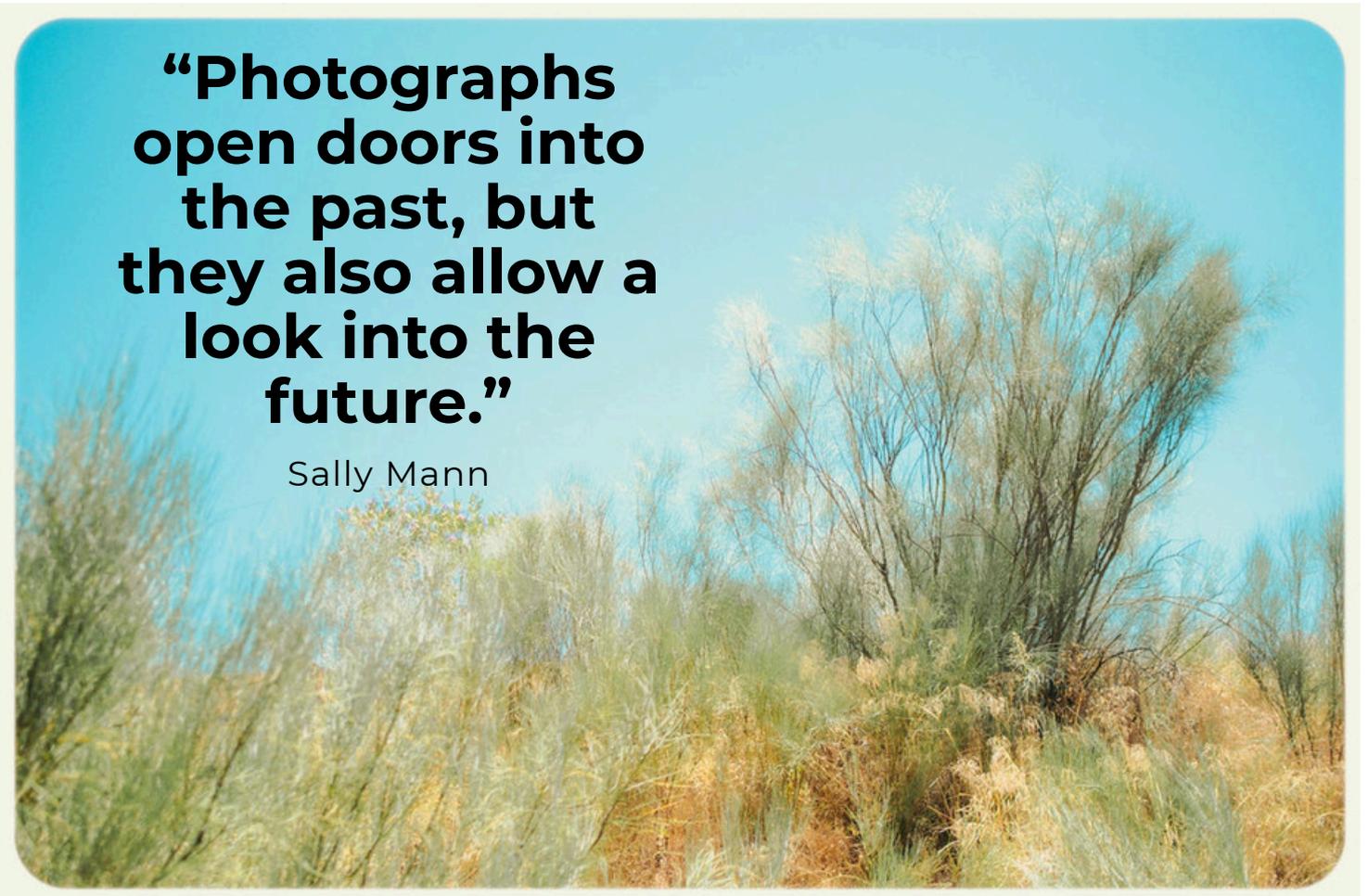
Why Photos Matter for Your Family

Family photos do more than show what we looked like. **They help us remember who we're becoming.** When the images you love are easy to see and share, they spark stories, invite connection, and make rooms feel like yours. A frame by the front door, a small album on the coffee table, a rotating photo on your phone—each is a gentle anchor: **“These are our people. This is our season.”**

Stylish & Hip Kids Photography has been helping NYC families capture and celebrate who they are since 2010. We specialize in newborn, maternity, and family photography. [Visit our website to learn more about our work or to book your own session.](#)

“Photographs open doors into the past, but they also allow a look into the future.”

Sally Mann



Our generation faces a new challenge:

Our parents kept a few albums; we carry tens of thousands of files. That scale can feel paralyzing. The answer isn't doing everything—it's doing a little on purpose. Curate a handful. Print a few. Preserve the set you care about most. If you've worked with SHK, your gallery is already a small, distilled collection that's easier to protect and live with. If you're starting from your phone, a thoughtful selection works just as well.

This guide balances vision with practicality. No judgment, just simple choices to keep your photos safe and make them part of everyday life.

The heartbeat, at a glance

- We learned the hard way when we lost our honeymoon pictures. That sinking feeling of realizing something priceless was gone for good is not an experience we want for you.
- It's not uncommon for families who work with SHK to love their gallery, but three months later it's expiring and they still haven't printed a single image. The moment of energy has passed, and those heirlooms risk slipping away.
- That's why we created this guide. To make it easy, joyful, and sustainable for you to enjoy your photos today and keep them safe for tomorrow.



The album that opens a door

We left the apartment my six year old was born in when he was four. Even though only two years have passed, he already has only vague memories of that apartment, which was so important to our family's experience.

When we pull out the album from his newborn session, questions tumble out from him: What was it like there? Where did we eat? Did the neighbors have a dog? The images do what memory alone can't—they rebuild the room, the routine, the feel of that season. In twenty minutes on the couch we trade stories, and he starts telling his. That's why I keep albums within reach: they turn paper into conversation, and conversation into a sense of who we are and where we're headed.

Mariliana
Creative Director
Stylish & Hip Kids Photography

Don't Lose Your Pictures (Preserve them)



Photos aren't meant to sit in storage—they're meant to be seen, enjoyed, and woven into your family's everyday rhythm.



01. Cull your photos (choose the good ones)

- **Get into the habit of selecting the best photos as you go.** A key step in preserving photos is separating the keepers from the rest. In the industry, we call this culling—it's what every professional session goes through. It can take time, but if you get in the habit of favoring and deleting images as you scroll, you'll make life much easier later.
- **Cull after big moments.** Set aside time after important events or trips to choose favorites. The key here is to allow yourself not to be a completist: focus on the most important moments.
- **Set a max number of pictures to keep.** Choosing can be hard, especially amongst similar shots. In these instances, it can be helpful to a) go with your first gut about which pictures you like best and b) try setting a max number of photos to keep. If you took 200 pictures on a trip, pick your best 25. Ask yourself, is this in the top 25? Favoriting rather than deleting removes the pressure to get it perfect.



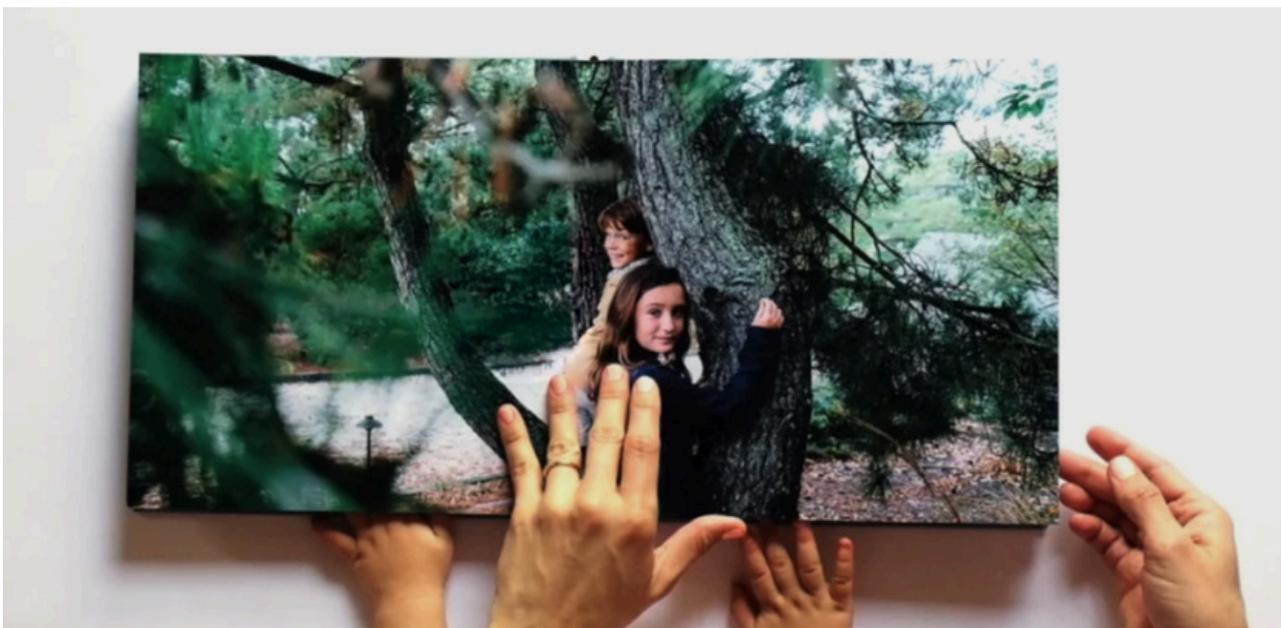
02. Back Up Your Digital Files

- **Phones:** For most families, the phone is the main photo library. That makes it both convenient and risky—if something happens to your phone and it isn't backed up, those memories could be lost. The best safeguard is to pair your phone with a cloud service that automatically syncs your camera roll. This is basic, but you know... life.
- **Cloud:** Automatic, off-site copy; easy sharing with family. Enable auto-backup and confirm it's actually syncing. The major players are iCloud, Google Photos, and Amazon Photos. We use iCloud since we're in the Apple ecosystem. **Pro tip: Share your storage with a family plan** to split the \$9.99/month cost while keeping separate libraries. Amazon Prime users get free unlimited photo storage as a bonus. *Learn more: [Share iCloud+ with your Family Sharing group](#), [The best free or low-cost photo storage services](#), [Set up iCloud Photos](#), [Check Google Photos backup](#)*

- **Your computer:** In addition to storing your images on the cloud, you can download the files to your computer. On a Mac, you go into the settings on your Photos app, select iCloud, and select Download originals to your Mac.
- **External drives:** Simple but effective. Once a month, plug in and copy your new or changed folders. On Mac, you can use TimeMachine to automatically back up your files or you can manually drag your pictures folder to the external hard drive. A small solid-state drive (SSD), which doesn't have moving parts, can be a great option. We often use a portable Samsung SSD (about \$109 for 1TB). *Learn more: [Wirecutter's Guide to External Harddrives](#).*

03. Print Pictures

- High-quality prints and albums are both viewable and durable—they're a preservation layer you can hold in your hands. See the Use It section below for ideas about what to print. *Learn more: [Library of Congress – Caring for Photographs](#)*



**“The best thing
about a picture
is that it never
changes, even
when the
people in it do.”**

Andy warhol



Use Your Pictures

Bring them into daily life



The safest photos live in more than one format and more than one place. You don't have to do everything—pick a few options that fit your life and add more later.

01. Enjoy Them Digitally



- **On your phone:** Heart your best shots as you go so they don't get buried. Set one as your lock screen. Seeing your kid's face every time you check your phone hits different than scrolling through thousands of photos you never look at. Photos widgets that rotate through favorites are great for this too.
- **Shared albums:** Make a shared album for grandparents with 25-30 highlights (not everything - just the good stuff). Add a quick caption to a few: "She did this for an hour straight" or "This is the face we get now." It gives them something to actually engage with instead of just heart-reacting.
- **Family viewing:** Every so often, pull up favorites on your TV during dinner or weekend morning. Two minutes of photos, no pressure to make it perfect. The kids will ask questions, you'll remember things you forgot. It's better than you think.

02. Make Prints Part of Daily Life

- **Frames & shelves (go where eyes go):** Place prints where you'll actually see them - in the entryway, kitchen, or kids' rooms. Refresh them when the season changes or when you're ready for something new.
- **Print snapshots too:** The fridge door is perfect for rotating phone photos. Cork boards with thumbtacks work great too, or string up a line with clips to hang photos. Easy to swap out whenever you want.



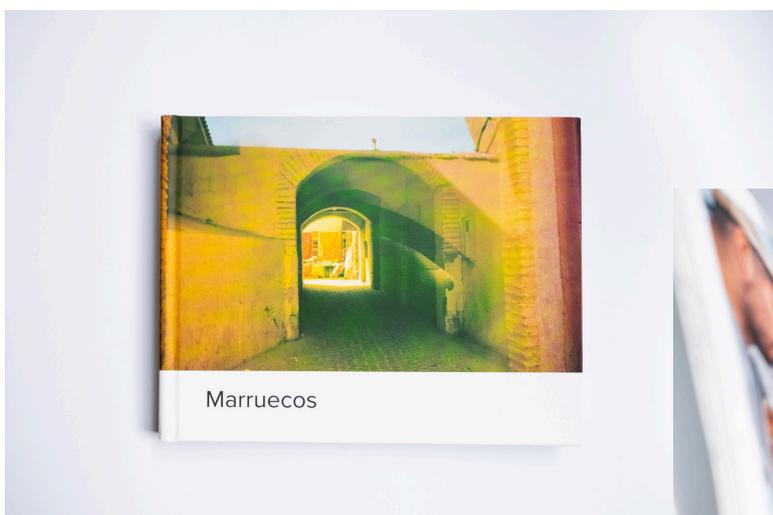
- **A print set you can hold:** Keep some loose prints in a box on the coffee table. Kids love flipping through them, and honestly, nobody wants more laptop time. Physical prints get looked at way more than asking everyone to huddle around a screen.

- **Gallery walls for your professional photos:** Reserve one wall for your pro pictures in nice frames. Start with your first session, then build around it every year. This becomes the art wall of your family story. The portraits that show how you've grown together. The photos where you're all in the picture, not just the kids while a parent is missing.



03. Tell Your Story in Albums

- **Small albums, all year long:** Small albums throughout the year are easier to tackle than one giant year-end project. Think seasonal (summer, fall, winter, spring) or theme-based (beach trips, holidays, everyday life). Keep them to 30-60 images so they're manageable to create and actually get looked at.
- **DIY or done for you:** Apple Photos and Google Photos make it easy to create books yourself from your everyday photos. If you have an SHK session, we can design an album for you.





**Whether you
start with
one frame,
one album,
or simply
hearting
your
favorites,
every small
step brings
your photos
into daily life
and keeps
them safe for
the future.
The goal isn't
perfection—
it's presence.**

For SHK Families

We're here to help you use your photos. Order prints directly from your private online gallery, get guidance on layouts and albums, and schedule a consultation call when we deliver your gallery to discuss how to make the most of your images.

Think of us as your photo-using partners. We want these memories to live in your daily life, not just sitting in digital storage.





Ready to create some memories worth preserving?

Book a family photo session with Stylish & Hip Kids Photography! Ready to get started?

- 1 Learn more about [our family photography](#)
- 2 View our [prices and packages](#)
- 3 [Contact us](#) with questions or to get your booking started

[Contact Us](#)