

freeze frame

Shot 1

We know clicking your little pea is your fave pastime. So we got three expert baby photographers to share the secrets to getting beautiful images.

by **RITIKA JAIN**



* **SHWETA VERMA,**

Bengaluru
mommygrapher.
com

Verma, who started photography eight years ago, is known for capturing candid moments that reflect strong bonding. Follower of a classic, storytelling style, she firmly believes that a moment of togetherness clicked in a fun, well-lit and bright environment becomes unique and timeless. It tells a story that exudes positive vibes and becomes a work of art.

📷 **SHOT 1**

“Photographing siblings where one is a newborn is extremely challenging. Getting the correct expression of both in one frame is really very difficult. In this shoot, I had a bubbly, charming two-year-old girl who had accompanied her brother and loved being around him. I made the little boy sleep on the fur and pillow, and asked the big

sis if she wanted to hold him or lie down with him. She was super excited as I placed him on her lap. Kids of her age usually do not want to sit for photos. **Giving her a choice did the trick,**” says Verma.

📷 **SHOT 2**

“I’ve always loved nature. However, in India, it’s not entirely easy or safe to take newborns outside for a shoot. So **I get a new plant for every newborn session and try to incorporate it in my indoor shoot.** This is a just a small way of ‘going green’ for me. Since I already had the concept in mind and this baby was sleeping peacefully, positioning her was not difficult. The only challenge was the textured drape that I wanted to use, since I wasn’t sure if she’d like it. I draped her in a soft material underneath, rather than directly draping her with the one that you can see in the photo,” she says.

SMART TIPS FROM THE PRO

- * Before starting the session, interact with the baby without holding the camera.
- * Let the baby lead you and you’ll get the results you want.
- * Do not be anxious under any circumstance as babies can sense that too.
- * Give the baby a break before she starts to get irritated.
- * Create a scenario that she can easily enjoy.



Shot 2



Shot 1



* **ANEGA BAWA,**

Gurugram

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Photography has

been a part of Bawa's

life since the day she was given her first camera, a used Yashica Electro 35, way back in 1995. She took it up professionally when she got pregnant in 2012, and eventually launched her brand in 2015.

Photography, to her, is what paints and canvases meant to Picasso. Deft in natural-light manipulation and creative set designing, Bawa says that she loves to use neutral colours and natural elements in her baby portraits.

 **SHOT 1**

"This one is very close to my heart – I call it 'Dragonflies' Nest'. **I like creating my shots from the scratch, for which I make things or collect them from all over the world.** The backdrop used in this image is a digital painting made by me, keeping this particular shot in mind," she says.

 **SHOT 2**

"**I like taking toddlers of 2½ years and above outdoors.** This beautiful mom-and-daughter duo had come all the way from Agra and we went to the Aravalli Hills for the shoot as the weather was pleasant. I got the perfect shot as the colour of their attire was in sync with the pink hue of the backdrop. Moreover, the baby was very happy," says Bawa.



Shot 2

SMART TIPS FROM THE PRO

- * Try to use a good phone like iPhone 7+ or Samsung S8+.
- * Use indirect natural light if you are shooting indoors.
- * While taking the photograph outdoors, find the golden light—that's within 30 minutes of sunrise or 45 minutes before sunset.
- * Do not show the baby's nostrils in the picture.
- * If you are photographing a sleeping baby, it should be done before the baby is 30 days old.



* **SANYA SUNDAR**

Mumbai

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Sanya has been photographing

moms-to-be, newborns and kids for over 3 years now. While her style is fuss-free, she likes being experimental with her sets and concepts with the help of her sister, Sneha. A lover of natural lights, Sanya is all for avoiding the use of artificial flash light.

 **SHOT 1**

“The child in this image was really excited about being outdoors as it was a lovely day. It was a play date for her. The shoot was done right before her first birthday so we were worried whether or not she’ll be able to balance on the log. Eventually, it turned out to be a relaxed, fun shoot. She was a cheerful kid!” says Sundar.

 **SHOT 2**

“This was perhaps the most peaceful baby I’ve ever photographed. I suppose, her calmness is a result of her supercool and zen family! **A tranquil environment always makes for a peaceful baby.** The outcome? More beautiful memories to the family,” she says. ●



SMART TIPS FROM THE PRO

- * The first 15 days after your baby's birth is when she can be comfortably posed any way you like. Try to make the best of this time.
- * Have patience, as much as you can gather.
- * Keep the environment around the baby uncluttered, calm and relaxed.
- * Plan in advance. Make sure to keep the props handy. Try to coordinate baby's clothes with the backdrops.
- * Avoid harsh sunlight while clicking.