



← **SEE IT IN**
BLACK & WHITE

Sometimes colours can be distracting. If you want to draw attention to a subject or certain features in a photograph, capturing the moment in black and white can really help. It also conveys an incredible amount of emotion or expresses a more classical, timeless look. If a picture is a little blurry, converting it to black and white can magically make it look better. But note that not all images look good or better in such a way. Experiment to see what works and what doesn't, advises photographer Carolyn Soemarjono, the owner of Melia Photography. She shares five other tips here.



It's a
SNAP!

Anyone can take perfect baby photos with these expert tips. ELISA CHIA guides you frame by frame.



← **TRASH**
THE
FLASH

Find a source of light – ideally natural – so you can turn off the flash, which can often produce the "red eye" effect.

When indoors, put your bub near a window. Getting a small compact camera? Buy one with a very large aperture (the hole in the gadget that lets the light in) as close to 1.8 as possible. This lets you take good shots indoors – and even at night – without the flash. Carolyn's fave: the Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX100.



PHOTOS: MELIA PHOTOGRAPHY

↓ SIZE MATTERS

Your baby is tiny for only a short time, so creatively compose how he compares in size to other things – for instance, your newborn’s head in your hands, or your toddler’s feet versus yours.



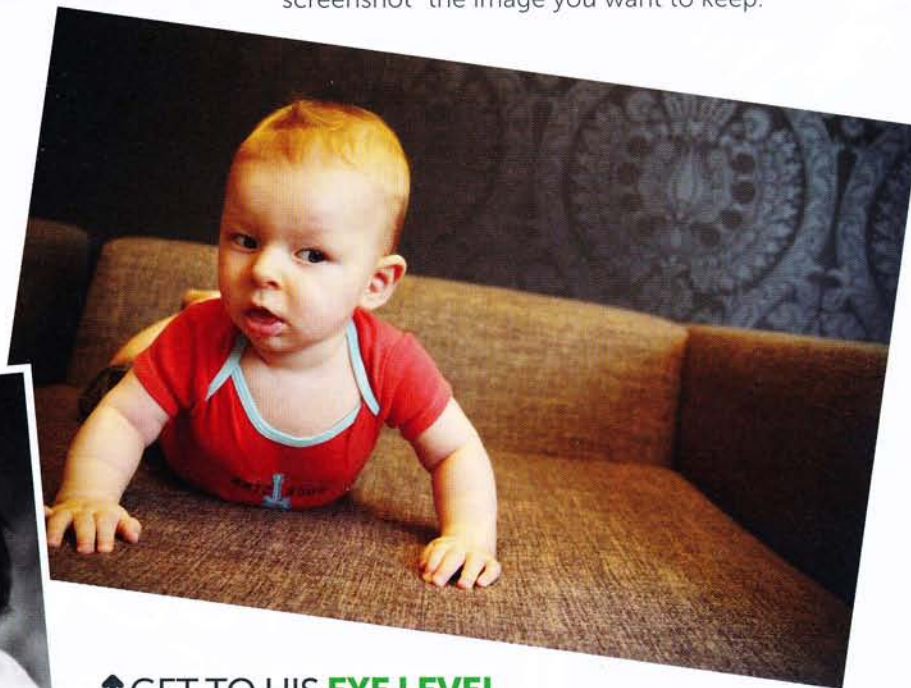
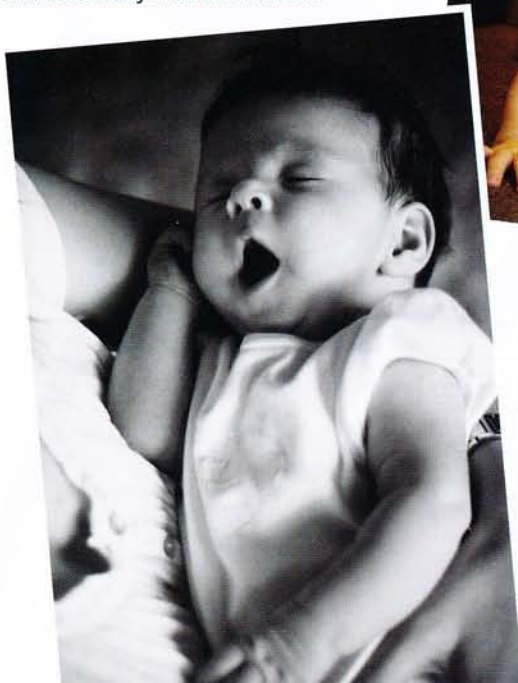
↑ GRAB YOUR PHONE

Smartphone cameras deliver surprisingly good image quality in daylight. The real challenge with most models is when you’re indoors. Hold

it very still to minimise the blurriness that comes with even a very slight hand movement, which is exaggerated with low light. Avoid using the zoom function, as it decreases quality. If your toddler is running, use the video mode instead. Then play back later, pause at a good point and “screenshot” the image you want to keep.

↓ JUST KEEP SHOOTING

Many cameras have auto settings that can help you shoot your fast-moving or fidgety toddler. Set your camera to Sports Mode (which gives a higher shutter speed and therefore “freezes” action) and Multi-Shot/Burst modes (to capture a number of images quickly). You’ll be sure to get at least one good shot. Review them all later, and delete any that aren’t ideal.



↑ GET TO HIS EYE LEVEL

Lie on the floor to capture photos of your crawling baby. Move around and experiment. You may be surprised how different each image can look. Don’t always get your little one to look into the camera or wait for the “perfect” smiling pose. Try snapping your bub when he’s crying, yawning or sleeping. You’ll treasure these unscripted moments. Consider just a close-up of his face, toes or eyelashes, too.