

# Getting Started With Child and Baby Modeling

## The Dos and Don'ts

Many parents have pushed their children/babies into modeling, acting and pageants when their child was clearly not ready, or interested. We highly recommend that parents don't do this. If a child, or baby feel comfortable around strangers and have a desire to have their pictures taken then the experience can be a rewarding one for them. Children should be dragging their parents to auditions not the other way around.

Before jumping into any program being offered by an agent think things out clearly. Understand that there are many programs out there to spend your money. Work with a reputable agent. If they make claims that they can make your child a star, avoid them. A reputable agent will represent your child without you paying unreasonable start up costs and fees. An agent makes money by helping you get jobs. Generally that fee will be approximately 10% for talent, and 15 to 25% for modeling jobs.

## What Will You Need To Get Started

For a Child, or Baby just four to six good portfolio quality photographs are needed. Your agent will help you acquire Zed cards to leave with potential customers. Let your agent deal with all financial transactions. A good agent combined with your determination to get work will pay off.

## Be Prepared and Be On Time

It is easy to get discouraged in the job seeking process. Be prepared to go to casting calls. Be sure to be on time to appointments. If something comes up make sure your agent knows in advance so they can make other arrangements. You want to keep your agent and any potential customers happy. A good relationship with them can lead to more work opportunities later.

## What Do Agents, Casting Directors and Photographers Look For

Good looks that will help sell products, or services

The ability of a child to follow directions

A child that can focus their energy and look natural

An outgoing, spontaneous personality, not overtrained, or exaggerated

## Makeup and Dress for Babies and Small Children

Makeup should look fresh, natural and used sparingly, or not at all. Avoid bringing children to auditions looking overly dressed, or styled. Avoid heavy hair spray.

## Inappropriate Pictures

This includes pictures that portray the child being older than he, or she is. It also means pictures that cross the boundaries of what is morally acceptable. It also refers to scams where an agent, or photographers require a long expensive portfolio session to showcase your child, or baby. If they do they are not reputable.

## Conclusion

Child and Baby modeling is a great market with a need for new faces all the time. But because children grow fast it requires constant updating and a lot of patience. Make sure you are doing it for your child interests and be prepared to work around ups and downs as children change interests and moods on a dime. Good luck.