

Candid Shots

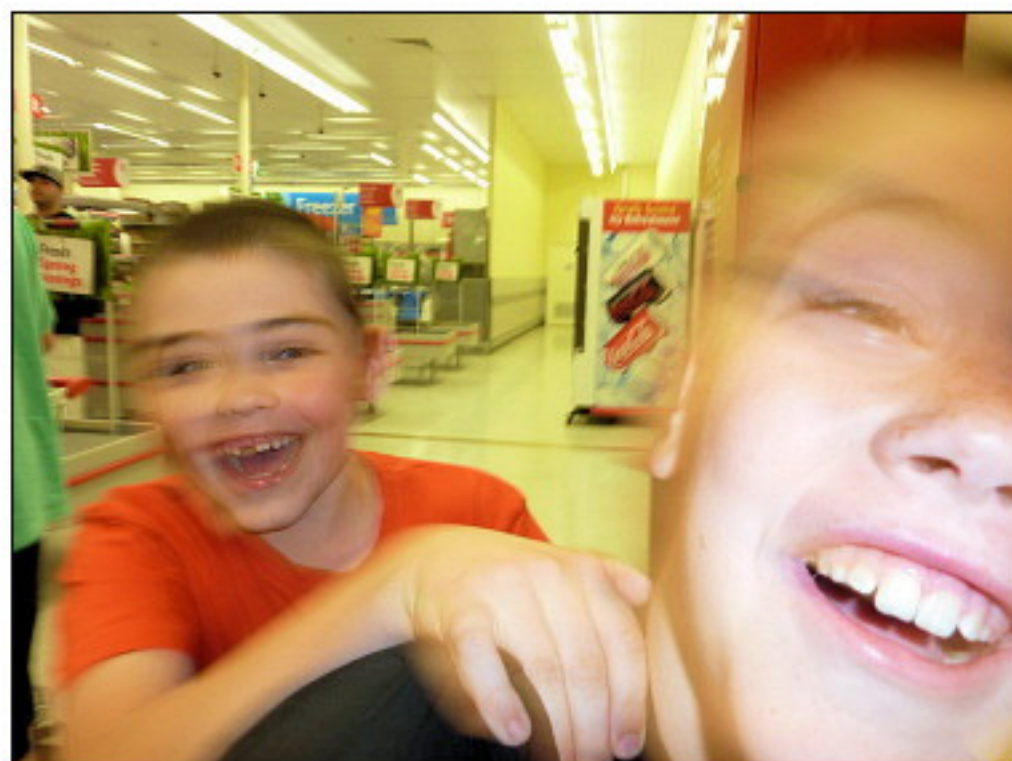
In this lesson, we'll be taking a look at
Candid Shots.

Estimated Completion Time: 8 minutes.

Candid Shots

It's a personal observation, but I love candid shots over posed shots - especially posed studio shots. I like to think that when we photograph people, we are trying to capture what they really are, what they really do, what they are really doing...

In this lesson, we are going to look at some ideas and techniques to help with getting candid photographs.



Here, the kids are jostling for position - and the result is a picture much more alive than the standard posed shot.

Candid Shots

Don't tell the kids you are taking the photo. If they don't know a photo is about to be taken - they are much more likely to act naturally.



Candid Shots

Try using burst photography, if your camera supports it. Because this means your camera will take shots in a rapid fire mode, you are more likely to get that one great shot...



Candid Shots

Get out of the way. Or use a zoom lens. If you stick a camera in someone's face, you often lose the moment. People start posing. If you can ensure you are somewhere where you are not getting in the way, you'll get better shots.



Candid Shots

If you can't get out of the way, just be patient. If the camera gets noticed, as mentioned, it's harder to get candid shots. But if you hang around, people will soon forget it is there.



Candid Shots

Make it quick. If you are going to let someone know that you are going to take their photo, so your setup beforehand. Work out the background, whether you think a flash is required, etc. A natural pose and a great candid shot can be achieved even with a quick pose.

More than a few seconds, and the smile is forced, and the subject is uncomfortable or even annoyed.



Try setting up the shot - even having the shutter half held down so focus and exposure are already set - before yelling out 'hey' - and taking the shot. It can be taken before they even realize they are being photographed.

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We mentioned before its a great idea to bring a camera with you everywhere. Problem is, if your camera is a large DSLR, this is not always practical.

Digital cameras are fairly cheap these days. Cheap enough to have a second, compact camera to put in the car, the bag, the purse. You'll nearly always have it with you.



Maybe your second camera does not have all the capabilities of your main camera - but if it is with you, it will take infinitely better shots than the camera that is not.

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A natural pose does not necessarily always mean people having fun. I love the shots - like this one, that show people in other moods as well. The concentration in this shot is clear.



Candid Shots

If you can get people - especially kids - when they have their attention on something else, you always get better candid shots.



Candid Shots

These fellas think they've found some gold with the gold detector - a great reason for a series of candid shots, shot from a fair way off, with a zoom lens.



Candid Shots



Great candid shots cannot be set up. This is why you need to make sure you've a camera ready to go anytime.

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Great candid shots cannot be set up. This is why you need to make sure you've a camera ready to go anytime.

Candid Shots

Take a LOT of shots. Most probably won't be great. But the more shots you take, the more that will be great.



Candid Shots

You've now completed this lesson.

In this lesson, we took a look at
Candid Shots.