

# Special Kids Photography of America

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## PHOTO CLINIC TRAINS PHOTOGRAPHERS HOW TO WORK WITH SPECIAL CHILDREN

Ask any professional photographer about taking pictures of children. It can be an extremely challenging task. Now think of compounding this frustration by adding autism or cerebral palsy to the formula. This is an assignment that many photographers would rather not undertake. Realizing this, parents of children with special needs often do not even attempt to have professional portraits made of their disabled offspring. Parents express their frustration, because they are forever hoping for—but not always getting—a picture that will bring out the true “spirit” of their very special son or daughter.

Special Kids Photography of America (SKPA), a nonprofit organization, strives to make the photographer’s job a little easier and parents a lot happier. This one-of-a-kind organization trains photographers in unique methods of communication and sensitivity that will facilitate a photo session with a disabled child. Take lighting for instance, natural lighting is recommended for some children with disabilities, because certain irregular lighting conditions could trigger a seizure. Once a photographer knows this, he can avoid an unfortunate incident and the possible need to reschedule.

In other cases, some children may be sensitive to touch; others react adversely to subtle ambient sounds that may emanate from an air conditioning vent or squeaking door. “One of the main keys to success,” says Karen Dórame, executive director of Special Kids Photography of America (SKPA), “is effective communication between the photographer, the parent and to whatever extent possible, the child. The pre-session interview with the photographer and parent helps everyone get a clearer idea of what to expect and the type of approach needed to work with the child.”

Epson America, Inc. will host a Special Kids Photography of America accreditation clinic at their corporate headquarters in Long Beach on Monday, April 25, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Cost for the training is \$89 and includes lunch. Although the clinic is mainly for professional photographers, all interested persons are welcome. Call 435 632-8300 for registration or email [info@specialkidsphotography.com](mailto:info@specialkidsphotography.com).

## SPECIAL KIDS PHOTO CLINIC 2-2-2-2

Studios and photographers who become “Special Kids Photography Accredited” are listed on the SKPA website, [www.specialkidsphotography.com](http://www.specialkidsphotography.com).

*Photographing Children with Special Needs*, an instructional photography book by Karen Dórame, may be ordered through the SKPA website. The book contains over 128 pages of researched information for specific conditions as well as beautiful photographic examples of children with special needs taken by nationally known photographers.

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