

Lighting

...how do I get my subjects eyes to sparkle?

When looking for a place to take pictures try to look for open shade. When I say open shade I mean look for a place to put your subject that is shaded without splotches of sun peeking through. You especially don't want to have sun splotches on your subject's face. Once you have found your open shade, position your subject just on the edge of the shade to get the best lighting. See examples below:



View pulled back to show the open shade.

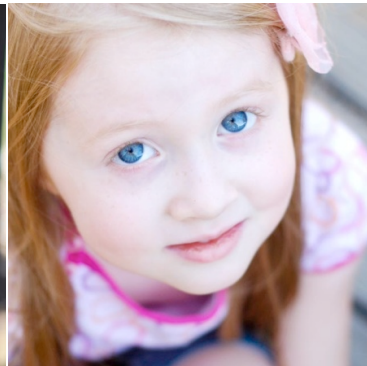


Notice the nice even lighting on her face.
50mm, f2.8, 1/500th, 400 ISO

As a rule I always try to position my subject toward the light source. This can be the sun or even a wall reflecting the sun. By doing this you get the eyes to sparkle. This is called creating a catch light in their eyes. Often the subject's eyes will look lifeless and drab if they're not facing a light source. See examples below:



Subject is not facing the light source causing her eyes to look dull and lifeless.



Subject is now facing the sun creating catch lights in her eyes.
50mm, f2.8, 1/500th, 400 ISO

