

# pic tips

Tell more of the story with props. BY MEGAN HOEPNER

**You know the old saying**—a picture is worth a thousand words. You'd think such an impressive word count would be enough. (Sure beats the 140 characters we're used to today.) But sometimes there's even more to say. When I want to add to my visual narrative, I turn to props and decorative extras. Such visual detail is a playful way to make photos standout and enhance any story you want to tell.



## OH, BABY!

Monthly attire is an easy way to show growth during that rapidly-changing first year of life. I made my daughter's bodysuits using fabric and my die cut machine. To really emphasize the change taking place with each month, keep the rest of the photo simple and consistent. Use a common backdrop, such as a chair or blanket. Include a companion that will show growth. A beloved stuffed animal will appear to shrink before your eyes with each passing month! By keeping the surroundings the same from month to month, the personality and development of your sweet subject will shine.

**TIP:** As you re-create an image from month to month, don't hesitate to adjust your camera angles. The variety is a fun way to further showcase personality.

## sweet girl

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Epson; PATTERNED PAPER: BoBunny; STICKERS: BoBunny, Crate Paper, Fancy Pants Designs, Heidi Swapp, Jillibean Soup; DIE CUT SHAPE, JOURNALING CARD, TAGS, TRANSPARENCY: Crate Paper; RESIN SHAPE: Freckled Fawn; EMBROIDERY FLOSS: DMC; PEN: Sakura; FONT: Typewriter; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L



### GO BEYOND YEAR ONE

Throwing a first birthday bash? Use your 12th photo (either month 12 or year one) to create a personalized party invite. Your friends and family will love having the pre-party favour!

#### she's one...let's flamingle

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: American Crafts; TAGS: Fancy Pants Designs; STAMP: Sizzix; STICKERS: Webster's Pages; WATERCOLOUR PAINT: Michaels; ADHESIVE: Therm O Web

Photo credit: Elisha Snow Photography

**TIP:** Photo documenting doesn't have to stop at year one. Apply the same tips to capture your child's growth at any ages. Pick a date, find a common prop/setting, and snap that shot!

### PROP TALK

Anything that introduces added info (name, date, age, weight, etc.) to a snapshot will work to enhance your photo story. Here are a few prop possibilities to get you started:

- chalkboard with written details
- number balloons
- handmade or printed sign
- wood numbers or letters (like the "one" photo on my layout and card)
- felt letter board (see pg. 11 to see a brand new option by Heidi Swapp!)
- banners
- blocks
- decorated t-shirt (use fabric markers)
- decorated Easter egg (use wax crayon or stickers)
- light box sign
- marquee numbers or letters
- scale
- writing in the sand/snow
- sidewalk chalk



Elisha Snow Photography

### MORE WAYS TO SAY IT WITH PICS

Propped shots aren't just for growing tots. Photo extras can give any image that much more to say. Propped possibilities include:

- engagement announcement/save the date
- birth announcement
- birthday invite
- gender reveal
- pregnancy growth/development
- birthdays
- holiday greetings
- graduating class

Have fun exploring ways to add to your picture word count as you tell a deeper photo story.



Maggie's Easter egg says "It's a girl!" A fun way to announce our next baby's gender!

For more great ideas and inspiration, visit Megan online at [meganhoepner.com](http://meganhoepner.com)