

### How to take a good quality reference photo for a painting:

- Ideally take the photo indoors as it's easier to control the lighting
- Turn the flash off- it makes a face look flat and lifeless.
- Find a light source to sit the subject near to, ideally a window in daylight
- Have the subject about 3 feet away from the light source, if its too close the detail will be bleached out.
- Position the subject facing the light so the light is hitting the head off centre and to the side of the face rather than front on. Ideally the whole side of the face will be illuminated with a little triangle of light hitting the opposite cheek as well.
- Try to avoid a black or dark back drop as it can suck all the range of tones away from the face. A neutral background is best.
- With young kids and babies it helps to have a third person over your shoulder engaging with them- an animated expression is much more appealing than a fixed grin or just staring at a tv screen.
- If using a phone camera hold it about 3-4 feet away from the subject (if your'e too close it distorts the features).