



Taking a Good Picture

A good picture can be a great way to promote your 4-H program. With a strong photo, you can show 4-H in action on brochures, posters, newsletters and Web sites.

The best photos are:

- High resolution
- Action
- Close-ups
- Off-center subject
- Sufficient lighting
- Lock focus

Below are some tips from the Kodak® Web site for taking great pictures, and examples straight from the online 4-H Photo Library to help as you start snapping with your camera. Let your imagination guide you!

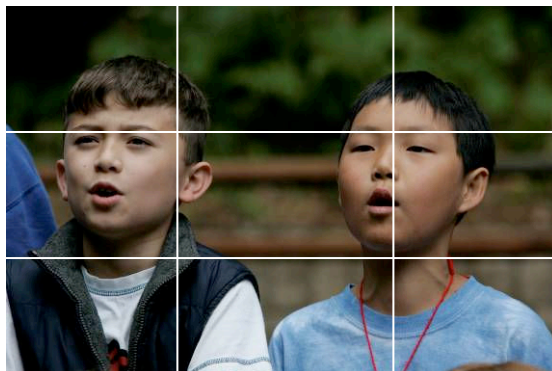
Subject placement:

Give your pictures a bold and dramatic arrangement.

Avoid putting your subject directly in the center of the picture unless you're shooting a formal arrangement in which the subject is the center of attention.

Rule of thirds:

In candid pictures of people, consider following the traditional rule of thirds. Imagine a pair of lines dividing the picture into thirds horizontally and a second pair dividing it into thirds vertically. Place the most important visual element—usually the face or the eyes—on one of the points where the lines intersect.





Open space:

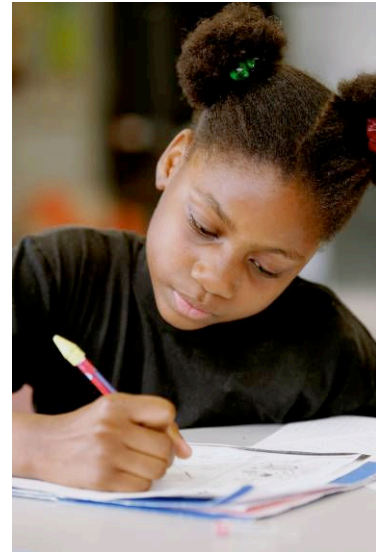
When a person is moving in your photo, the image will have more impact when the subject is off-center.

Leave the open space in the direction in which they are heading. Or, if they are looking off to the side, leave space in that direction.

Close-ups:

Close-ups bring a feeling of closeness and focus attention on the subject. When the subject is farther away, the foreground is the emphasis and can be distracting to the viewer.

As you look through the viewfinder and move toward your subject to fill the frame, notice how you eliminate things that don't add to the picture. Even though you can crop your picture later if you plan to edit it on a computer, it's usually better to crop carefully when you take the picture.



Backgrounds:

Whether you're outside or inside, a plain background will place the focus on the subject instead of on other things.

Indoors: avoid including distracting furniture, toys, patterned wallpaper, and bright lamps.

Outdoors: be careful of tree limbs, utility poles, wires, signs, and other people that can take attention away from your center of interest.

