

# Record special moments of Christmas morning in joyous, memorable pictures

Christmas is a season that begins when the first package is wrapped and the first decoration is hung, and all of it deserves to be recorded in pictures.

But the climax of the season — and the picture-taking — is still Christmas morning around the tree. The pictures taken then not only capture the rapture of the first meeting between a child and a dog, but also portray the reactions of the members of the family as they open their gifts.

The best way to get these Christmas-morning pictures is to leave the camera near the tree the night before with some

extra film close at hand. Once small children start ripping packages open, things move very rapidly and the picture-taker has to be ready to snap almost as fast.

Should the camera be one of the gifts, be sure it is opened first. It might be a good idea, in fact, to load it with film before you wrap it so it can be put into use immediately.

In the excitement of the moment, try to remember the basics of good picture-taking. Hold the camera steady and level!

Shoot from your subject's level. Stay close enough to your subject so that you can really see the expression.

In addition, try to get one shot of the face when the child first sees what is in each package and then a second shot when the gift is in the child's hands.

Clutter, under the circumstances, is probably something you can do little about, but you might consider whether a change of angle would help to some extent.

The only other thing to remember is to have a Merry Christmas!

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