some starter points

Its all about the light …

do you try natural light

or artificial?

◈natural light is –

◈fun

◈uncomplicated

◈free!

◈ but firstly how about your camera settings -

◈ for a blurry background have as large an aperture as you can

◈ try a shutter speed of around 1/100 second

◈ focal length – for a full frame camera about 50mm

◈ ISO – as low as you can

◈ so set the aperture, and if need be use a higher ISO setting to force your camera to use a faster shutter speed so that you don't end up with blurry images

◈ slightly under expose your images using exposure compensation to give yourself a margin of error, detail can be recovered but there's no way back with over exposed images

◈ try to avoid harsh light, it emphasises features, with shadowing, and is not very flattering

- and what about your model?

- firstly find a willing victim!

- don't forget to talk – talk - talk

- make sure that the eyes are pin sharp

- how do you pose your subject?

- if you see and like a portrait photo, make a mental note of how the subject has been framed and lit, then give it a go

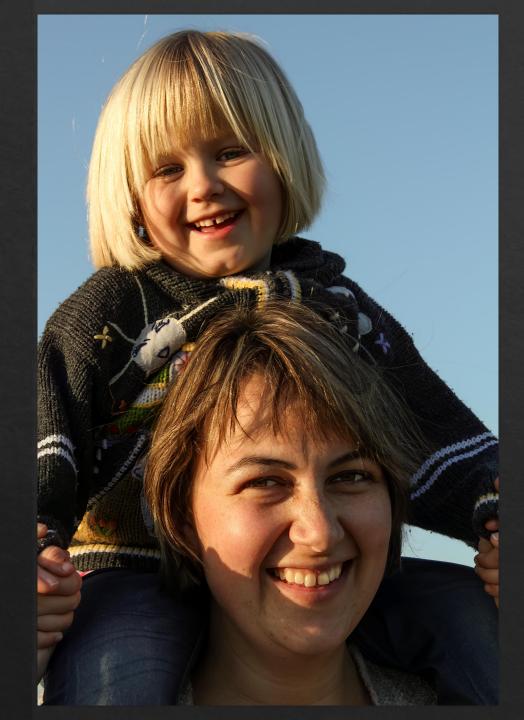- experiment, check, try again, but don't forget

- keep talking and keep it fun

⬧some natural light options

⬦ use light from the window – it gives
a soft even light

⬥try an overcast day – another variation of soft and even lighting

◈take the photos in evening light – it gives a lovely soft warm glow

◆use the surroundings to block harsh light like the shaded side of a path

◈ of course the only rule in portrait photography is – have a go, there are no magic wands that can be waved, so if your image pleases you, then it is right!

- what about artificial light …..

- keep it simple when you first give it a go, try using just one light source

- there is SOOOOO much information, help and examples online

- we will be having a go next week of course

here are a few I made earlier!

Any questions?