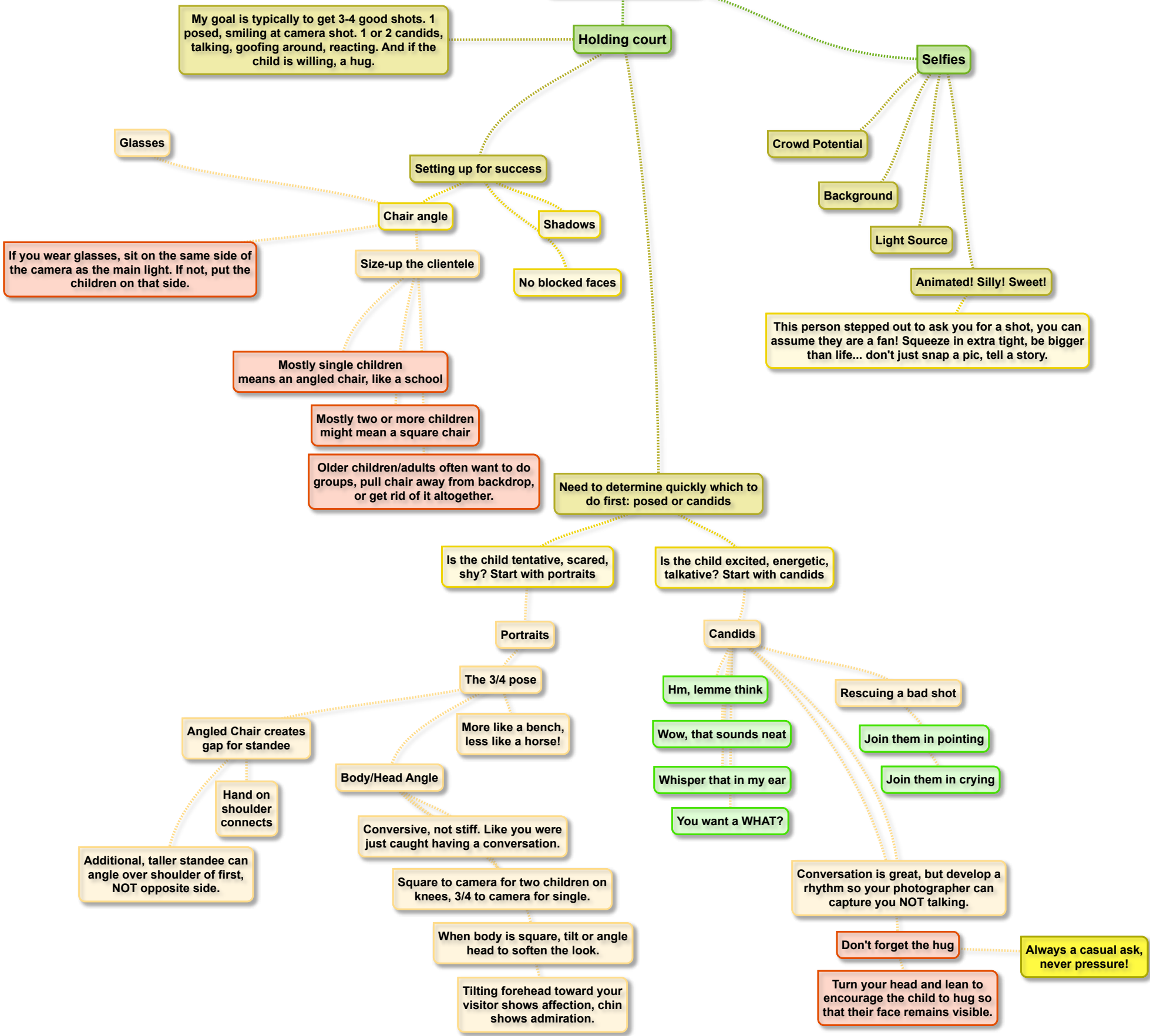


Posing for Santas



My goal is typically to get 3-4 good shots. 1 posed, smiling at camera shot. 1 or 2 candid, talking, goofing around, reacting. And if the child is willing, a hug.

Holding court

Selfies

Crowd Potential

Background

Light Source

Animated! Silly! Sweet!

This person stepped out to ask you for a shot, you can assume they are a fan! Squeeze in extra tight, be bigger than life... don't just snap a pic, tell a story.

Setting up for success

Glasses

Chair angle

Shadows

If you wear glasses, sit on the same side of the camera as the main light. If not, put the children on that side.

Size-up the clientele

No blocked faces

Mostly single children means an angled chair, like a school

Mostly two or more children might mean a square chair

Older children/adults often want to do groups, pull chair away from backdrop, or get rid of it altogether.

Need to determine quickly which to do first: posed or candid

Is the child tentative, scared, shy? Start with portraits

Is the child excited, energetic, talkative? Start with candid

Portraits

Candid

The 3/4 pose

Angled Chair creates gap for standee

More like a bench, less like a horse!

Hm, lemme think

Rescuing a bad shot

Hand on shoulder connects

Wow, that sounds neat

Join them in pointing

Additional, taller standee can angle over shoulder of first, NOT opposite side.

Body/Head Angle

Whisper that in my ear

Join them in crying

Conversive, not stiff. Like you were just caught having a conversation.

Square to camera for two children on knees, 3/4 to camera for single.

Conversation is great, but develop a rhythm so your photographer can capture you NOT talking.

When body is square, tilt or angle head to soften the look.

Don't forget the hug

Always a casual ask, never pressure!

Tilting forehead toward your visitor shows affection, chin shows admiration.

Turn your head and lean to encourage the child to hug so that their face remains visible.