



# 7 tips to organise photos and videos

Parents and experts give advice on how to store precious family memories digitally

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During the school holidays, many parents probably took overseas trips or local excursions with their children, snapping many photographs along the way.

Have you ever wondered if you should organise your family photos and videos in a way that is meaningful for them?

Digital experts tell The Straits Times that there is a variety of ways to store cherished family photos and videos. Some people use hard drives, cloud media platforms or cloud storage systems, or a combination of these.

Dr Jiwou Hee Jhee, a member of the Media Industry Council and a father of two, suggests that parents organise photos and videos in a way that is meaningful for them.

The associate professor and programme leader at the Singapore Institute of Technology says: "It largely depends on the person's preference and lifestyle."

"For example, I archive certain memorable events of my children, such as when they receive a prestigious award, on my mobile phone, although it is also posted on social media."

Here are other tips to consider when storing digital photos and videos.

## 1 Regularly back up and declutter

At least once a month, if she travels or changes her mobile phone – Ms Janice Choong does a "system dump", downloading all the photos and videos on her smartphone into an external hard disk. Even videos posted on TikTok make the cut.

When the 40-year-old is free, she curates the ones she wishes to save on a separate hard disk, leaving out images such as photos of meals or outfitts.

She sorts these into detailed folders that contain photos from her old son, Kayden, as well as folders for each of her three dogs – two Westies (West Highland White Terriers) and a Malipoo (a cross between a Maltese and a Poodle).

The finance manager in the information technology sector started organising the footage in April, before and after travelling to Italy. This ensured her photos from that trip were in a safe place, and safe storage. She also worries she might lose her mobile phone while overseas.



Freelance photographer Veronika Ang intends to transfer a Facebook account to her son Reilly. It contains photos and videos from when he was born. PHOTO: COURTESY OF VERONICA ANG



Janice Choong sorts images into detailed folders that contain photos of her son Kayden and each of her three dogs. PHOTO: COURTESY OF JANICE CHOONG



According to talent manager Seah Jing, the act of organising and retrieving the photos of her son Judah on Instagram is cathartic. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SEAH JING

bums with the app's "Archive" button and archival suggestions.

## 4 Share photos

Mr Teo suggests using Google Photos to create albums to help organise digital photos.

He says: "If you're going on a bigger family trip, you can consider creating and sharing collaborative albums so that other people can share their photos in one place."

The Google Nest Hub, a smart-home hub which comes with a touch screen display that can connect to other smart-home devices, displays an automatically created feed that allows his parents to view photos of their grandchildren, he says.

Apple's Cloud Photos also keeps images in one place and allows for date spanning different devices.

Its Photos app includes a "For You" tab that searches photos and videos to find ones that stand out and presents them in a feature called "Memories". It also prompts ideas for adding effects to selected photos, and finds "Sharing Suggestions", which are collections of photos that can be shared.

## 5 Use photos to bond with your kids

Mr Chong Ee Jay, a cyber wellness expert and founder of the Family Singapore, says organising and sharing family photos on social media has a similar bonding effect.

He says: "Social media presents opportunities for parents to easily create digital photo albums or scrapbooks by compiling photos."

"It also presents opportunities for children to be involved in creating family memories by sharing photos and videos on shared platforms."

Social media platforms have integrated ways of organising photos, and not only through chronological posts and highlights.

The TikTok app, for instance, has an "Archive" tool and allows users to upload photos and videos directly onto a device. You can also mark a TikTok video as a favourite and it will be added to your Favourites menu in the profile page. The user can later scroll back to date spanned collections, which can be further sorted into collections, says Ms Doreen Tan, user and content operations manager at TikTok Singapore.

Google Photos and printing physical copies of photographs can also be useful.

Mr Carol Loi, founder of Village Consultancy, which provides digital literacy training to educators, youth and children, says: "Printing out special photos in the form of a year book can help to build family heritage, especially if the photos involve their children in compiling the photos, as well as reflecting on the memories they evoke."

## 6 Be aware of 'sharing' pitfalls

Involving children in sharing and organising media online typically requires parents to be more intentional in how they grow up.

Ms Yeh says she does not post photos of her daughter now that the child is older.

"I ask her first, 'Do you think this is appropriate?' and add: 'Village Consultancy', " she says. "Keeping photos as secure as possible and respecting children's privacy should be considered regarding organising images involving children."

She advises caution when it comes to "sharing", or the use

of social media to share images and news of one's children.

Ms Loi says: "Even when social media settings are private, we should remember that whatever is put out should be considered public information. It is hard to take down if it is used by other people. It also makes it easier for others to track."

"It would be useful for parents to put themselves in their child's shoes. When he or she is older, how would they feel when they see themselves in their parents' posts?"

Having an open conversation with older kids about their views on personal data and information about them will avoid potential miscommunication, she adds.

## 7 Keep the big picture in mind

Some parents find it helps to have a purpose when regularly updating their private system of archiving memories of their kids' childhood.

Freelance photographer Veronika Ang hopes to transfer her Facebook account to her 15-year-old son, Reilly, in the future.

The particular private account, which is restricted to family members, contains photos and videos from when Reilly was born. It is organised in detail – month by month in his younger years.

When he is an adult, Reilly can add his own photos to the disks that Ms Ang, who is in her 40s, has backed up all this material in.

Ms Ang, who is married to a 53-year-old foreigner, says she has a "safe" folder on her laptop for these memories next time. He can edit the images for his wedding too.

For Ms Seah Jing, a talent manager in the entertainment industry, the act of organising and retrieving her son's photos and videos on Instagram can be cathartic.

She adds: "Instagram is the new photo album, I guess. My husband and I look back at my posts and say, 'Wow, how come our son was that small?'

Even at the end of a long day, when she has had to deal with baby tantrums, she feels good posting Instagram photos.

Ms Seah now has 21,000 photos on her smartphone, which are backed up on Google Photos.

She describes her mobile with its vast photo collection as "my baby".

She says: "I take it easy and try not to go overboard. As a parent of a young child, I live day by day. As much as I want to archive everything, I also have to be present in the moment."

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