

Tucson Photographer Builds Studio to Accommodate Special Kids

Diane Graham loves to work with special children. After achieving accreditation with Special Kids Photography of America, she set about to bring her dream of building a special disabled access studio to reality.

"Disabled access," in Diane's estimation, means a lot more than construction of a wheelchair ramp to the front door. The electrician, for instance, kept asking, "are you *sure* you want these outlets eight feet up from the floor?" She explained that the high outlets, along with the ones on the ceiling, would accommodate the hanging studio lights.

The special dress-up clothing has been altered with Velcro or tie fasteners on the opened sides so children can more easily slide into the outfits. "Big daddy" suite coats, vests, ties and hats are some of the favorites. Do you want angel wings or butterfly wings? ... a red boa or do you like the green one better? The costume/prop area resembles a starlet's dressing room—well-stocked with items to tantalize most any child.

Three different backgrounds extend out 10 feet beyond the length of the wall so children could be placed comfortably on the floor, if needed. The entire project took approximately seven months to complete. Even the flooring is unique. Diane had special wood laminate planks installed with additional padding underneath to provide extra "give" but still remain firm enough for wheelchairs.



Well-stocked dressing area with make-up and a variety of fun dress-up items for the children.



Studio lights hang on tracks and three extra-large backgrounds extend out more than shown here.

Various forms of seating are available—antique boxes, extra large pillows, bean bags, and furry "throws" for the floor.

Diane is the newest member of the SKPA Board of Directors. We are happy to announce that an Accreditation workshop is planned for May 1 in her new studio. The charge is \$199 for the entire package or \$125 if you already have the books. Space will be limited so sign up now! Call for information 435 632-8300 or email us (see info box).



Exterior of Diane Graham's "stand alone" photo studio in Tucson, Arizona. The Southwestern architectural style matches that of her home, which abuts a national forest.



Diane's first portrait in her new studio. She will be photographing typical children as well as special children. As shown here, she is fond of sepia creations.

'06 Training

(SKPA Accreditation)

Austin, TX - Jan 21 (before PPA Imaging Expo). Contact SKPA (see box)

Austin, TX - Mar 4 (Sat) (Day before Children and Family Photographers of America (CFPA))

See: www.cfpamerica.com

Pasadena, CA - Mar 13 (Mon) (Day before ProExpo). Contact SKPA (see box)

Las Vegas, NV - Apr 6 (Th) (Day before WPPI) Contact SKPA (see box)

St. George, UT - Apr 13 or 14 (Th or Fri) After WPPI (only 1.5 hr. N. of Las Vegas)

Tucson, AZ - May 1 (Mon) Come to the workshop in Diane Graham's custom-built studio

What a great start in 2006!

Special Kids Photography of America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to "increasing the face value" of children with special needs.

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This newsletter is distributed via email only.

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