

itty-bitty art

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Baby Faces

Let's face it: we love looking at you! With smiles, frowns, or furrowed brows, there are plenty of Carter artworks with fun facial expressions to show off. We picked a few for this resource, full of fun activities for you and your infants' eyes, ears, mouth, and nose!

Mirror Mirror

The people in Wendy Watriss and Fred Baldwin's photograph, *Family Reunion*, all have different expressions on their faces! Excited, tired, shy, or content, each family member has their own thoughts and feelings. Spend some time looking in a mirror with your infant. Make a variety of facial expressions for them to see and enjoy. Use words like happy, sad, worried, angry, or silly to describe your face, and reinforce your infant's growing understanding of emotions. Extend your explorations by finding other reflective surfaces around your home, using small baby-safe mirrors during sensory play or bath time, or playing peekaboo!

For more information about reading facial expressions and emotions with your child, check out this list of ideas from the [Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation](#) at Georgetown University!

Speaking a Smile

There's so much more to our loved ones than eyes, noses, and mouths! Take a close look at Laura Gilpin's photograph *Navaho Portrait, Georgie Garcia*. What makes this man's face special? Perhaps the friendly wrinkles around his eyes, or his big moustache, or even the wide-brimmed hat shading his face! You can practice naming parts of the face together with your baby, pointing to each part and describing it with your words. Once you've mastered your own faces, try exploring more portraits in the [Carter's collection](#)!

Infants 1 year and older might start to enjoy matching activities. Create a fun [DIY face-matching game](#) using family photos or portraits from the Carter's collection. Use those same photos, images from magazines, or your own drawings to create a [silly face flip book](#) for some giggly fun!

Reading Aloud

Faces are important for reading because seeing language spoken helps babies understand how to speak! Facing your child while talking supports their language and vocabulary development, which will help them be better readers down the road.

[Making Faces: A First Book of Emotions](#), by Molly Magnuson

[Global Baby Bedtimes](#), by Maya Ajmera

[Whose Toes Are Those?](#), by Jabari Asim, illustrations by LeUyen Pham

[Bebés maravillosos](#), by David Ellwand

[Why the Face?](#), by Jean Jullien

[Peekaboo Morning](#), by Rachel Isadora

[Dah shiil teel / Cradle Me](#), by Debbie Slier

The Fort Worth Public Library is a building a community of learners, dreamers, and doers with the help of great collaborators across the City of Fort Worth. Visit their website, fortworthlibrary.org, and explore their uniquely creative and diverse programming for all ages on their YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/fwlibrary](https://www.youtube.com/fwlibrary).

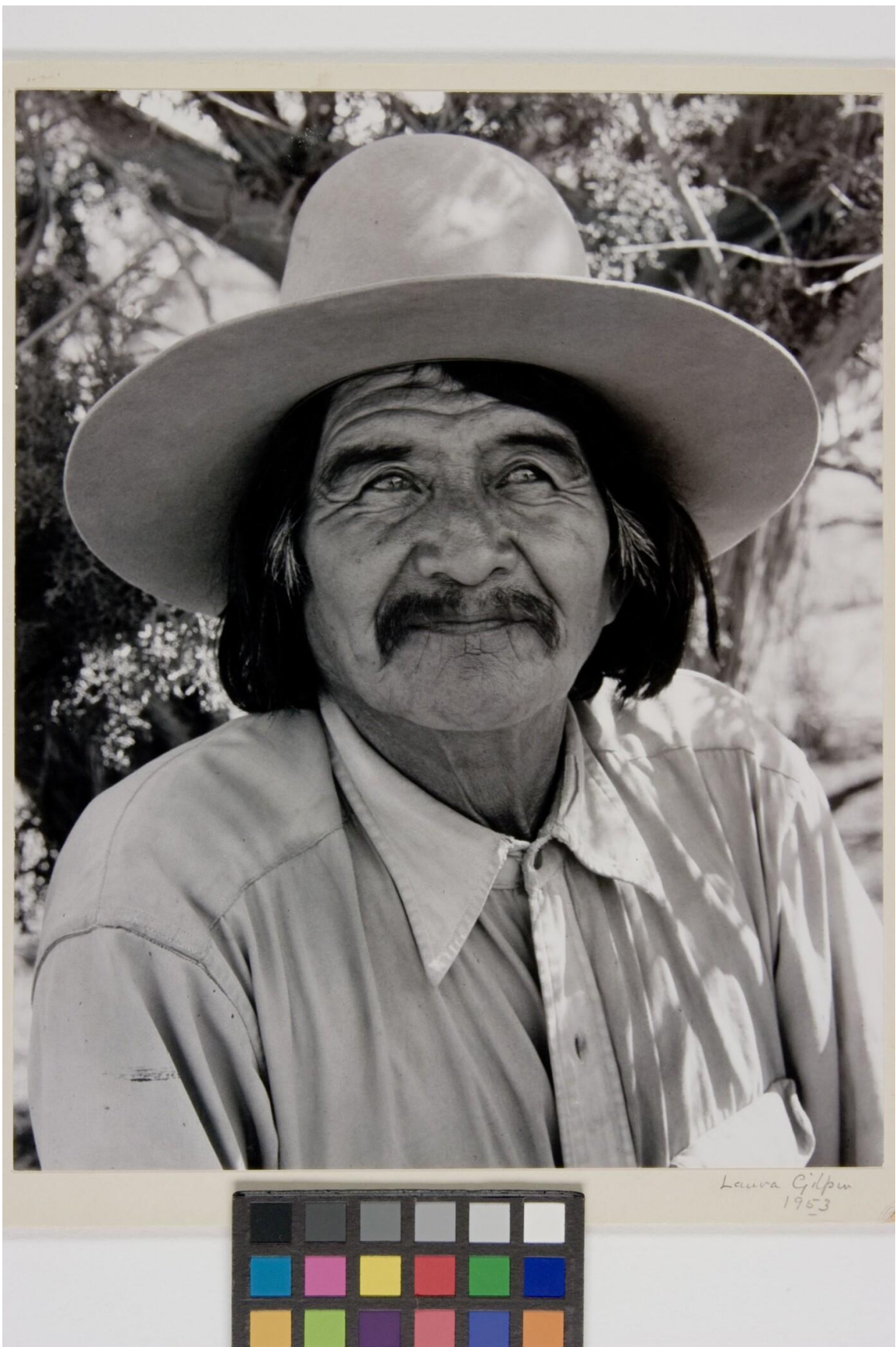




Wendy Watriss (b. 1943), **Fred Baldwin** (b. 1929)
Family Reunion, 1984
Gelatin silver print

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Laura Gilpin (1891–1979)
Navaho Portrait, Georgie Garcia, 1953
Gelatin silver print

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