

QUICK TIPS

Taking pictures at school events

Your child is in the school play (or concert or other event) and there you are sitting in the audience trying to get a picture that makes them feel like a star. You hold your camera up over the head of the guy in front of you, wait for the right moment, and press the button. Your effort is rewarded with a well lit picture of the heads in front of you and a dark stage. What happened?

It may surprise you to know that the main reason for disappointing pictures in dark environments is.....using the flash! That's right, using the flash gave you dark pictures.

The built-in flash on any camera is only intended for close range fill-in light - around 10 feet. Most cameras don't know that your subject is 50 feet away. Your camera is counting on it's flash to light up the whole picture, and that is problem!

Every current camera has the ability to turn off the flash. On point-and-shoot cameras it is usually a button on the back, and usually has a lightning bolt picture. On DSLR's it is as simple as switching from Automatic mode (usually the green setting on the dial) to Program mode (usually the P setting). When you turn off the flash, the camera has to make do with the light that is available, which in this case is the stage lighting. See? You will.

Try this: turn off the flash, zoom in to your star, and very gently press the button (so you don't shake the camera). You will see an immediate improvement in your photography!

For more advanced techniques, please contact me!