Photos for great avatars

Shadows on face

 ❌

Even Lighting

 ✅

Side Angle

 ❌

Face-on

 ✅

Fussy background

 ❌

Plain, light background
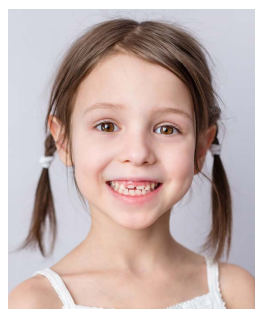
 ✅

Hair hidden

 ❌

Hair showing or tied

 ✅

No smile

 ❌

Smiling

 ✅

Tips for taking photos that make great avatars

Clear photos make the best avatars. Our software needs to find your head, cut it out of the photo and then turn it into an avatar. You can speed up this process and get good results if you start with a clear, evenly-lit photo. If your photo is less clear, you will need to spend more time in the avatar editor determing what should be included or left out.

1. Take a close-up, face on.
2. Ensure even lighting on your face – avoid any shadows.
3. Open your eyes wide and look at the camera (not at the button). Avoid squinting.
4. Smile - a nice, normal smile.
5. Make sure long hair is in front of your shoulders or tied up as we cannot include hair that is hidden!
6. Try to take photos of all the family members in the same light. Skin colour for your characters is sampled from the avatar created from your photo, and this is influenced by the lighting in the photo, so even if you have similar skin tone in real life, this may look quite different on your avatar if your photos were taken in different lighting.