

# GIFT IDEAS

## The Time Is Right To Step Up To A Digital SLR Camera

(NAPSA)—Summer is filled with important family activities like graduation, vacation, family barbecues and days at the beach. That means there are plenty of picture-taking opportunities for Mom and Dad, so don't settle for "not quite right" pictures or completely missed ones due to your camera's sluggish performance.

Today's digital SLR (DSLR) cameras are user-friendly, and prices are at an all-time low, so isn't it time to move to a faster, more versatile camera? Here are some important features to look for when stepping-up from a point-and-shoot to a DSLR camera:

1. Since you're used to using the LCD screen on your point-and-shoot camera, make the transition easier with a DSLR such as the Sony Alpha DSLR-A350 camera that offers Live View. It gives you the option of composing with the LCD instead of the optical viewfinder without sacrificing auto focusing speed. The DSLR-A350 camera lets you move away from the viewfinder and into the moment.

2. Go for a camera with in-camera image stabilization and you'll never have to worry about buying special lenses to compensate for shaky hands when you're shooting in low light (or when you've had too much coffee).



**Digital SLR cameras are ideal for taking pictures of fast-moving kids.**

3. A tiltable LCD screen is a good investment because it means you won't have to be a contortionist when taking photos over your head at a graduation ceremony or at a low angle to capture the kids building a sand castle at the beach.

4. Look for DSLRs with anti-dust technology, which helps avoid getting dust on the camera sensor when you change lenses. If a tiny dust bunny manages to sneak in, this technology will also shake it off.

5. Ease-of-use is critical when you're moving up to a DSLR, so look for a camera that offers some of the features you're used to using, such as scene selection modes. Also, make sure the camera's control layout and menu system are easy to navigate. Visit your local camera store to get some hands-on time before you buy.