



DIY MONTESSORI DANCERS MOBILE

ASSEMBLY GUIDE


Montessori
- EDITED

All rights reserved 2020 ©

A Guide to Montessori Visual Mobiles

What are Mobiles?

The first sense that starts to develop in a newborn is sight. Mobiles are designed to be hung above them to stimulate their vision.

Why are they important?

Babies have to practice coordinating their eyes, how to focus and move them accurately. This is the first step in the long process of understanding the world around them. By learning how to use the visual information that the brain receives, this will prepare the way to use this stimulation to reach and then later to try to grab.

When your child is observing the mobiles, you can clearly see whether they are able to do visual tracking. If you find that they have problems following a moving object with their eyes, please go and see your paediatrician.

Why are Montessori mobiles so special?

In the Montessori pedagogy, the first objects that are presented to a newborn are mobiles. These are used from day one to about three months. They are designed according to the baby's developing vision and for building concentration, which is one of the main pillars of intelligence. The first four mobiles in the Montessori visual mobile series are the **Munari**, the **Octahedron**, the **Gobbi** and the **Dancers**.

There are a few aspects that have to be applied to all Montessori mobiles. They should look aesthetically pleasing to attract the eye, have simple, graceful lines and a soothing, calming effect. They should not have more than five elements so that the baby's vision does not get overwhelmed. As with most Montessori materials, mobiles also try to stimulate only one sense, which, in this case, is the sight. Therefore, they should not make any sound.

It is also an important principle that they provide concrete, real-life experiences (as much as possible). That's why you'll find that most Montessori and Montessori-inspired mobiles depict geometrical shapes or animals.

Tips & Tricks

The mobiles are part of a determined sequence. The first one to be presented is the Munari, then the Octahedron, the Gobbi and the Dancers. A time frame is given to know when to change one mobile to another, note however that these are approximate as every baby has different developmental needs. It is important that you observe your child to know when it's time to move onto the next one, but as a rule of thumb, you would change them after two weeks.

The guide follows the original proportions set out by Montessori and I strongly recommend that you follow them, too. These allow the mobiles to move and rotate to capture the baby's attention.

By setting up the mobiles in different parts of the house you can keep the experience fresh for your child. When the weather is warm, you might choose to open a window so that the light breeze can make the mobile move. In colder weather you can blow on it from time to time to achieve the same result.

You can also set it up in front of a mirror for an added dimension as this way the baby will be able to see it from the side as well.

When you first introduce a mobile, keep it unmoving so your baby can calmly observe it. Later you can make it move by blowing on it. If you have a mobile rotator, you can use that as well on its slowest setting.

How to hang the Montessori Mobiles?

Here are a few recommendations that you should follow before starting to use a mobile.

- ✓ Always supervise your baby when using a mobile
- ✓ Hang it in the baby's waking space as it meant to stimulate them instead of relaxing them
- ✓ Present it when your baby is fully awake and calm so that he is ready to observe and fully focus on the mobile
- ✓ Position the mobile above the baby's chest at a height of least 30cm and about 20-30cm from the face. This ensures that s/he can see it but it is safely out of the baby's grasp when it moves.

Before making a mobile, please watch the tutorial videos

The Dancers Mobile

8+ weeks



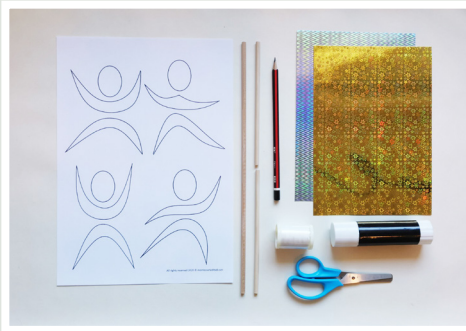
The Dancers Mobile is the last one in the Visual Mobile Series. It is made of four stylised forms representing human figures.

When the mobile is in motion, the figures look like dancers that move delicately through the air. Each 'person' is made up of three elements (head, arms and legs) all of these can move independently. The dancers are made from iridescent, holographic paper and as they shine and sparkle, they provide your baby with a real performance of light!

This mobile is fully in line with your baby's developing interest, which is slowly moving colourful shapes in a variety of forms. This allows your child to continue developing concentration, her dynamic visual focus and work on their depth perception. The colour contrast, the reflection of light and the elegant, graceful movement of the dancers fluttering are all conspire in catching and holding your baby's attention.

Watching the whimsical Dancers in action is very relaxing. As with most mobiles, you can give it a few twists to keep their interest. First you might choose to make all the figures the same colour, then when you see that your child is ready, you can offer two or more colours. You can keep them the same colour on one side and another on the other side or alternate the elements, it's up to you. Also, if you position it just right, the mobile's shimmering light will reflect on the wall, too, giving an added aspect to it.

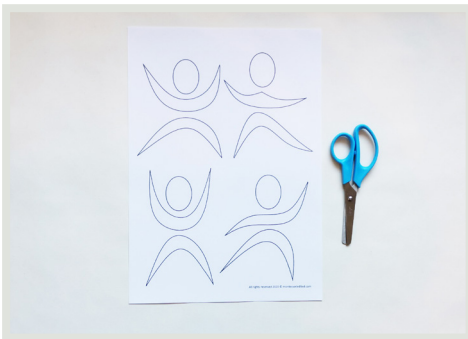
Necessary resources



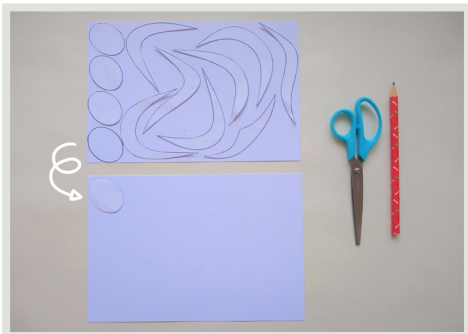
- ✓ Template for the Dancers
- ✓ 2 iridescent cards
- ✓ 3 dowels (1x30cm, 2x15cm)
- ✓ thread

Extras:

- ✓ scissors
- ✓ glue (liquid glue is better)



Cut out all the elements of the four Dancers, it doesn't matter if they get mixed up.



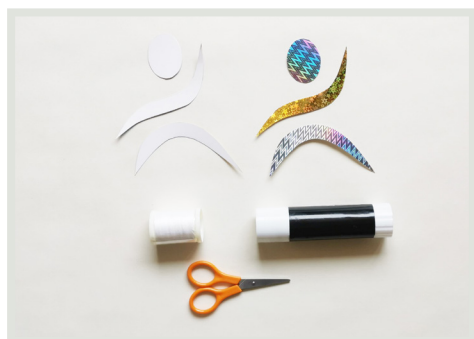
Trace all the cut-outs on one of the iridescent cards. Then, **turn them upside down** and trace them again on the other card.



Tip: If you'd like to make your dancers more colourful, use the leftover cards from the Octahedron mobile.



Find the pairs of each element and put them together. Make sure that they are the opposite of each other.



Now make your Dancers! You can mix and match the elements as you like.

Before gluing the two sides together, place a thread in the middle. Leave at least a 0.5cm space between the elements so that they can move independently from each other.



You can keep one side the same colour or mix up the colours, they will rotate on the mobile independently from each other.



Put together all the four figures.



Work from the bottom and hang the four Dancers on the short dowels, two at a time. Hang them on varying length of thread, there are no given measurements. Finally, hang the two dowels at the two ends of the long one.

★ *Tip: use a glue gun to glue the threads to the dowels.*



This product is...

Sustainable



The resources are made of natural products, wherever it is possible or practical.

Recycled



Most of the packaging you can find in this product is made from recycled (plastic packaging) or biodegradable material (box, brown packaging ribbon).

Earth-Conscious



When your baby's interests change and they 'grow out' of the visual mobiles, please keep them safe for your next baby, or give them away to another expecting mum.

Tips for making the most of your Montessori mobiles:
<https://montessoriedited.com/insider-tips/>