



DIY MONTESSORI OCTAHEDRON MOBILE

ASSEMBLY GUIDE


Montessori
- EDITED

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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 video

The Octahedron Mobile

5-8 weeks



When you notice that your baby is ready for a new visual challenge, you can introduce the second mobile, the Octahedron.

This lovely, easy-to-assemble mobile consists of three octahedrons in different sizes in the primary colours of red, yellow, and blue.

After the Munari mobile's black and white, two-dimensional world a baby's vision will be suitably challenged with these basic colours and 3D shapes. At this stage, babies can't distinguish small details yet, however they have the ability to perceive vivid colours. Red is the most visible colour for them, this would be the biggest in size. Then comes the yellow, and finally the blue, the smallest of them.

The shapes are light weight therefore they swing gently in the slightest air current and are made of metallic paper to easily catch and reflect the light, attracting the baby's attention for a sustained period of time.

A variation of the same mobile is when the octahedrons have the same size but are hung in ascending order. Here the red hangs the lowest, in the middle. On one side hangs the yellow, mid-length, and on the other side is the blue, the highest of all.

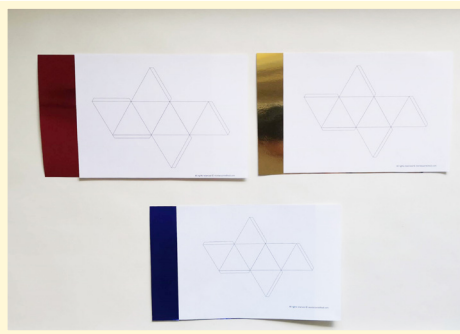
Necessary resources



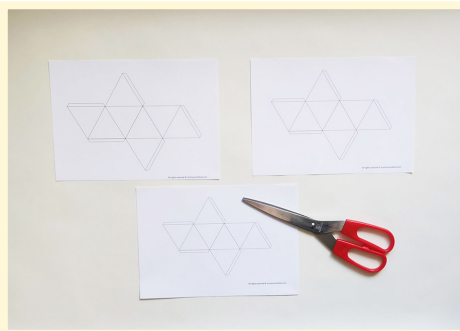
- ✓ 3 shiny cards (red, yellow and blue)
- ✓ 3 octahedron templates
- ✓ 1 dowel (30 cm)
- ✓ double sided tape
- ✓ thread

Extra:

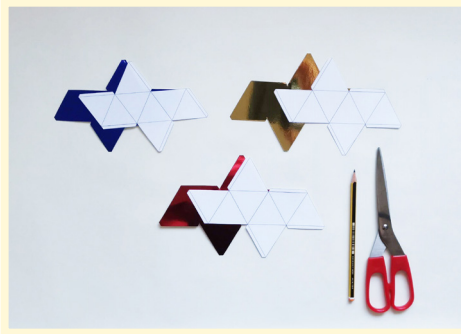
- ✓ scissors



Use the red card for the biggest octahedron template, the yellow for the middle size one and the blue for the smallest.

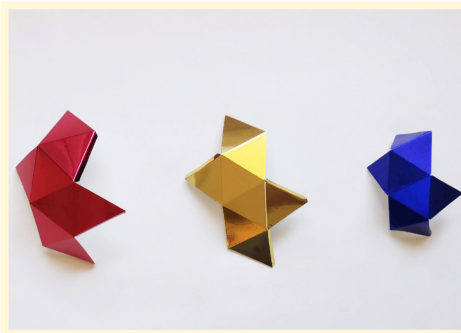


Cut out the three octahedron templates.



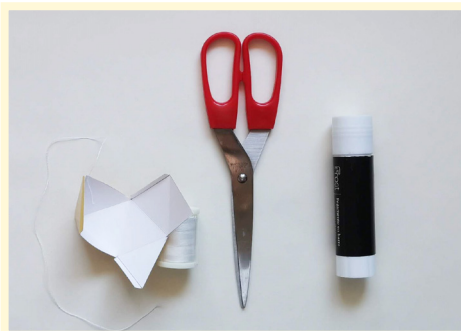
Trace the templates on the cards and cut them out.

★ *Tip: trace the shapes as close to the side as possible. You can use the leftovers for the Dancers mobile.*



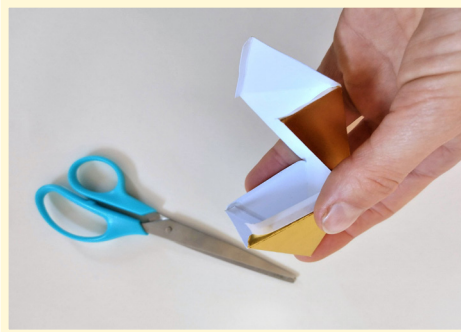
Draw the folding lines you can see on the templates onto the white side of the cut-outs with a ruler, then fold the card along the lines.

★ *Tip: before folding, go over the lines with something sharp, for example the tip of your scissors, to make it easier to fold.*

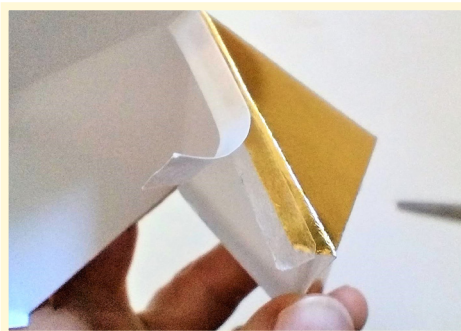


Before gluing an octahedron together, put one end of the thread inside the octahedron and stick it on the card with glue. There are no measurements given here for the length.

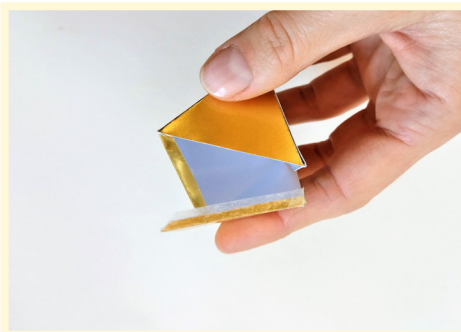
Optionally, you can use a nylon thread or a fishing line, although these are harder to work.



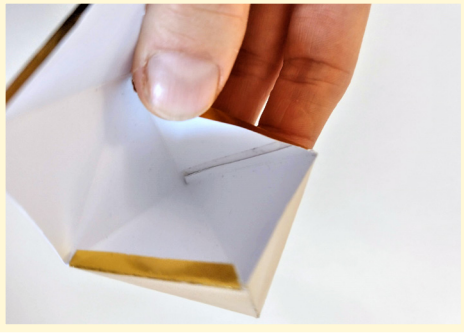
The smallest octahedron's side is about 4.3cm. Cut this length off the double sided tape, then cut it in half length-ways. Stick one strip of tape onto one part of the octahedron. You'll need an approx. 5cm length for the middle sized octahedron and 5.3cm for the biggest one.



Carefully peel off the white part, which will leave a sticky, transparent tape on the paper.



If the sticky tape is a bit longer than necessary, you can adjust it now and cut off the extra. Carefully place the sticky part inside the oppoite side of the octahedron.



Carefully push the sticky tape to the inner side of the octahedron to make sure it holds.

Repeat the process until the octahedron is ready. You'll only need four strips of tape to hold the shape together.



Hang the octahedrons on the dowel. The order of the colours does not matter that much here.

Optionally, you can make all the octahedrons the same size using one template. In this case, hang them in ascending order, starting with the red.

You can slowly blow on the mobile to make it move and reflect the light better.

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/>