

FREE
GUIDE



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

Montessori Mobiles



Montessori Mobiles

Are you interested in Montessori Mobiles, but you don't know where to start?

There is so much information out there but it's really hard to find a cohesive, practical summary that tells you exactly what you need to know and how to do it!

In this guide I'm going to talk about what Montessori mobiles are and why they are important.

I'll explain the suggested sequence, so they can assist accompany your baby's development all the way from 0 to 6 months.

I'll teach you how to hang them and what to hang them on so your baby can use them for their full potential. Finally, I'll give you some extra tips and tricks.

Biology ensures through bonding that you hold the greatest power to stimulate your baby's brain development - and turning on and off of genes - more than anyone else in your child's life.

DR GAIL GROSS

What are Montessori mobiles and why are they special?

Did you know that a newborn's **least developed sense is sight**? When they are born, their retina (that controls vision) is blurred because the neurons in their brain are not fully developed.



As a result, they can only see black and white colours and shades of grey. Their sight **gradually improves** in the following 6 months.

What your baby sees in the first months of their life will have a **great impact on their visual skills** for a long time. The Montessori visual mobiles are the product of **scientific research**.



They were designed with only one purpose: to aid your little one's sight development, encompassing the **full range of visual skills**.

Each of them offers just the right amount of stimuli so that the sense of sight is challenged, but not overwhelmed.



The senses, being explorers of the world, open the way to knowledge

MARIA MONTESSORI



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, they will prepare the way to use this stimulation to **reach** and then later to try to **grab**.



That's when the Tactile Mobiles come to play. Their job is to help your baby's fine-and gross motor skills in a gradual, step-by-step manner. You will see how your baby develops from one day to another just by offering the right stimulus.

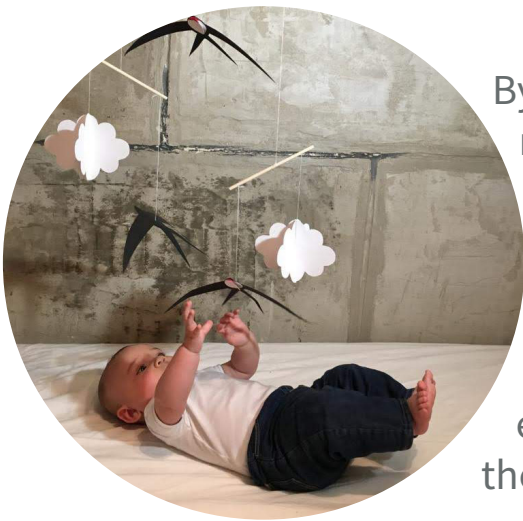
The Sensory Toys seamlessly follow the development from here onwards.

“

The hands are instruments of man's intelligence.”

- Maria Montessori

The sequence of the mobiles



By giving your baby the right mobile at the right developmental phase, you assist their development.

This external, age and skill appropriate stimuli promotes the growth of neurological connections in the brain. This in turn enables effective communication of information which is the basis of learning and memory.

The list is not exhaustive, there are many other mobiles that ease the progression from one big milestone to another, however I believe that these are the most important ones with the biggest developmental benefits.

Click on the name of the mobile to read my blog about each of them.



“

“Each rattle, grasping toy, toy, puzzle, and other piece of material has been chosen for a specific purpose. It is up to the adult to watch carefully to see that the challenge is not too easy as to be boring, and not too difficult to cause frustration and giving up.”

Susan Stephenson

Visual Mobiles



2-4 WEEKS

MUNARI MOBILE

Why: For the tiniest babies who are only able to see close, strongly contrasting 2D objects.

Visual skill focus: Focusing eyes, visual tracking, building concentration.

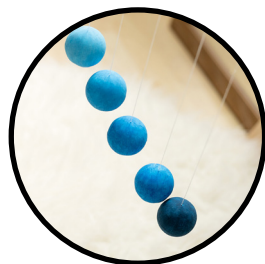
OCTAHEDRON

Why: To aid colour vision development. Colours are still very contrasting, but your baby can already perceive the difference.

Visual skill focus: Visual discrimination, moving from 2D to 3D.



4-6 WEEKS



6-8 WEEKS

GOBBI

Why: To distinguish the shades of one single colour.

Visual skill focus: Refining visual discrimination.

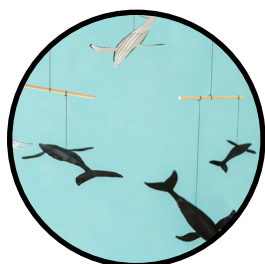
DANCERS

Why: Encourages observation of moving objects with independent elements.

Visual skill focus: Depth perception, visual tracking of an object.



8-10 WEEKS



8 WEEKS +

WHALE MOBILE

Why: Offers real-life images, refines visual skills

Visual skill focus: Refines the visual skills babies have acquired with the previous mobiles in an 'entry level', in black and white.

Visual Mobiles



8 WEEKS +

BUTTERFLY MOBILE

Why: Offers real-life images, the bold swirling colours stimulate all existing visual skills.

Visual skill focus: This mobile encompasses all the visual skills babies have learned in the first three months. This is the most complex visual challenge’.

SWALLOWS MOBILE

Why: Offers real-life images, the small red detail encourages close observation.

Visual skill focus: It does everything that the Whales but with an added interest point babies have to focus on, the read ‘beak’. This makes babies focus for longer and with more visual precision.



8 WEEKS +

Tactile Mobiles



2.5 MONTHS +

RING ON A RIBBON

Why: Encourages grabbing and pulling.

Skill focus: Controlling uncontrolled movements, developing gross- and fine motor skills, strengthens hand- and core muscles.

BELL ON A RIBBON

Why: Encourages reaching and batting.

Skill focus: Controlling uncontrolled movements, developing gross-motor skills, auditory skills, visual tracking, cause and effect.



3 MONTHS +



2.5 MONTHS +

GRASPING BEADS

Why: Teaches grasping, stimulates the tactile sense

Skill focus: Controlling uncontrolled movements, developing fine-motor skills, strengthens muscles in hands.

MONTESSORI PUZZLE BALL

Why: Encourages grabbing, holding, letting go, passing from one hand to another

Skill focus: Controlling uncontrolled movements, developing gross-motor skills, auditory skills, visual tracking.



2.5 MONTHS +

Sensory toys



2.5 MONTHS +

CROCHET TEETHING RING

Why: to stimulate the tactile sense AND to help alleviating the pain during teething

Skill focus: Development of fine motor skills

MONTESSORI BELL RATTLE

Why: encourages the development of auditory and fine motor skills

Skill focus: Controlling uncontrolled movements, developing fine-motor skills, auditory skills, visual tracking, cause and effect, strengthens muscles in hands.



2.5 MONTHS +



3 MONTHS

SENSORY BEAN BAGS

Why: engages the senses, offers rich tactile and visual sensory experience

Skill focus: Thanks to the carefully chosen textured fabrics, each of them has a very distinctive feeling, providing a rich sensory experience.

CROCHETED BALLS

Why: stimulates the tactile and visual sense, develops fine motor skills

Skill focus: manipulation of an object in a variety of ways.



3 MONTHS



3 MONTHS

FABRIC SENSORY BALL

Why: engages the senses, offers rich tactile and visual sensory experience

Skill focus: It has immense potential in helping the progression of your baby's development. Not only it trains all the five senses, but also many other areas in the body.

MONTESSORI OBJECT PERMANENCE BOX

Why: helps to understand the concept of object permanence





Skill focus: concentration, observation, body control, precise movements, hand-eye coordination and logical thinking skills, just to name a few.



6 MONTHS

Where To Hang The Mobiles

So you've got your montessori mobile but where to hang it? It mostly depends on the physical space you have at your disposal. Let's take a look at the options.

-  **A FLEXIBLE CLAMP** - It's relatively small, therefore easy to carry, however it's not very sturdy. I wouldn't hang tactile mobiles on it or anything even slightly heavy (visual mobiles are ok).
-  **AN ADHESIVE/COMMANDER HOOK** - A great way to hang stuff from the ceiling. It's quite strong so no need to worry about the weight of the mobile. This is your best choice if you live in a small, rented flat. Only for visual mobiles.
-  **A CEILING C HOOK** - A great option if you live in your own house/are allowed to make holes in the ceiling. Only for visual mobiles.
-  **A BABY GYM STYLE MOBILE HOLDER** - This is my personal favourite and the one I always used with my own baby. It's aesthetically very appealing as well. Try to get a secondhand one if you can. Make sure that it's at least 60 cm tall and can be folded up for easy storage.

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 is meant to stimulate them instead of relaxing them.
- Present it when your baby is fully awake and calm so that they are ready to observe and focus on the mobile.
- Position the mobile above the baby's chest at a height of at least 30cm and about 20-30cm. This ensures that they can see it but it's safely out of the baby's grasp when it moves.
- Even though there is a suggested time frame to use each mobile, observe your baby and change them accordingly. These are only approximate as every baby develops in their own pace.

How to place a newborn under a mobile?

When you are home from the hospital and settled in a bit, after about two weeks you can introduce the Munari mobile. You can leave your baby on a topponcino, which gives a safe and comfortable environment to explore from.



If your little one is a bit older, place him/her straight on a movement mat, although I would put a muslin cloth under to avoid accidents. (Read about a Montessori baby's workspace in this post). Make sure that s/he is awake, well-rested and ready to 'work'.

If you suspect that your baby has reflux, s/he might become fussy while lying flat on the mat. In this case use something to prop your little one up on, for example a soft blanket, a towel or a nursing pillow.

What should you do?

There are two Montessori principles which apply here called 'giving time' and 'non-interference'. They pretty much mean what it says on the tin, asking you to give all the time your baby needs and, if possible, trying not to disrupt this intense observation in any way.

Building concentration and learning new visual skills is hard work! What you can do is sit, observe and enjoy watching your little one delight in interacting with the mobiles. Babies are very good at letting us know when they have had enough of this hard work and are ready for a change so follow your child's cues and act on them!



Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed

- Maria Montessori

About



When I was blessed with the arrival of my favourite little person in the world I knew I wanted to make those precious early years truly special.

As a qualified Montessori guide with a real passion for learning through play I knew the benefits, but I also knew how expensive all the Montessori materials could be.

I just didn't want to see some other mums miss out just because things cost a little too much. I decided to get creative. In that moment Montessori Edited was born and I've never looked back.

Over this last year the blog has become a safe space online where you can find new ideas, insights, and a whole host of DIY projects for babies that spark that amazing little imagination of our theirs into life.

Whether you want to discover new ideas for DIY Montessori mobiles and Sensory Toys, or learn more about this unique way to promote development, I'll always be right here.

As a mother myself, I can tell you just what a difference it all makes.

Edit

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