

FREE GUIDE

Montessori Edited Baby Materials

A guide to the visual, tactile and sensory materials in the Montessori Edited collection





Montessori - EDITED

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A guide to the Montessori Edited baby materials

Not sure where to start?

There is a lot of information about Montessori mobiles online, and it can be difficult to know what is useful, when to introduce each material, and what really matters.

This guide brings together the baby materials I currently offer through Montessori Edited, from early visual materials to tactile and sensory exploration.

I'll introduce the black-and-white visual cards, the traditional Montessori visual mobiles, the Montessori-inspired animal mobiles that can follow them, and the tactile and sensory materials that become relevant as your baby begins reaching and grasping.

You'll also find guidance on when to introduce each material, how to hang and use them safely, and what to look for when deciding whether your baby is ready for something new.

KEEP IN MIND

Suggested ages are only a guide.

Follow your baby's interest rather than a strict timetable.

There is no need to use every material in this guide.

What are Montessori visual mobiles?



In the first months of life, your baby's vision is still developing. They are gradually learning to focus their eyes, follow movement and make sense of what they see.



Newborns are especially responsive to strong contrast and simple shapes. As their vision develops, they gradually become able to notice a wider range of colours, details and differences between objects.



What your baby is interested in looking at changes quickly during these early months. Montessori visual mobiles reflect these changes by gradually introducing different contrasts, colours, shapes and movement.

ONE VISUAL EXPERIENCE AT A TIME

Simple shapes, carefully chosen colours and gentle movement give your baby something clear to observe without unnecessary distraction.

Montessori visual mobiles are intentionally simple. Each one offers a different visual experience without adding unnecessary sound, lights or movement.

There is nothing your baby needs to achieve while looking at them — the experience is simply about having time and space to observe.



During the first months, your baby gradually becomes more purposeful in the way they look and move.

What begins as watching can slowly turn into reaching towards something that has caught their attention.

This change does not happen because the visual mobiles have “trained” your baby to reach. It is simply part of their developing movement and growing interest in the world around them.

When reaching becomes more intentional, you can begin offering materials that are meant to be touched.





This is where tactile Montessori materials become relevant.

A ring or bell suspended within comfortable reach gives your baby an opportunity to bat, grasp, pull and notice what happens when they move their hands.

Later, grasping beads, sensory balls and other simple materials can offer new textures, shapes and ways to explore through touch.

FROM LOOKING TO TOUCHING

Follow what your baby is beginning to do. When observation starts turning into purposeful reaching, the way you prepare their environment can change too.

The visual mobile sequences



The traditional Montessori visual mobile sequence begins with the Munari, followed by the Octahedron, Gobbi and Dancers.

Each introduces a different visual experience as your baby's sight develops — from strong contrast and simple shapes to colour, subtle differences and more complex movement.

The suggested ages are only a guide, and there is no need to move on simply because a certain number of weeks has passed.

After the traditional sequence, the Montessori Edited animal mobile sequence moves through the Whale, Swallows, Seagull and Butterfly, introducing more detailed, recognisable forms and movement.



THE SEQUENCES ARE A GUIDE

There is no need to rush from one mobile to the next. If your baby is still calmly interested in what they are observing, let them keep looking.

Move on when their interest begins to change.

Tactile and sensory materials from the Montessori Edited collection then follow as your baby begins reaching and grasping.

Click the name of each material on the following pages to read more about it.



Black & White Visual Cards

from birth

Strong black-and-white patterns offer a simple visual experience during the earliest weeks, when babies are especially interested in clear contrast. Use them during calm, awake moments for short periods of observation.

The traditional Montessori visual mobile sequence



around **0–4 weeks**

Munari Mobile

Strong black-and-white contrast, simple geometric shapes and gentle movement offer a clear point of interest while your baby is beginning to focus and follow what they see.

Octahedron

Bright colours, reflective surfaces and three-dimensional forms create a different visual experience. As the octahedrons turn, their colours, edges and reflections change with the surrounding light.

around **4–6 weeks**





around **6–8 weeks**

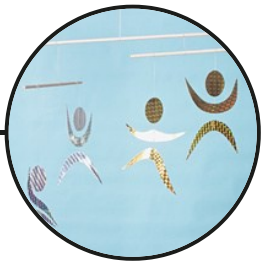
Gobbi

Five gradually changing shades of the same colour introduce a subtler visual experience after the stronger contrasts of the earlier mobiles.

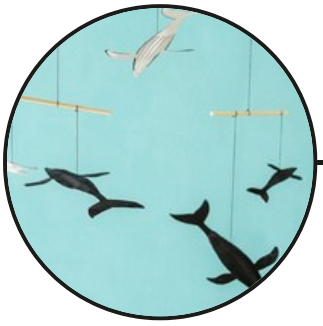
Dancers

More complex shapes, colour, reflection and independent movement create constantly changing forms as the figures appear to dance.

around **8–10 weeks**



The Montessori Edited animal mobile sequence



from around **8 weeks**

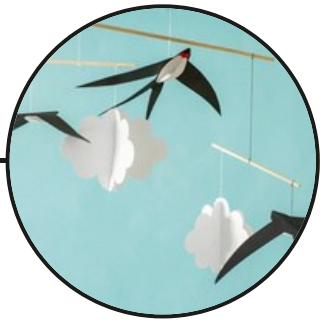
Whale Mobile

Recognisable animal shapes, varied sizes and more visual detail offer something new to observe. As the lightweight whales turn and shift in the surrounding air, they can appear to swim through the space above your baby.

Swallows Mobile

Three black-and-white swallows and two clouds introduce recognisable forms and movement. Their long wings, forked tails and small red markings create a clear but simple visual experience.

from around **8 weeks**





around **8–12 weeks**

Seagull Mobile

Broad wings and long bodies create a different silhouette from the Swallows. As the birds turn and change angle, their mostly white forms and darker wing tips offer a softer visual experience.

Butterfly Mobile

Five butterfly species introduce more colour, pattern and detail. As the wings sit at different angles, the mobile creates a lively but still uncluttered visual scene.

around **8–12 weeks**



Tactile materials

from the Montessori Edited collection



around **2–3 months**

Bell on a Ribbon

A suspended bell gives your baby something simple to reach towards and bat, while the sound makes the effect of their movement easy to notice.

Grasping Beads

The connected wooden beads offer a simple object to hold, turn and transfer between the hands as grasping becomes more purposeful.

from around **2.5 months**





around **3–4 months**

Ring on a Ribbon

The ring offers a simple next step for grasping, holding and pulling as your baby's reaching becomes more purposeful.

Sensory toys

from the Montessori Edited collection



from around **2.5 months**

Montessori Puzzle Ball

Its segmented shape makes the ball easy for small hands to grasp, hold and explore as your baby becomes more interested in objects.

Montessori Bell Rattle

Easy to hold and shake, the bell rattle lets your baby explore movement while noticing the sound created by their own actions.

from around **2.5 months**





from around **2.5 months**

Crochet Teething Ring

The wooden ring is easy to grasp, while the crocheted section adds a different texture for your baby to touch and explore.

Sensory Bean Bags

Different fabrics, textures and weights give your baby a simple way to explore how materials feel while holding, squeezing and moving them.

around **3 months**





around **3 months**

Crocheted Balls

Soft crocheted balls offer different textures to touch and explore, while their size and shape make them easy for small hands to grasp.

Fabric Sensory Ball

The soft sections and varied fabrics give your baby different textures to explore while grasping, turning and manipulating the ball in their hands.

around **3 months**





around **6 months**

Montessori Object Permanence Box

Dropping the ball into the box and seeing it reappear gives your baby a simple, repeatable way to explore where objects go.

Where to hang the mobiles

Where you hang a mobile depends on your space and the material. Whatever you choose, make sure it is secure and suitable for its intended use.

1.  **A flexible clamp:** portable and easy to move from one place to another. Best suited to lightweight visual mobiles rather than materials your baby will reach for or pull.

2.  **An adhesive hook:** a useful option when you cannot make holes in the ceiling. Check the manufacturer's weight limit and make sure the hook is suitable for your ceiling surface. Use only for visual mobiles.

3.  **A ceiling C hook:** a secure option when properly installed into a suitable ceiling. Make sure the fixing is appropriate for the surface and check it regularly.

4.  **A baby gym style mobile holder:** a practical freestanding option that can be moved around the room. Make sure it is stable, tall enough for the mobile to remain out of reach, and appropriate for the material you are using.

How to hang a Montessori visual mobile

- Always supervise your baby while the mobile is in use.
- Use it while your baby is awake and calm, in a space where they can comfortably observe it.
- Visual mobiles are designed to be looked at, not touched.
- Hang the mobile securely above your baby's chest, with the lowest element at least 30 cm above them and always out of reach.
- Check the thread, knots, dowels and attachments before each use.
- The suggested ages are only a guide. Let your baby's interest help you decide when it is time to introduce something different.

Materials designed for reaching, grasping or pulling need a more secure setup than visual mobiles. Follow the instructions for the individual material and make sure every attachment is firmly secured before use.

How to introduce a visual mobile

Choose a time when your baby is awake, calm and comfortable.

Place them on their back on a firm, flat surface or movement mat, with the mobile securely positioned above their chest and completely out of reach.



You do not need to move the mobile or draw your baby's attention towards it. At first, it may take time for them to notice it. Simply give them the opportunity to look.

What should you do?

One of the most useful things you can do is very little.

Give your baby time to observe without continually moving the mobile, pointing things out or trying to hold their attention.

Watch their response instead. They may look intently for a while, look away and return, or lose interest quite quickly. All of these are normal.

When your baby turns away, becomes unsettled or seems to have had enough, simply finish for the moment. There is no set length of time a baby should spend looking at a mobile.

What might you notice?

- Your baby may fix their gaze on one element for a while.
- Their eyes may follow the mobile as it slowly moves.
- They may look away, then return to it again.
- Interest may last only a few minutes — that is completely fine.

OBSERVE, DON'T ENTERTAIN

Your baby does not need to achieve anything. Give them time, space and something simple to observe.



About

Montessori Edited began after my son was born and I started looking more closely at how Montessori ideas could be used during the first months of life.

As a qualified Montessori guide, I already knew the theory behind many of the materials. But becoming a parent made me look at them differently: not as a list of things a baby should be doing, but as simple ways to prepare the environment and then observe what happens.

I also realised how difficult it could be to find clear, practical information — and how expensive many Montessori materials were to buy.

That became the starting point for Montessori Edited.

Today I create DIY Montessori materials, guides and resources designed to make these ideas easier to understand and use at home. Much of my work focuses on the first months: visual mobiles, tactile materials and simple activities that follow the baby's changing interests and abilities.

The aim is not to rush development or follow a perfect timetable. It is to understand what each material offers, introduce it thoughtfully, and let your baby's response guide what comes next.

I hope the resources here help you feel more confident in doing just that.

Edit

Find all the materials and blog posts at montessoriedited.com

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