MONTESSORI FOR REAL LIFE · FREE PRINTABLE

DIY Montessori *Mobiles*

Templates and step-by-step instructions for the four classic visual mobiles, the Munari, Octahedron, Gobbi and Dancers.

A companion to **The Everyday Montessori Baby**, 0 to 18 months.
Print at 100% scale. Assembly takes about an evening per mobile.

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BEFORE YOU START

One mobile at a time, *matched to their eyes*

> The Montessori visual mobiles follow your baby's developing vision, from bold black and white to color, shade and movement. Hang one, watch, and change it when interest fades.

FROM ABOUT 3 WEEKS

Munari

Black and white shapes and one clear sphere.

FROM 5 TO 6 WEEKS

Octahedron

Three shiny shapes in primary colors.

7 TO 10 WEEKS

Gobbi

Five spheres in shades of one color.

8 TO 12 WEEKS

Dancers

Light figures that turn at a breath of air.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- White cardstock (200 to 300 g/m², or 80 to 110 lb) and a glue stick
- Thin wooden dowels or bamboo skewers with the points cut off, 6 to 12 in (15 to 30 cm)
- Strong thread or fishing line, a needle, scissors or a craft knife and a ruler
- Metallic or holographic paper for the Octahedron and the Dancers, if you can find it (optional)
- A clear plastic ball about 2 in (5 cm) wide for the Munari, and for the Gobbi, five balls about 1½ in (4 cm) with embroidery floss in five shades of one color

SAFETY, EVERY TIME

- Hang visual mobiles above the play mat, during supervised awake time. Never above the crib or bassinet.
- Attach the mobile securely to the ceiling or a stable arm, out of your baby's reach. Check knots and glue regularly.
- Take visual mobiles down as soon as your baby starts swiping or reaching for them, and when they start rolling.
- Keep all small parts, thread and tools out of reach.

20 MM

THIS SQUARE SHOULD MEASURE 20 MM (¾ IN) ONCE PRINTED.
IF IT DOESN'T, SET YOUR PRINTER TO 100% OR "ACTUAL SIZE".

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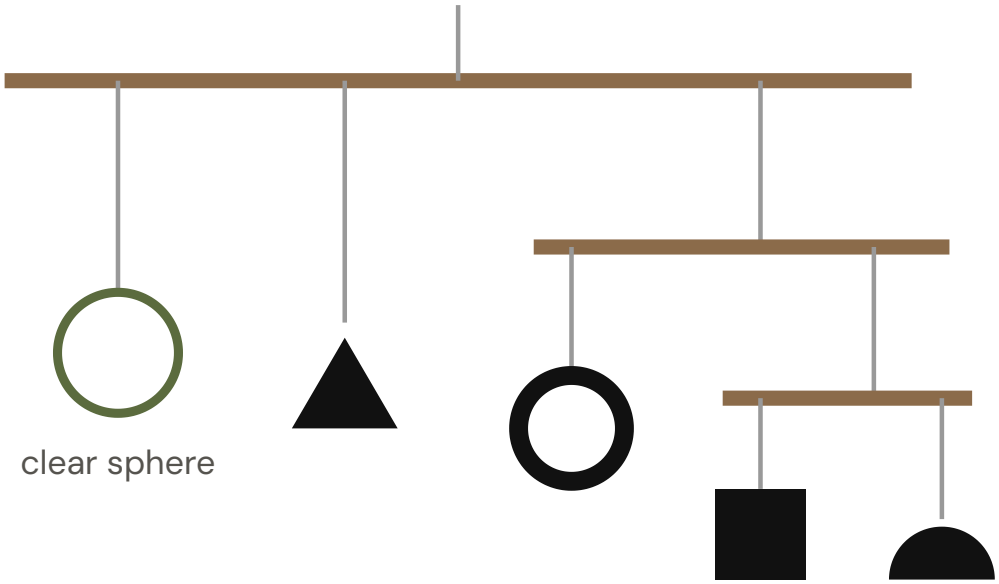
MOBILE 1 · FROM ABOUT 3 WEEKS

The Munari mobile

The first mobile is pure contrast, with black and white geometric shapes that move slowly, and one clear sphere that catches the light. It's the mobile that often produces the first long, intent "lock-on."



HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Print the shapes page twice. Glue each sheet onto cardstock and cut the shapes out, so you have two copies of each.
2. Glue the copies back to back, with a loop of thread sandwiched between them at the top. Your shapes are now black and white on both sides.
3. Make three tiers with dowels of about 12, 8 and 6 in (30, 20 and 15 cm), as in the diagram. Hang the clear sphere and the shapes at different heights.
4. Balance each tier by sliding the thread along the dowel until it hangs level. A dab of glue fixes it in place.
5. Hang it above the mat, about 8 to 12 in (20 to 30 cm) above your baby's face, slightly to one side rather than straight overhead.

Watch for the lock-on, then slow eye tracking as the mobile turns. Don't shake it or point at it. Your baby will find it.

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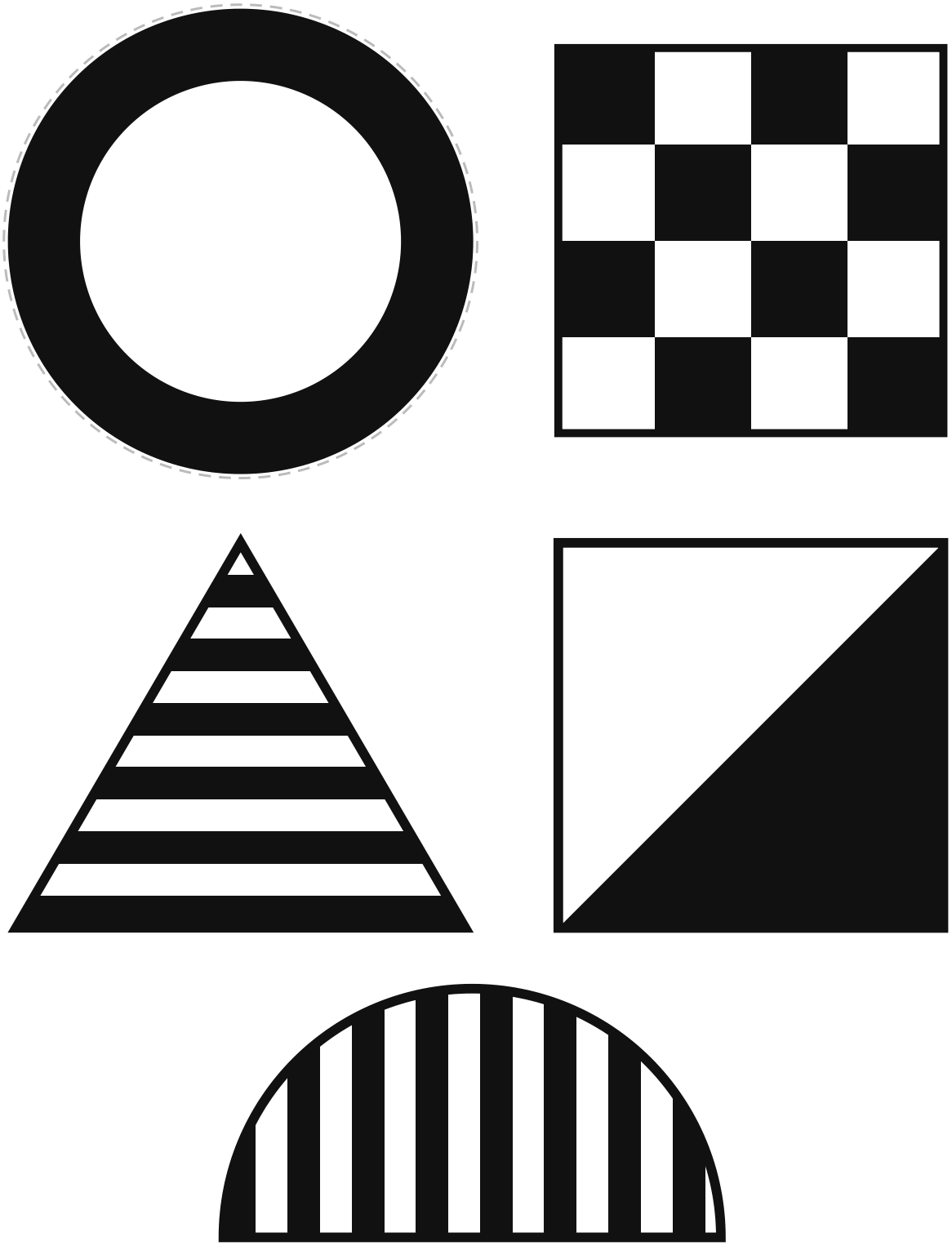

Cut along the outer edge of each shape. The dotted line around the ring is the cutting guide.

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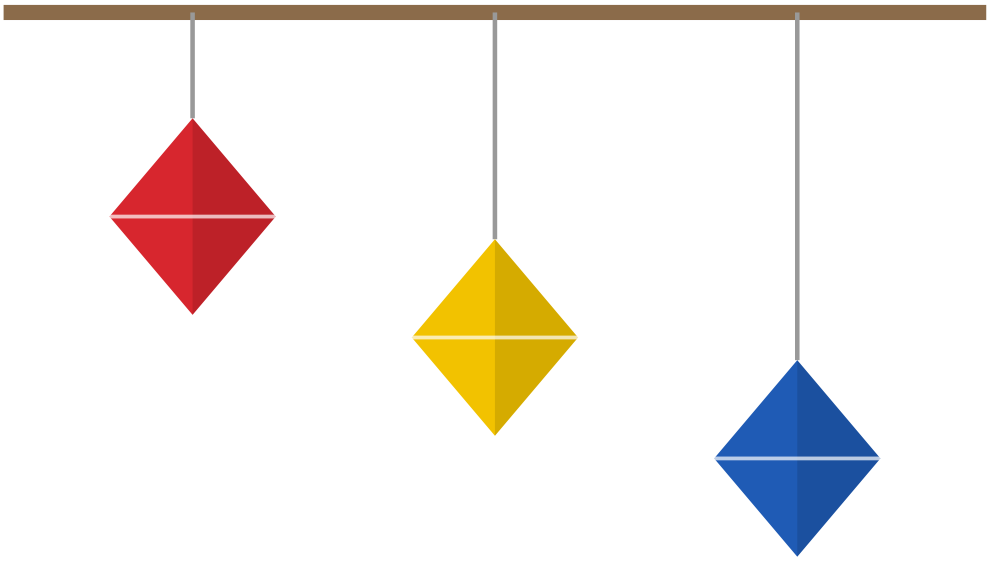
MOBILE 2 · FROM 5 TO 6 WEEKS

The Octahedron mobile

Three shiny octahedrons, one red, one yellow and one blue, hung at different heights. Your baby's eyes are now ready for color, and the reflective surfaces make the shapes sparkle as they turn.



HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Print the net three times, on metallic paper if you have it, or print the colored version on the next pages onto cardstock.
2. Cut along the solid lines, including the gray glue tabs.
3. Fold along every dashed line, using a ruler and the back of a knife to score them first. Crisp folds give crisp shapes.
4. Before closing the last face, push a knotted thread through the top point so it hangs from a vertex.
5. Glue the tabs inside, one at a time, and hold each for a few seconds.
6. Hang the three shapes from a dowel at three different lengths, red highest, then yellow, then blue.

The templates follow on the next pages, one blank net for metallic or colored paper and one net in each color. Each octahedron is about 2¼ in (5.5 cm) along each edge.

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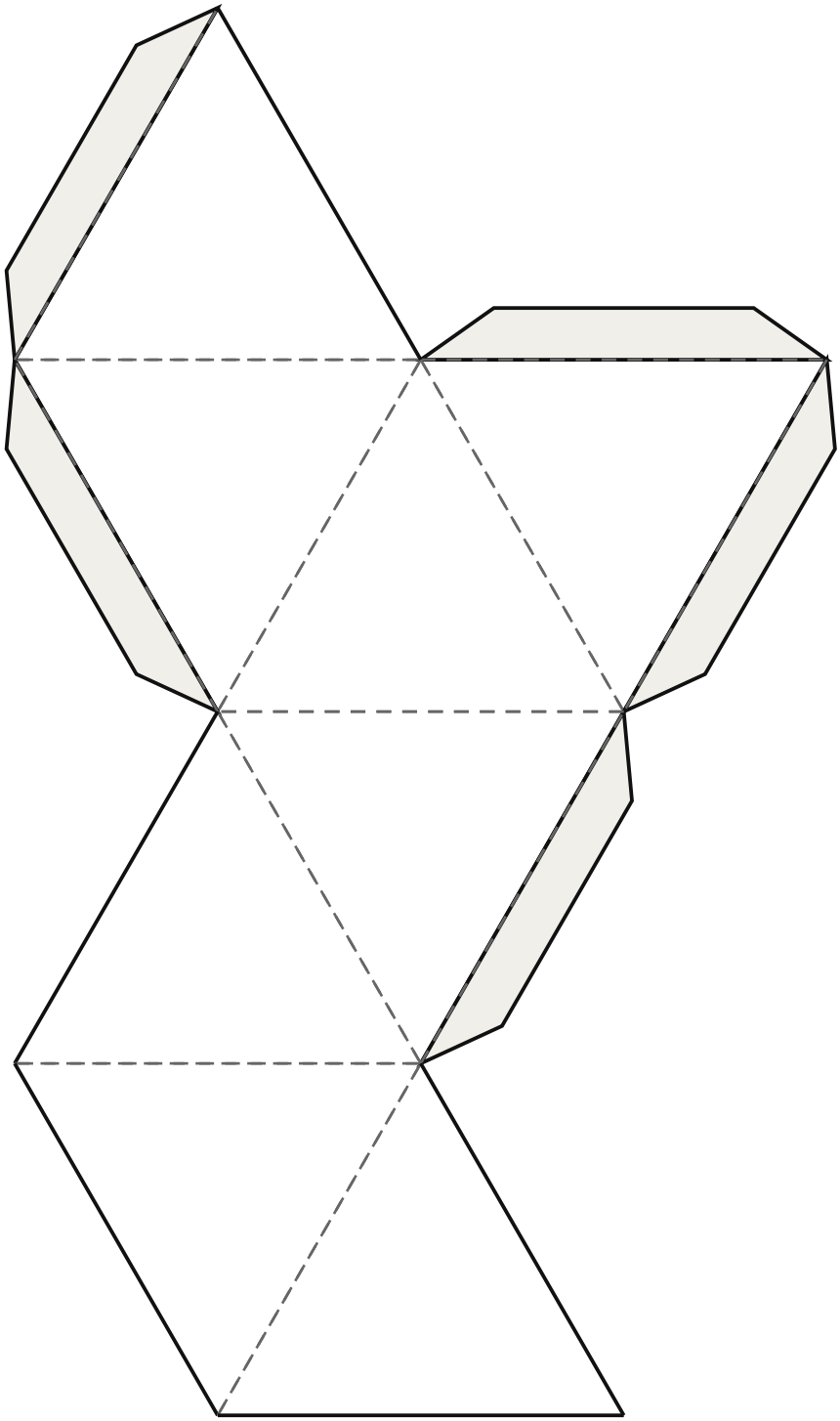

For metallic or colored paper. Cut along the solid lines, fold along the dashed lines, and glue the gray tabs.

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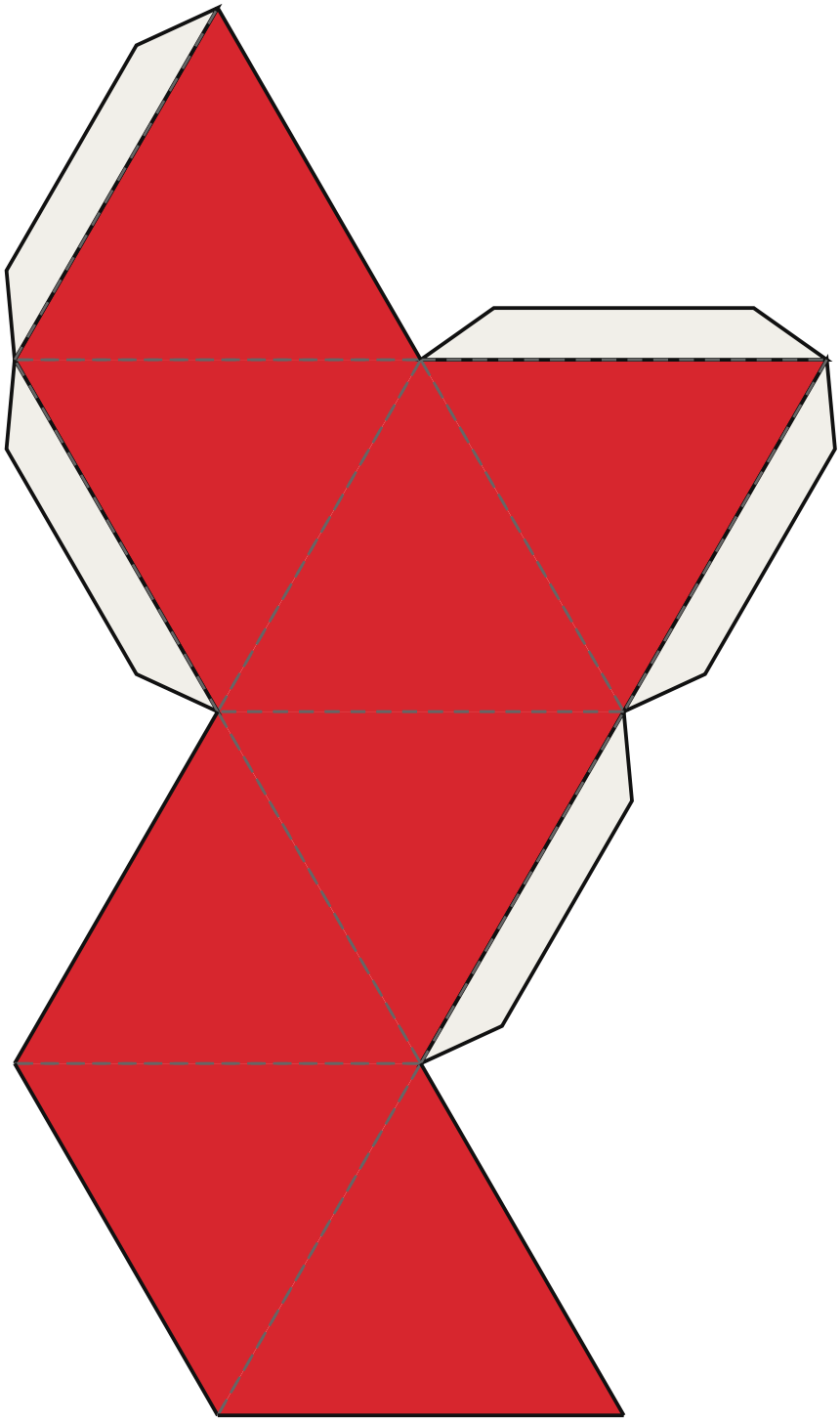

Print on cardstock. For extra shine, cover the colored side with clear packing tape before cutting.

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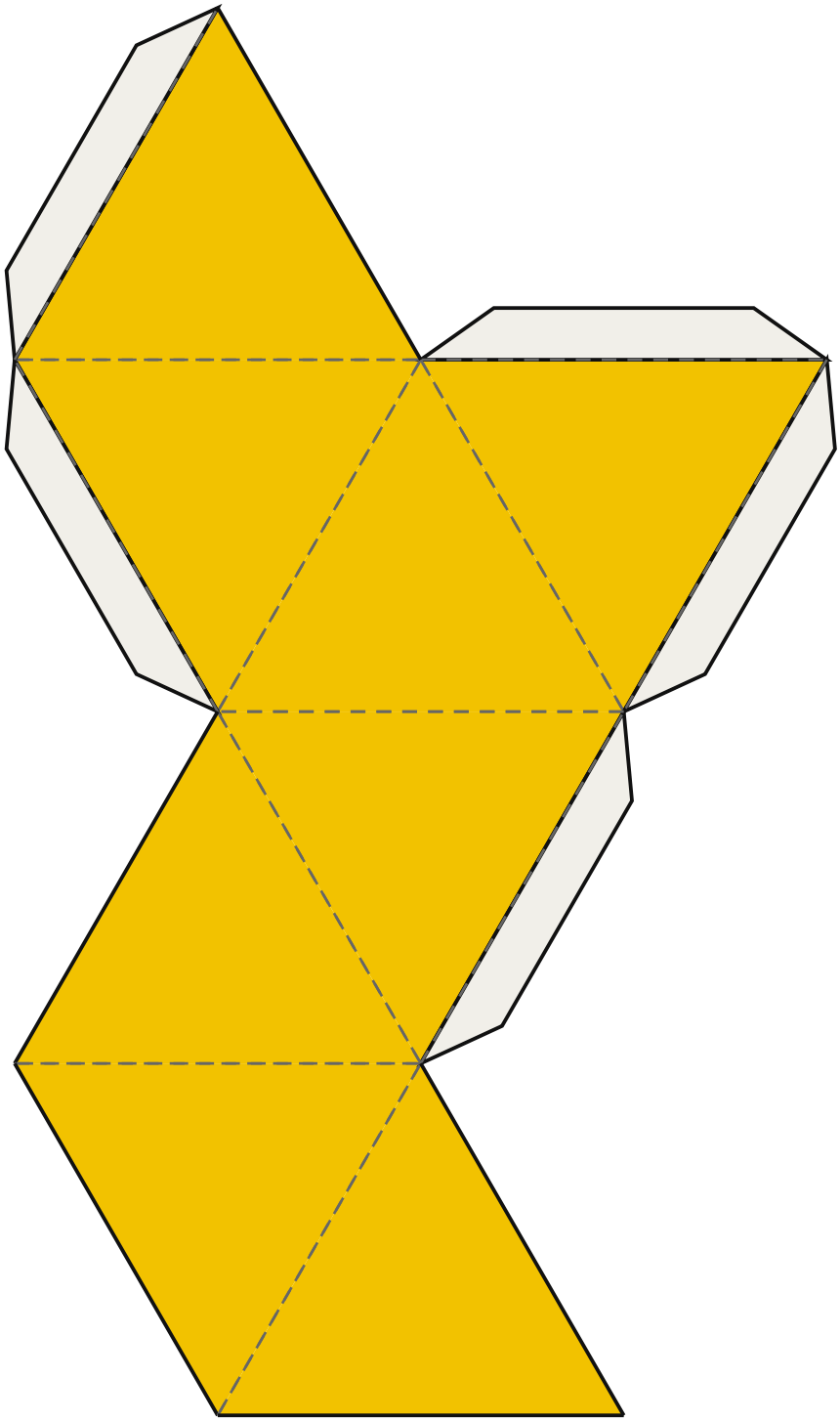

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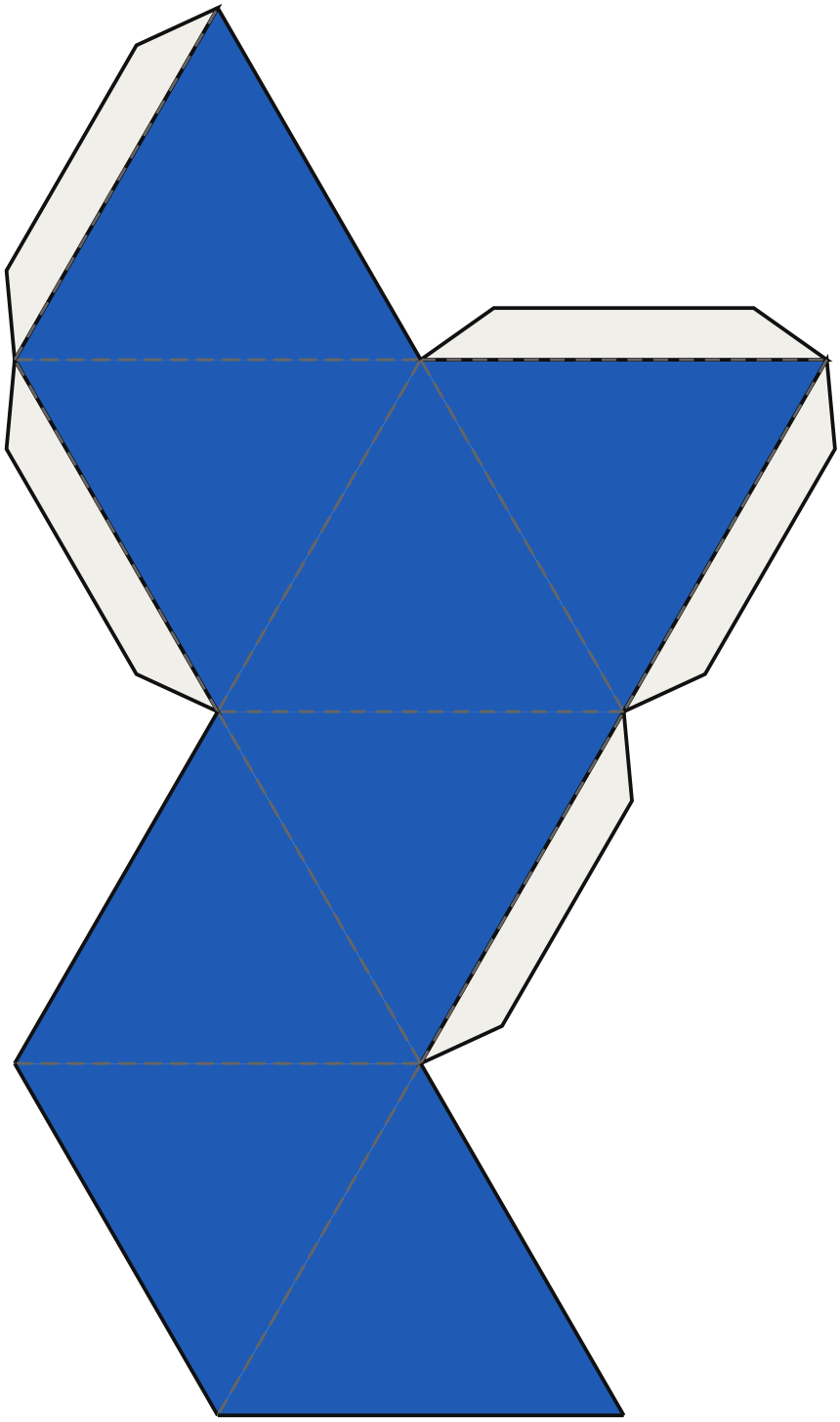

Print on cardstock. For extra shine, cover the colored side with clear packing tape before cutting.

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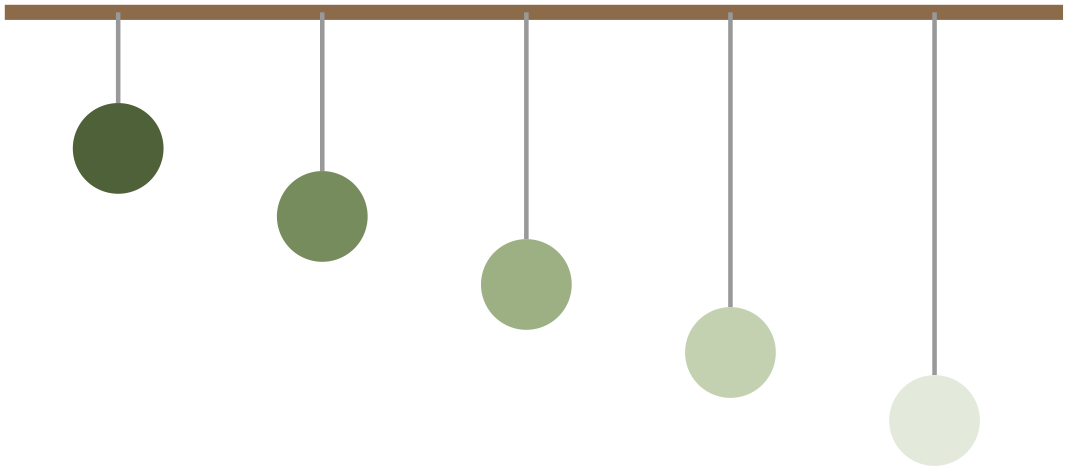
MOBILE 3 · 7 TO 10 WEEKS

The Gobbi mobile

Five spheres wrapped in thread, in five shades of one color from light to dark, hung on a slant. Your baby's eyes can now pick up subtle differences in shade, and this mobile gives them something new to study.



HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Choose one color and five shades of embroidery floss, from very light to very dark. The swatches below help you check the gradient.
2. Wrap each ball tightly and evenly with one shade, securing the start and end with a dab of glue.
3. Thread each ball onto its own length of thread with a needle, knotting underneath.
4. Hang them from one dowel, evenly spaced, the darkest one hanging lowest and each lighter one a little higher, so they form a diagonal line.

SHADE GUIDE

Sage

Blue

Rose

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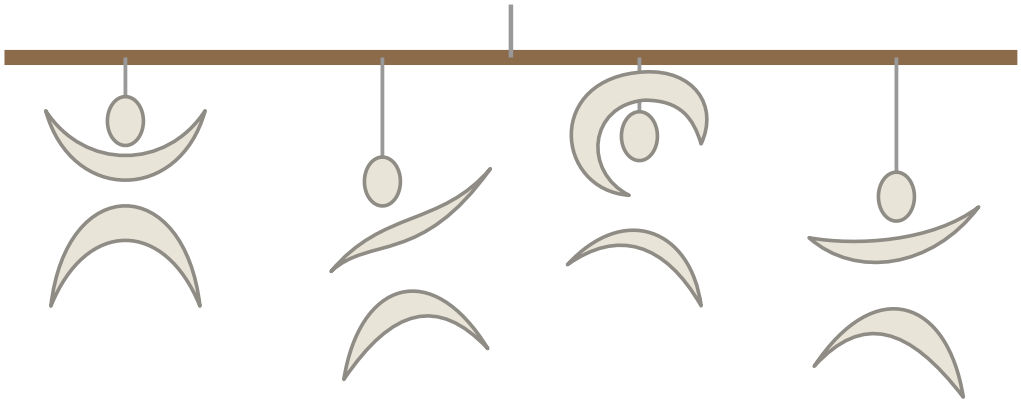
MOBILE 4 · 8 TO 12 WEEKS

The Dancers mobile

Four light figures that turn at the slightest breath of air. Movement is the main attraction here. The figures catch the light and seem to dance, which holds your baby's gaze as their eye tracking gets smoother.



HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Print the template twice, ideally on holographic or metallic paper. Each dancer is made of three pieces, a head, arms and legs.
2. Cut out all the pieces and glue each one back to back with its twin from the second print, so both sides shine.
3. Pierce the small circles with a needle. Join each dancer's head, arms and legs with short loops of thread, leaving a few millimeters between the pieces so they can swing on their own.
4. Hang the four dancers from a cross of two dowels, or from a single dowel, at slightly different heights.
5. Hang the mobile where a gentle air current reaches it, away from any heater or open window.

The template is on the next page. Print it twice. Each assembled dancer is about 4 in (10 cm) tall.

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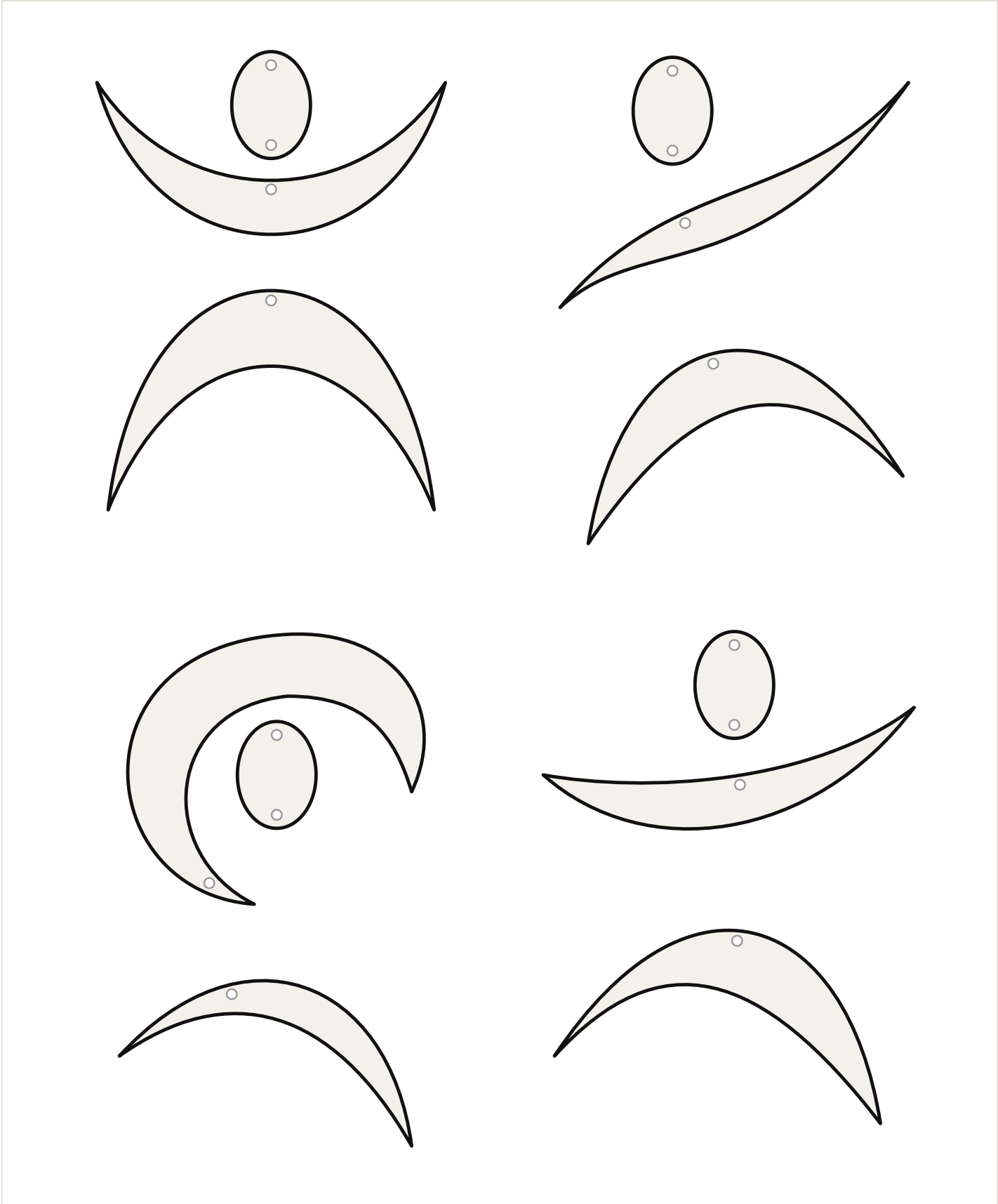

Cut along the outlines. Pierce the small circles for the thread. The top hole on each head is for hanging.

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AFTER THE VISUAL MOBILES

From looking *to acting*

Around 3 to 5 months, your baby moves from watching to swiping and grabbing. Take the visual mobiles down and replace them with a **tactile** mobile hung within reach, like a wooden ring or a bell on a short, secure ribbon. Use it only while you're there to watch.

FROM THE BOOK

Modules 1 and 2 of *The Everyday Montessori Baby* explain how each mobile fits your baby's development, what to watch for, and what to do if you'd rather not make mobiles at all.

NO TIME TO CRAFT?

The high-contrast cards in your printables pack do a similar job in the first weeks. Stand one beside the mat.

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