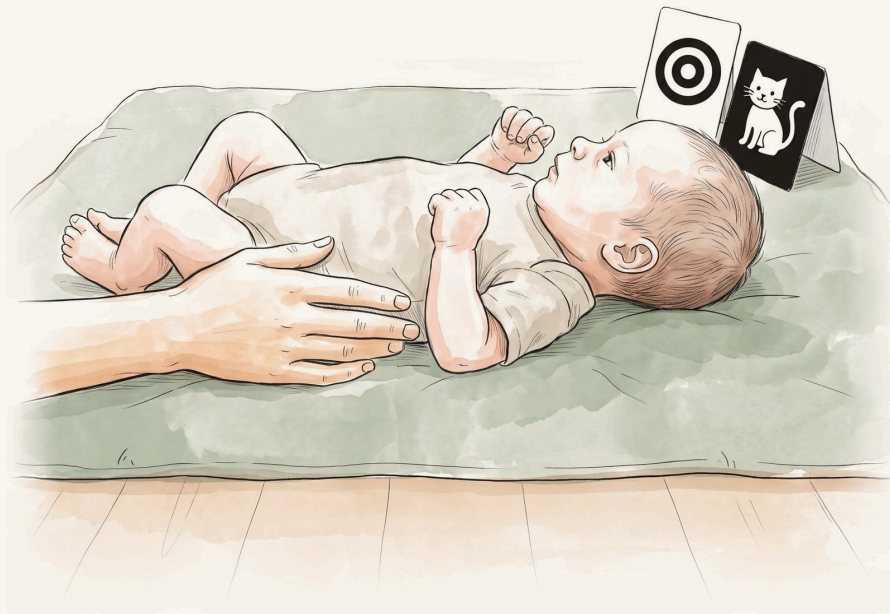


High-Contrast *Cards*

32 printable cards for your baby's first months, with 24 in black and white from birth and 8 with red for around 3 months and up.

A companion to **The Everyday Montessori Baby**, 0 to 18 months.
Print on cardstock, cut, and stand one beside the mat.



Simple, bold shapes for *brand-new* eyes

In the first weeks, your baby sees best what is bold, simple and close. Black and white shapes stand out clearly, which is why these cards can hold a newborn's attention for surprisingly long stretches.

PRINT AND PREPARE

- Print on thick matte cardstock (white, 200 to 300 g/m² or 80 to 110 lb), at 100% scale.
- Cut along the dashed lines. Laminate them if you like, or slip them into clear sleeves.
- Pages 3 to 8 are black and white (from birth). Pages 9 and 10 add red, for around 3 months and up.

USE THEM THE MONTESSORI WAY

- 1 Stand one card beside the movement mat, about 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 cm) from your baby's face, during calm, awake time.
- 2 Offer one or two cards at a time. More is not better. One interesting thing is plenty.
- 3 Watch for the "lock-on": a sudden stillness and an intent gaze. Stay quiet and let them look.
- 4 When your baby looks away, they need a break. Wait, then try again later or switch cards.
- 5 Rotate every few days. A card put away for a week feels new again.

SAFETY

Use the cards during supervised awake time only. Keep them out of the sleep space, out of reach of grasping hands, and away from your baby's mouth. Cut corners can be sharp, so round them with scissors if you like.

FROM THE BOOK

Module 1 of *The Everyday Montessori Baby* explains why one well-chosen visual beats a pile of toys, and how cards fit into the sequence of Montessori mobiles.

