

Montessori DIY Activities in the Home



0-1 Years



0-3 Months:

BLACK AND WHITE HIGH CONTRAST IMAGES

Instructions:

1. Print images from files section of the Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook group.
2. Laminate the images.
3. Put black tape between the images.

Photo Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Iulia Toth



Montessori Mobiles

MUNARI MOBILE

Instructions:

1. Cut 1 black circle with a 7 cm diameter and 1 white circle with a 7 cm diameter.
2. Cut a circle with a 6 cm. diameter out of the black circle.
3. Glue the little black circle onto the big white circle.
4. Cut 2 rectangular shapes (one white, one black) 12 cm. in length and 6 cm. in width.
5. Cut one of the rectangles into a parallelogram and 4 "corners."
6. Cut 3 square shapes – one white and two black.
7. Cut the squares in half and glue them together so the shapes are mirrored on each side (one side is vertical, one side is horizontal). Hang this like a butterfly.
8. Cut three towels – one 18 cm., 30 cm., and 36 cm.
9. To hang, start with the "rectangle" and the "square."
10. Then hang the circle, then the globe. Hang them with the twisted thread so that each dowel can revolve without the figures touching each other.
11. Secure all but the top thread with glue, once balanced.

****As a DIY option, you can also use simple black and white paper or small objects found around your home.**

Photo Source: <https://www.etsy.com/listing/72875617/montessori-munari-mobile-black-and-white>



OCTAHEDRON MOBILE

Instructions:

1. Print out metallic shape templates onto cardstock and cut along the outer lines.
2. Score along the dotted lines using a ruler and a pen.
3. Fold along the dotted lines.
4. Glue one tab in place and secure it with tape on the inside of the octahedron.
5. Continue gluing the other tabs in place.
6. Before you glue the last one in place, tie a bead to the one end of the invisible thread you will use to hang the octahedron and hold it to the inside of the shape.
7. Glue the last tab in place and close the shape.
8. Repeat to build all three shapes.
9. Assemble the mobile to be approximately 40 cm. long.

***As a DIY option, you can also use red, yellow, and blue objects found around your home such as child's balls, dryer balls, etc.**

Picture Source: <https://www.howwemontessori.com/how-we-montessori/2011/05/the-octahedron-mobile.html>



GOBBI MOBILE

Instructions:

1. Use the dowel to carefully bore a hole in each of the spheres. Try to get the hole to run straight through the center of the sphere. You can wiggle the dowel a bit as it's going in, or scrape the sides of the hole once it's made, so that the diameter of the hole is slightly larger than the diameter of the dowel.
2. Prepare a long piece of floss (about 48") and thread your needle.
3. Pass your needle with the floss through the hole in one sphere, until most of it has passed through and you only have a small "tail" of floss sticking out. Smooth that "tail" onto the sphere (the Styrofoam will help to grip the thread) and bring the needle around to the hole where you started.
4. Insert the needle again, pass the thread through, and make sure that you "step" on the tail with the thread that is now wrapped from one end of the sphere to the other.
5. Bring the needle back around, and repeat, threading it into the hole and pulling the thread through. Try to keep the resulting strands of thread as close together as possible, so they begin to cover up the white of the sphere.
6. When you've used up all the thread on the needle, leave a little tail and smooth it down onto the sphere. Thread your needle with more floss, insert in the hole, and repeat the process from step #3. Eventually, your entire sphere will be covered in floss and no Styrofoam will show through.
7. When you are done, pass the needle through the hole one last time and leave a length of floss about 12-16 inches long (this will be used for hanging the spheres).
8. Repeat the entire process with the next ball, using the next shade of embroidery floss.

***As a DIY option, you can also use child's balls or dryer balls in a gradation of color.**

<https://montessoriedited.com/product/crocheted-super-set/>



DANCER MOBILE

Instructions:

1. Peel one of the metallic papers and stick it on to the back of the pattern so that you can see the shapes. Cut out the shapes.
2. One side of the shapes should now be covered with shiny hologram paper. Peel the other metallic paper and stick the shapes to it, white paper side down. Cut the pieces. You should now have hologram paper on both sides.
3. Lay the shapes out so they create figures. You can make each side all one color or alternate. Use the needle to poke holes through the shapes and thread the fishing wire through to tie the shapes together, knotting the bottom. Tie the fishing wire to the wooden dowels at varying lengths. You now have a mobile with graceful, shiny dancers!

***As a DIY option, you can also use red, yellow, and blue objects found around your home such as child's balls, dryer balls, etc.**

Picture Source: <http://texashealthmoms.blogspot.com/2012/03/dancer-mobile.html>



HOMEMADE MOBILE

Picture Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Tiphannie Kubala



TOPPONCINO

Instructions:

1. Cut a 25 in. x 16 in. rectangular with rounded corners pattern from a large piece of paper.
2. From this pattern, trace and cut five shapes from muslin fabric and six shapes from cotton batting.
3. Cut two additional shapes from the muslin and set them aside for the cover.
4. Align all of the pieces on top of one another, starting with batting, and alternating between muslin and batting, ending in batting.
5. Pin these layers in place.
6. Stitch along the edge of the pillow insert by hand, using a hemming stitch. You don't necessarily have to stitch through every layer for each stitch, but rather just the edges of the top and bottom layers, bundling them all together in the process.
7. Next, take the remaining two shapes cut from muslin fabric, and lay them on top of one another. Pin, and stitch along the sides, leaving a gap on one end.
8. Turn inside out. Roll up the pillow insert, then through the gap, insert the pillow into the cover.
9. Hand-stitch the pillow closed.
10. To keep the insert from shifting in the pillowcase, use embroidery floss to hand-stitch at five or six points in the pillow.
11. Thread your needle, tie the ends of the floss, then stitch through the pillow from the front to the back. Then tie the threads on the other side and cut the threads after the knot.
12. Using the same pattern as before, cut one shape from a soft cotton fabric. Next, cut the paper pattern down, slicing a quarter off one of the short ends.
13. Cut two shapes from the now altered paper pattern.
14. Put the pieces together as follows: Largest piece laying face up, smaller pieces laying face down. Sew along all edges, then turn right-side out.
15. Inset the pillow in through the back, with the smaller pieces overlapping. Add trim along the top if desired.

Image Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Rita Sterns



3-6 Months:

GRASPING BELL ON A RIBBON

Instructions:

1. Decide where to place the grasping ring/bell, then measure the distance between the ceiling hook and the floor/bed. Remember to leave space for the child's body and arm.
2. Loop the ribbon through the ring and/or bell. Fold the ribbon under itself so that the frayed edge is hidden. Sew the two sides together. Reinforce the seam.
3. Loop the elastic over the flat side of the D-ring. Sew a seam directly underneath the D-ring.
4. Sew the bottom piece of elastic to the top of the ribbon. Reinforce the seam.

Photo Source: <https://www.howwemontessori.com/how-we-montessori/2011/06/bell-on-a-ribbon.html>

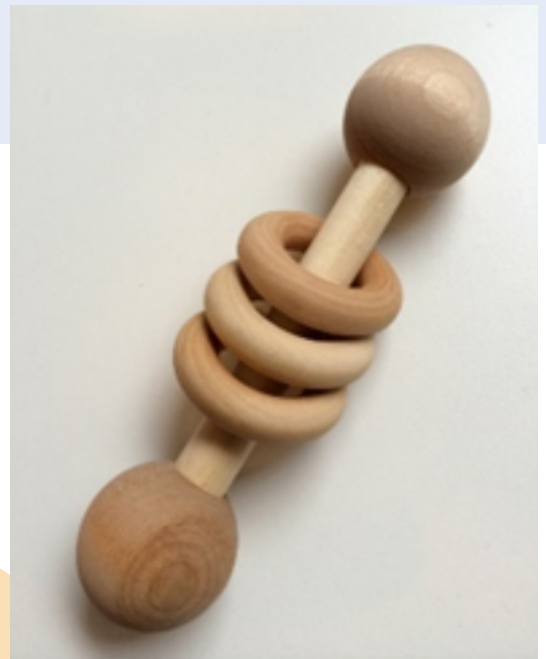


WOODEN GRASPING RATTLE

Instructions:

1. Using a saw, cut a 3/8 in. hardwood dowel 4 in. long.
2. Lightly sand the beads, wooden rings, and the length of the dowel with sandpaper.
3. Wipe all parts clean with a damp paper towel and let dry.
4. If you choose to stain your wood with a natural coloring like turmeric or beet root powder, do that now.
5. Seal all parts with an all-natural sealant, taking care to avoid sealing the ends of the dowel and the insides of the bead holes.
6. Put some wood glue inside one of the holes of one of the beads (about 1/16 of a tsp.). Insert the wooden dowel as far as it will go. (You can even tap it on the table to make sure it gets jammed in securely.). Wipe any glue that oozes out with a damp Q-tip.
7. Place the three rings around the dowel.
8. Put some wood glue inside the remaining bead. Place this bead on the open dowel end to cap it, pushing as hard as you can/banging on the table, to get the bead to go as far down onto the dowel as possible. Wipe any glue that oozes out away with a damp Q-tip.
9. Let dry for 24 hours.

Photo Source: <https://raisingfaye.com/2015/01/23/diy-montessori-grasping-rattle/>



PUZZLE BALL

Instructions:

1. You will need first to cut 6 circles of 13 cm diameter in a plain fabric.
2. Then, cut each of these circles into 4 pieces – total 24 pieces of plain fabric.
3. Cut 3 circles of 13 cm diameter in the decorative fabric.
4. Cut each of these circles into 4 pieces – total 12 pieces of decorative fabric.
5. Fold the curved part of the decorative fabric to create an oval shape and mark it with a sewing marker.
6. Cut along the marked line and keep only the oval part.
7. Place the back side of the decorative piece against the back side of a plain piece of fabric and pin it following the curvy edge.
8. Stitch the pieces together using a sewing machine, leaving a 5mm margin.
9. Do the same operation with a second piece of plain fabric on the remaining edge of the oval piece.
10. Stitch the sides of the future small cushion, leaving about 1 cm on each side to keep an opening at the bottom. You can now turn the piece upside down using this opening.
11. Make sure you pull well on the corners to obtain the right shape.
12. Put the polyester filling inside the little cushion created using the bottom opening until it is well filled.
13. Sew the bottom of the cushion to close it.
14. Repeat the sewing and filling operations until you have your 12 little cushions ready.
15. For the assembly, thread a needle and grab 3 little cushions.
16. Connect them by sewing the tips of the ovals together, forming a triangle.
17. Sew all the bottoms together in one point. Make sure you make solid stitches here as they will be the most strained seams during use.
18. Continue forming these groups of 3.
19. Before connecting the last group of 3, make sure you connect all of the bottom points together well. Finish connecting the last group of 3 to the rest at the tip of the ovals, forming your ball.

Picture Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Charlotte Bell



RIBBON MOBILE

Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Eniko Kurti

6-9 Months:

RIBBON PULLING

Instructions:

Tie various ribbons or string to the top of a wooden board or to the lid of a container for the child to pull.



Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Danielle Sandlof



Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Shelley May

ROLLING/SPINNING DRUM

Instructions:

1. Cut a long wooden dowel into twelve dowels of equal lengths.
2. Paint the dowels if desired.
3. Drill 12 holes into two wooden discs.
4. Glue the wooden dowels into the holes drilled in one disc with wood glue.
5. Put small objects such as bells or marbles inside.
6. Glue the wooden dowels into the holes drilled on the other wooden disc.

Source: <https://montessorinandnature.wordpress.com/2020/06/02/%E2%81%A3diy-montessori-rolling-drum-%F0%9F%A5%81/>
Photo Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Savannah Caples



THE SCARF BOX



Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group
Member, Ronda Fox



Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group,
Valerie Conrey

9-12 Months:



OBJECT PERMANENCE BOX

Instructions:

1. Using a knife or scissors, cut down the corners on the shorter side of the box to create a flap.
2. Cut the longer lengths of the box. The three remaining sides will sit on top of the tray to create the OP box.
3. Remove the right flap – keep this as you will need it later. Score across the base between the two cuts from Step 2.
4. Create a box by folding up the sides and securing with tape on the inside.
5. Draw a circle that will be big enough to fit the ball you are using. It may be helpful to trace around a bottle lid.
6. Tape around the inside of the circle you've cut to smooth out the edges.
7. Cut away the bottom half of the front of the box. Make sure it is tall enough for the ball to fit through.
8. Place the extra cardboard from Step 3 into the base of the box. Angle it so it forms a ramp for the ball to roll down. Secure with tape. The ramp means that the ball will always roll into the tray and won't stay hidden inside when it is dropped in the hole.
9. Use the tape to secure all corners and the front of the box.
10. Place the box into the tray. This is a good time to do a test run to make sure the ramp isn't too steep or not steep enough and the ball will roll into the tray.
11. Secure the box to the tray using tape. You may choose to add more tape to make it look more visually appealing.

Photo Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Barbara Basia

OBJECT PERMANENCE BOX (using a recycled wipes container)

Photo Source: Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Flora Cross



POSTING ACTIVITIES

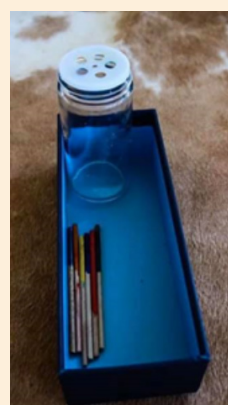


Photo Source: Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Flora Cross

Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Sarah Swan

WOODEN RINGS ON A DOWEL



Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Arshdeep Gill



Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Robin Ryan



Source: Montessori at Home 0-3 Facebook Group Member, Samantha Kaczinski

“YES” CABINET/DRAWER IN KITCHEN

- Create a place where your child can play with pots & pans or containers with lids, practicing taking them out of the cabinet and putting them back in, taking the lids off and putting them back on, drumming on them with their hands or kitchen utensils, etc.
- You can then redirect your child back to this cabinet/drawer when they are exploring other areas of the kitchen with materials they should not have or areas that may not be safe

Source: <https://www.icanteachmychild.com/toddler-time-pots-pans-puzzles/>

