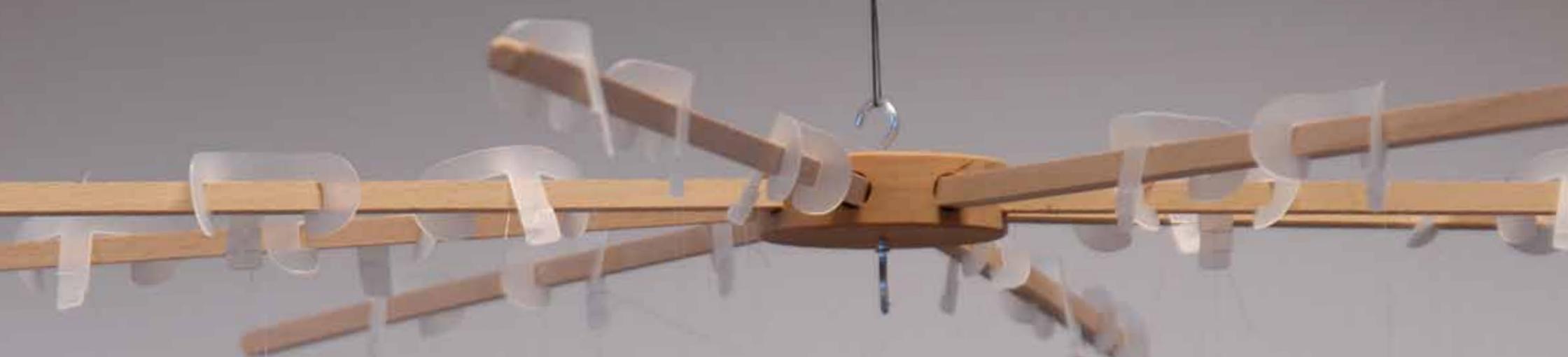




Group Mobile

Helping children and teachers to explore the harmony and balance of a group



Representing a class and each of its members... as a dynamic system

The **Group Mobile** invites teachers and students to explore their interconnectedness, and their sense of belonging to the class group. As each person creates and attaches a personal representation of themselves that captures their sense of identity and self-expression, the mobile takes shape as a dynamic, visible representation of the entire class as a human system. It provides a focus for understanding and resolving conflicts and challenges within the group, as well as for celebrating moments of common achievement and harmony.



Pupils at Ralph Allen Secondary School, Bath, UK using a **Group Mobile**

'Who belongs to our class?'





'The class often celebrated by tying a ribbon and a "well-done" star on each others' cards.'

Caroline Dixon, St John's CE Primary School, Warminster

Coming and Going

In a class of eight-year-olds, Fergus, a very popular and well-loved pupil, left to live abroad with his family. This caused upset in the class, especially for two of his closest friends. The children decided they could not bring themselves to remove his card from the class mobile. The teacher wisely decided to leave it there and discuss it at some future date.

A few weeks later, Craig joined the class. He was lacking in confidence. The children discussed with the teacher the idea of Craig having a card on the mobile. Including him in this way helped him to settle and his confidence improved. However, the children noticed that the mobile was not in balance and discussed why. They decided that the time had come to remove Fergus's card, and even his close friends agreed. The class was able to celebrate their welcome for Craig and the fact that, although still loved and remembered, Fergus would not return.

Learning Tools – Group Mobile

Designed and developed by **ecf** practitioners with teachers and parents, the **Group Mobile** enables children and young people to explore who they are and how they relate to others as a group. It helps teachers to develop in children a strong sense of mutual and collective responsibility as they discover what both disturbs and supports their learning.

The mobile is constructed by the class as a three-dimensional, moving representation of the class group – a dynamic system – supporting teachers and children to find and maintain balance and harmony amongst themselves.

The mobile is designed to hang in a prominent place in the classroom. Children, teachers, learning assistants and visitors all place their 'personal cards' on the mobile, arranging them carefully so that the mobile is in balance. Each card may include the person's photo, together with drawings, writings or symbols that capture and express that person's sense of self. Children leaving or joining the class, issues around poor behaviour, or even causes for celebration can take the mobile out of balance. The group can look at and discuss changing relationships and issues together in an objective, 'no-blame' way.

Large-scale, aimed especially for use in schools, the group mobile kit contains eight smooth beech wood arms, 30 unique sliding clips plus 30 cards and a reel of thread. Assembly is straightforward. All components come in a heavy canvas storage bag.

A comprehensive 32-page instruction book is included in the pack, with a detailed and step-by-step guide for the teacher or assistant, full of ideas, real-life examples and ways to work.

Made up size 82cm diameter.

Suitable for up to 30 school age children, from four years old onwards with adult assistance.

Price £30 (ex VAT and p&p).

To learn more about **Group Mobile**
email us at chris.charles@edfoundation.org

To learn more about **edl**'s work and other learning tools
visit www.edfoundation.org

