HOW OLD IS THAT KITTEN?

Kittens are adorable at any age, but did you know that figuring out how old a kitten is can help determine what sort of care they need? It can be tricky to tell, but our at-a-glance kitten progression chart, featuring Darling the kitten, is here to help you out!

NEWBORN
When kittens are first born they are completely helpless—their eyes are closed, their ears are folded, and they can’t stand. They rely on mom for everything!

ONE WEEK
Darling is starting to become more aware of his surroundings! At about seven days old, a kitten’s ears will unfold and their eyes may start to open.

TWO WEEKS
Look at those blue peepers! Darling’s eyes are fully open, and he is taking his first wobbly steps. Kittens this age start interacting more with each other, but still need mom.

THREE WEEKS
Darling’s now playing with his siblings and getting more mobile. You should be able to tell if kittens are boys or girls. You can start providing a litter box and wet food.

FOUR WEEKS
Look how much Darling has grown! At four weeks kittens are sturdy on their feet and playing with each other, toys, and people.

FIVE WEEKS
Let’s play!

SIX WEEKS
Get ready for a lot of fun! Darling is now full of energy and plays exuberantly. Interacting with people is important for kittens of this age. Darling is developing lots of personality!

SEVEN WEEKS
Every day Darling is getting more sure of himself through socialization and play. He’s using the litter box and eating cat food—though he still visits mom for snacks and comfort.

EIGHT WEEKS
Darling is almost fully weaned, and continues to play and learn. Being introduced to new people, places in the home, and other pets is an important part of socialization.

NINE WEEKS
Two pounds! Darling now weighs enough to be neutered. He’s also getting more skilled and adventurous. Darling is learning so much from his mom, siblings, and human caregiver.

TEN WEEKS
Looking pretty grown-up, Darling! At this age kittens are behaving and using their body language like adult cats. Darling is eating all solid food, and his eyes have gone from blue to yellow.

Get even more details (and cute pics!) with our week-by-week kitten progression resource at alleycat.org/KittenProgression