

How to Set Up a Foster Kitten Space



Choose a Safe Area

Quiet and Secure

Select a room away from high traffic, such as a spare office or bathroom. A quiet space helps reduce stress, especially for shy or recently rescued kittens.

Child & Pet Safe

Ensure the area is free of hazards (dangling cords, toxic plants, breakable items) and secure enough that the kittens can't escape.

Music & Light

Soft, calming music can help reduce stress. Keep the lighting gentle, especially if kittens are nervous

Pheromone Diffusers

Consider using feline pheromone diffusers (such as Feliway) to create a sense of calm and security.

Essential Furnishings

For Neonatal Kittens (<3 weeks)

Neonatal kittens can be started in a top-opening nesting box - something as simple as a plastic tub works well. No litter box is needed for kittens under 3 weeks, as they rely on their mother (or their foster with set feeding and cleaning schedule) for elimination.

Sleeping Areas

Provide cozy bedding (soft blankets, small pet beds, or even a designated box) for warmth and comfort. Kittens up to 4 weeks old require a reliable heat source to maintain their body temperature. Use a heating pad set to low and ensure the pad is covered with a casing or blanket to prevent scalds and overheating.

Litter Box

At 3 weeks, introduce a shallow cat litter box with non-clumping litter. The cardboard tray from 12 or 24 packs of canned food can work as well. Place the litter box in a quiet, accessible location.

For Kittens 3 Weeks and Older

Playpens: Once kittens reach 3 weeks, consider upgrading their space to a playpen. Mesh or panel playpens can be arranged to suit your available space while giving them room to safely explore.

When kittens are 6 to 8 weeks old, they may be ready to roam the whole room, or explore the rest of your home. Just make sure any space you give them access to is safe and secure!

Feeding Station

Set up separate bowls for food and water. Keep feeding areas away from the litter box to maintain hygiene. Follow a schedule and use age-appropriate food.



Learn more from
The Kitten Lady!

Play & Exploration

Toys At about 4 weeks old, you can start introducing kitten-safe toys such as feather wands, crinkle balls, soft mice, and even tubes and tunnels. Toys provide exercise and mental stimulation. Rotating their toys every few days helps keep things engaging and fun.

Scratching Posts & Climbing Structures

Include a scratching post or pad to help maintain claw health. If space permits, add a cat tree or shelves so kittens can safely climb and explore.

Kitten Dashboard

