

## Learning Skills

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Kittens must learn a variety of vital skills before leaving their mother's care, including how to find food and hunt for prey. Early in the kittens' development, the mother brings dead prey to her young. As the kittens age, the mother progresses to providing live prey, releasing it near the kittens, and allowing the kittens to investigate and practice killing the prey. Interestingly, later in life, kittens tend to follow their mother's choice of prey when they themselves hunt. This type of learning pattern through observation is called social learning. In addition to learning how to hunt, social learning plays an important role in shaping a kitten's behaviour and demeanour, especially around humans and other animals. Therefore, having exposure to a mother cat who is friendly to humans and even-tempered can affect a kitten's behaviour for life.

