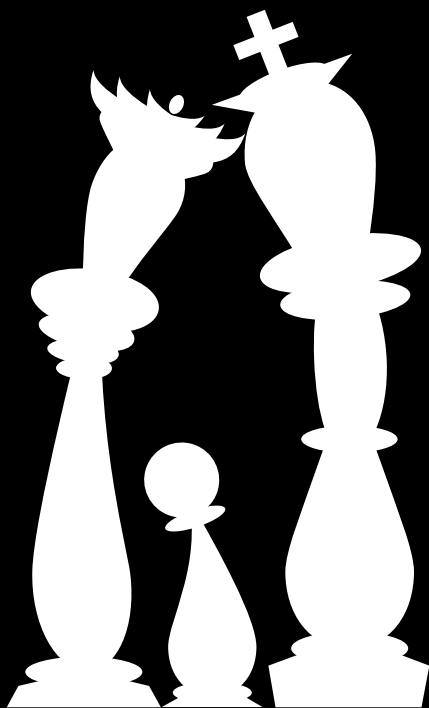


How To Teach Your Child Chess



Andy Trattner

The must-read guide for anyone teaching chess to beginners.

Chess is one of those incredible bonding opportunities—like cooking, swimming, or riding a bike—that your child will remember for life.

Unfortunately, chess is hard, so most folks screw it up. Kids are pushed in the opposite direction, forever finding chess complicated and boring.

This book explains 15 simple, impactful ideas to ensure a positive chess experience for your family. It's structured to be interactive, rigorous, and very digestible.

In less than five minutes with chapter 1, you will be engaged in the first fun minigame: Bishops + Rooks. Get ready to explore key chess fundamentals by playing together and having a great time!

Coach Andy has taught hundreds of kids to love chess. He's delighted to share his hard-earned stories and essential lessons for making chess easy, intuitive, and educational for beginners of all ages. More on the author at andytrattner.com/about.



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Contents

Introduction	4
Bishops and Rooks	8
Basic Mechanics	11
Enrollment	14
Knight Battleship	16
Open Questions	19
Patient Expectations	23
Pawn Wars	26
Incentives	28
Empathetic Boundaries	31
Basic Checkmates	34
Adaptive Instruction	36
Good Habits	40
Progressive Chess	44
Contextual Motivation	45
Sacrifice	49
What's Next?	51
Acknowledgements	52
Appendix: The Rules of Chess	53

Introduction

My dad taught me chess when I was six years old. I don't remember much, except that it felt boring and complicated.

My dad wasn't very fun to play with. He would take my pieces and I felt I was always making a mistake. After momentary interest engaging in the new activity, I quickly became irritable and frustrated, wanting to do other things. Video games were much more fun for me.

Learning chess at a young age did not enhance my intelligence or benefit me in any way, except one: I was able to play the game with friends during indoor recess in middle school.

As peers, we discovered the joys of tactical combinations. We furiously tried to attack and checkmate each other in the first few moves. We paired up to learn the fast-paced team variant, bughouse. None of us knew

what we were doing, but suddenly, the game became fun.

Once I was engaged in playing, and wanted to come up with new strategies to beat my friends, I was ready and excited to join the chess team in high school. I went from novice to expert, reading dozens of chess books and playing in rated tournaments.

And so, like the great World Champions and their professional grandmaster peers, I became a chess player. Not because of my early years but rather in spite of them.

Kids all over the world associate chess with the first experience, the dull pain, rather than the second, the playful learning. It's so easy to get frustrated or bored at the start, when someone is telling you a bunch of arbitrary piece movements.

Folks understandably stop short, thinking that improving at chess is laborious and unrewarding. As adults, they continue feeling disinterested and vaguely incompetent.

This book tackles the problem by providing a framework for learning chess that's engaging and empowering from the start. We completely bypass the boring frustration by equipping you with intuitive learning tools.

The key idea is to play simplified chess minigames. After five minutes with chapter 1, you can jump right in to fun, highly instructive interactions with your kids!

This method doesn't sacrifice rigor; we will remain laser focused on teaching the core themes and basic skills which make chess a universal metaphor for strategic thinking.

I developed the chapters to come through much trial and error teaching hundreds of students across the country, from pre-K infants to reluctant retirees. In addition to teaching directly, I've also helped parents and other chess instructors effectively employ these ideas with their kids.

It turns out that making chess curriculum fun and intuitive is only half the battle. So

each minigame chapter is followed by a teaching method and a parenting principle. These are essential tips and tricks, sometimes only indirectly related to chess, that will greatly help your child feel motivated to progress in their learning.

A couple notes on chapter structure before we dive in. First, each chapter is self-contained, so jump around as you like. Second, the book focuses...

THIS IS A PREVIEW

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