

# ChessKid

## ChessKid's Guide For Teaching Chess



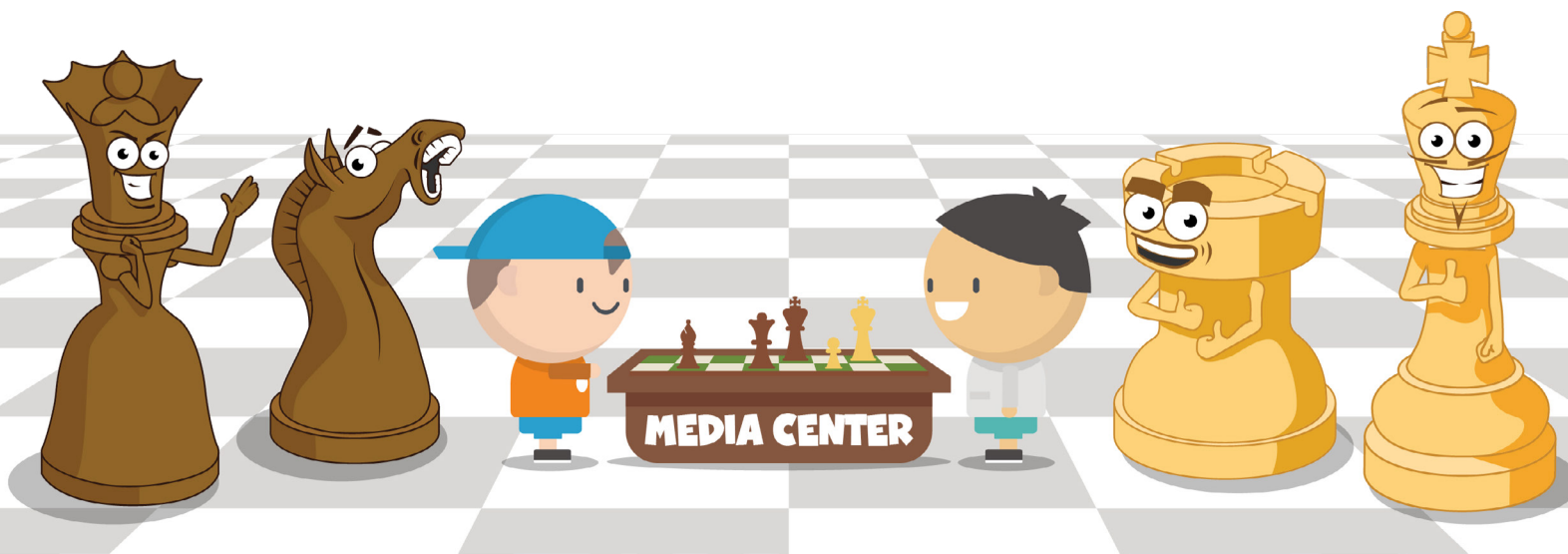
# ChessKid's Guide For Teaching Chess

This ebook has been created to help anyone and everyone to teach chess. Whether you are a parent, coach, teacher, or other professional, it has the information that you need. Do you fit in one of these situations?

- ▶ I'd love to help start a chess program at my school, but I'm a **math/science/English teacher** and don't know anything about teaching chess.
- ▶ I run a **homeschool program** with limited resources - what can help me teach kids chess?
- ▶ I'm a **decent chess player** and love ChessKid - but I know nothing about teaching chess to kids.
- ▶ I'm a **coach looking for more resources** to boost my already - established chess program - but most materials cost me an arm and a leg. Is there anything for free?

Let **ChessKid** help you to teach chess. First, what is ChessKid? It's the world's number-one chess site for kids! Our experience of helping kids stay motivated to learn and improve their chess skills can benefit you, particularly in the early stages of a child's growth.

Created for students from absolute beginners to kids experienced in playing in rated tournaments, ChessKid is fun for kids as well as parents, teachers, and coaches. New content is being added all the time to the site.



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*"What is learned in fun is never forgotten."*

-Victoria Winifred,  
author of *The Princess,  
the Knight, and the Lost God: A Chess Story*

# How To Start A Chess Club

Starting a chess club has several advantages for kids, schools, and the larger chess community. Kids learn from each other, and having others at the same skill level can build enthusiasm for playing well. Do you know that ChessKid can help you organize clubs, and your clubs can play for free on ChessKid? To get started, here are some initial ideas you should consider:

**CHESSKID TIP:** Ask your principal if they would allow a chess elective or enrichment time.



- ▶ Are chess clubs in schools a good idea? [Absolutely. Find out why.](#)
- ▶ How can I benefit from the experiences of others who have started a club? [Read their advice.](#)
- ▶ How do I start a chess club at my school? [Learn about several options from early morning to after school.](#)
- ▶ How can I integrate ChessKid into my program? [This article can help.](#)
- ▶ Where can an adult join a public adult club? [Read the details.](#)

- ▶ Where can I share ideas, ask questions, and connect with other coaches and teachers? [Join the ChessKid feedback club.](#)
- ▶ What supplies do I need to start a club? ChessKid has already identified the supplies that you need for a club and that would be used during a tournament. [See the list.](#)
- ▶ Case Study: Learn from the experience of this teacher. [See the example in this case study.](#)
- ▶ Can a chess club help with English literacy of children who have recently immigrated? After all, chess uses a universal language. [Learn about the experience of a grandmaster who volunteered at an elementary school.](#)

**CHESSKID TIP:** ChessKid recommends to start your chess club for beginners to last no longer than 90 minutes to keep it fun and engaging.



**CHESSKID TIP:** Ask school administrators to encourage children who are not speaking English as a secondary language to join your chess club.



- ▶ How do I create a club on ChessKid? [It's easy – read how.](#)
- ▶ Where would my clubs be located on ChessKid? [Learn more about this service.](#)
- ▶ How can I start and manage a club on ChessKid? [This article explains what you need to know.](#)
- ▶ What should I consider if I want my club to be a nonprofit? [See this advice.](#)
- ▶ How are large groups organized on ChessKid? [Read about large groups.](#)



- ▶ See this video by FunMasterMike on how to set up and manage a club: [Click here.](#)
- ▶ Also watch this tutorial on [“Setting Up Clubs.”](#)



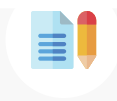
## UPCOMING CHESSKID CHESS EVENTS CALENDAR

Bookmark ChessKid's event page and refer to it for our scheduled live streams, special events, and opportunities to meet FunMasterMike and the ChessKid team in person!



# How to Create A Chess Classroom

Creating a chess classroom has been made easy for you by ChessKid. Here are the most common questions asked about creating a chess classroom:



- ▶ What are the benefits of having a chess classroom? A chess classroom provides the framework for presenting lessons and activities in a structured guide each week. [See how in this article.](#)
- ▶ What does classroom time look like? It should include time to review a previous lesson, watch a video about the current lesson, work through questions about the current lesson either individually or as a group, and discuss the concepts presents in the lesson. Then, most importantly, have fun by practicing and playing chess. [Review this structure.](#)



- ▶ See the ChessKid video tutorial that helps teachers and coaches in creating accounts for kids. [Click here.](#)

- ▶ How is each child's progress monitored? ChessKid has created levels to show how each student is progressing. Levels are an easy way to see which skills each student has mastered. Each level includes an introduction video, test questions, and the chance to earn stars in puzzles or fast chess. [Learn more about levels.](#)
- ▶ How do kids know what level they are in? When a kid logs into ChessKid, their homepage shows the progress that they have made in their current level. [Learn more about Levels.](#)
- ▶ Can the starting level be adjusted for a kid who is more advanced than someone just learning to play chess? Of course, the guardian can select the starting level for each kid by using the "Edit Kid" tool. [Read about how levels can be adjusted.](#)
- ▶ Does ChessKid have report cards that I can use to track student progress and report achievements to parents and families? Yes. [See this article.](#)

**CHESSKID TIP:** Chess time should be as much fun as recess. Don't forget the fun factor.



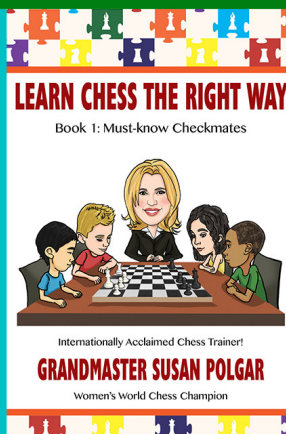
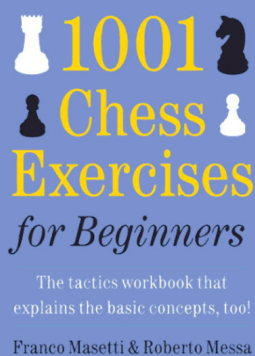
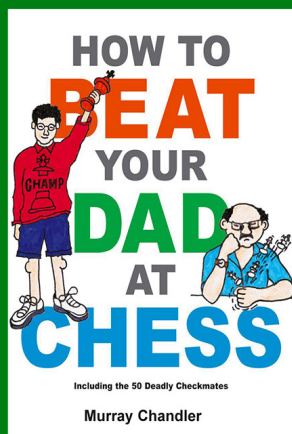
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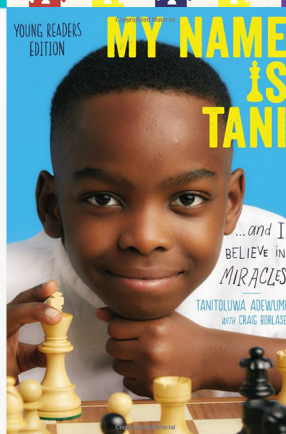
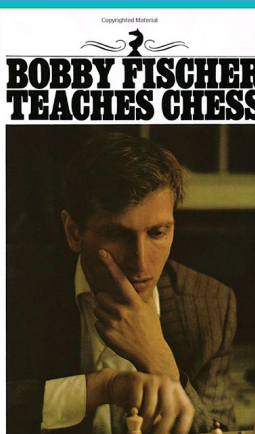
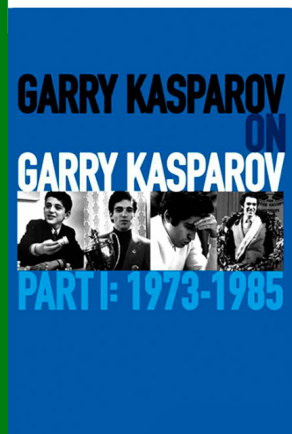
**CHESSKID TIP:** Kids enjoy reading chess books, especially between games. Here are some of our favorite chess books from the [ChessKid Shop!](#)



- ▶ Books can be helpful resources as complements to videos, lessons, and other content.



- *Chess for Children* by Murray Chandler
- *Tani's New Home* by Tanitoluwa Adewumi
- *Winning Chess Puzzles for Kids* by Jeff Coakley
- *Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess* by Bobby Fischer
- *Power Chess for Kids* by Charles Hertan
- *Chess for Educators* by Karel van Delft



# How To Use ChessKid's Free Classroom Planner

ChessKid has made teaching chess easy, whether you are a teacher, parent, coach, friend, or other professional. Here is what you need to know about the free Classroom Planner:



- ▶ What is the Classroom Planner? The Classroom Planner is a week-by-week guide for teaching chess. This 30-week guide presents online resources of ChessKid in one easy-to-use location. Even experienced chess teachers and coaches find the guide very helpful. [Learn more about the Classroom Planner.](#)

**CHESSKID TIP:** The planner was created by the 2019 Chess Educator of the Year, WFM Elizabeth Spiegel, a chess coach and teacher at New York City's Intermediate School 318 (I.S. 318). Show her movie [Brooklyn Castle](#) to inspire your students.



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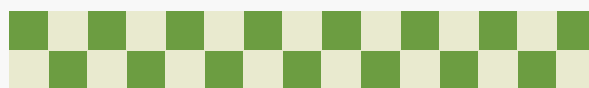
- ▶ Can someone who has never taught chess before use the Classroom Planner easily? Absolutely. The Planner was designed with both experienced chess coaches as well as new teachers in mind. [See why in this article.](#)

**CHESSKID TIP:** ChessKid collects user [testimonials](#) that can give you great ideas for your own chess program.

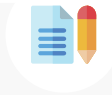


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- ▶ What is the structure of a Planner unit? Each unit recommends a suggested time to complete it and includes time for review, a video lesson, and discussion. Each unit also describes the purpose, identifies educational goals, reviews previous units, contains links for the lesson and a related video, and includes links for extra activities. [Read more about the structure.](#)
- ▶ Who can benefit by using the Planner? Math, elementary and middle school, computer lab, and special education teachers – literally every teacher – definitely can benefit. In addition, chess club coaches, student volunteers and mentors as well as parents will find the Planner helpful. [Learn about who can benefit.](#)







- ▶ Can the Planner help by using chess as a supplement to in-class math or computer time? Again, absolutely yes. Each unit indicates key learning objectives, such as numbers and objectives, problem-solving, reasoning and evidence, special reasoning, comparison, measurement, planning, pattern recognition, lines, and perimeter and area. [Read more about the Planner.](#)



*"I am able to pause videos and ask for feedback. I project the video on the whiteboard, so students can use dry erase markers to show their ideas for chess moves."*

-- Dayna Faultersack,  
teacher in Washington state

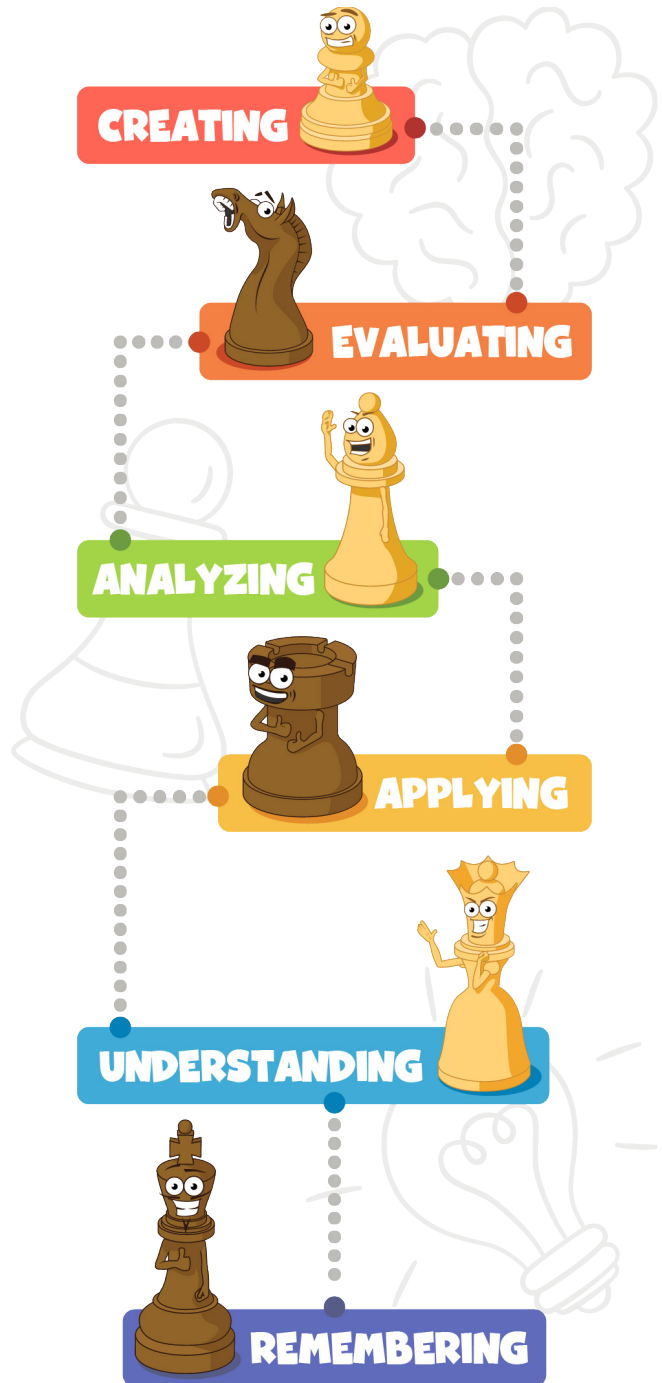


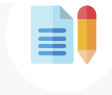
# How To Use ChessKid's Free Chess Curriculum

ChessKid has worked hard to align the Chess Curriculum to 21st-century skills by grade from kindergarten to fifth grade and has actually created material that helps students master skills beyond what is expected of them in those grade levels. Here is what you need to know about the free Chess Curriculum:



- ▶ What is the Chess Curriculum? ChessKid's Chess Curriculum is suitable for both classroom and one-on-one instruction. It has been designed to instill chess concepts in a fun way through practice. [Read more about the Curriculum.](#)
- ▶ How is the Chess Curriculum organized? It is organized to maximize effective learning and retention. Each section of the Curriculum includes diagrams, worksheets, and mini-games. [Read more about the Curriculum.](#)
- ▶ Is the Chess Curriculum useful for homeschooling programs? Yes. [See the testimonials from homeschooling programs.](#)
- ▶ How well can school districts use the Chess Curriculum? The best answer is to learn from districts that have used it. [Review these testimonials from school districts.](#)



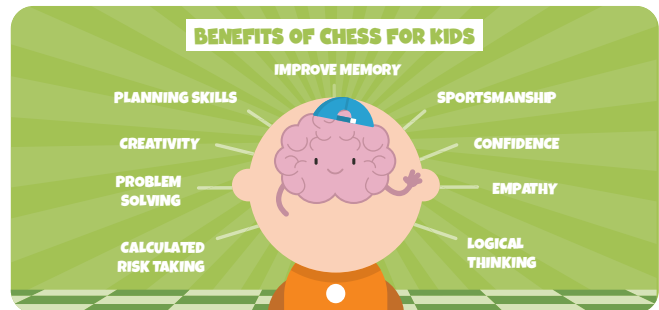


- ▶ Does the Chess Curriculum include tips and advice? Absolutely. Every teacher, coach, and parent can benefit from using it. Read more about the Curriculum. We want the whole experience for you and your students to be fun. [Read more about the Curriculum.](#)
- ▶ How does the Chess Curriculum improve a child's cognitive development and critical thinking skills? The Curriculum brings to life the language of Bloom's Taxonomy and Higher Order Thinking. Chess is unique as a game by requiring that a student remember what has been learned in a lesson and then use that knowledge to analyze, evaluate, and calculate tactical and positional patterns. [Learn more about how the Chess Curriculum connects with this structure.](#)
- ▶ How do I obtain the Chess Curriculum? It's easy. [Download it for free.](#)



*"The students learn higher order thinking and learn to calculate their moves"*

-- Christopher Rieff,  
Teacher



**CHESSKID TIP:** The curriculum is available in Spanish too!



**FunMasterMike**



# Exclusive from ChessKid!

Free Chess Curriculum available in English and Spanish. Includes diagrams, worksheets, and "mini-games", and chess tips and advice for the teacher, coach or parent.

[Download Here](#)



# How To Set Up A Chess Tournament

Let ChessKid reduce the stress of setting up a first tournament with these ideas and suggestions. Are your kids ready? Even more important, are you ready?



- ▶ Are you familiar with the basics of setting up a tournament? [This article can help.](#)
- ▶ Do you know that ChessKid has a Tournament [Help Center](#)? Now you do.
- ▶ How should both adults and kids [prepare for tournaments](#)?
- ▶ Do your kids understand the basics of chess? [See this article.](#)
- ▶ Can my kids practice for an over-the-board tournament by playing online? Absolutely. Each month ChessKid has several special events such as playing against a titled player or competing in [online tournaments](#).
- ▶ How do I run a tournament online? [Follow the experience of the school coach.](#)
- ▶ How does a kid join a live tournament online? [It's easy the first time, and the second time it's even easier.](#)
- ▶ How do you play in a fast or slow tournament? [The steps are simple.](#)

- ▶ How do I find tournaments on ChessKid? [Playing in a tournament on ChessKid is easy.](#)
- ▶ How can my kids play in the monthly ChessKid tournaments? [Playing is easy. Winning is fun.](#)
- ▶ How can puzzle duels prepare a student to play in tournaments? [Puzzles sharpen the analytical skills of every player from beginner to advanced.](#)

**CHESSKID TIP:** Follow ChessKid's [Facebook](#) page for puzzle challenges.



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- ▶ Have you reviewed ChessKid's tournament checklist [in ChessKid's Resources for Parents \(scroll down to the end\)](#)?
- ▶ Can an adult host a tournament on ChessKid? [Of course, you can.](#)
- ▶ How can an adult help kids prepare for a national tournament? Learn from this guide in two parts:

**PART 1**

**PART 2**





In addition, these two videos can help you:

- ▶ FunMasterMike shows how to set up a fast chess tournament. [Click here.](#)
- ▶ The ChessKid video tutorial series helps teachers and coaches in setting up tournaments, joining events, and playing games. [Click here.](#)



*"Chess is the gymnasium of the mind."*

-- Blaise Pascal,  
inventor of mechanical calculator,  
hydraulic press, and syringe



**ChessKid**

**NEW! CHESSKID COACHING- A GREAT WAY FOR STUDENTS TO RECEIVE EXPERT FEEDBACK ABOUT THEIR PERFORMANCE IN ALL THREE PHASES OF A CHESS GAME—OPENING, MIDDLEGAME, AND ENDGAME.**

**LEARN MORE HERE**



# Supply Checklist for School Chess Club

## Items needed for chess club:

- Chessboards and sets
- Score sheets
- Clocks
- Demonstration board
- Projector for class videos
- Classroom posters — [Infographics & Posters](#)

## Items needed for a tournament site:

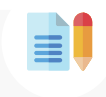
- [U.S. Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess](#)
- Laptop printer (to print standings, pairings, etc.)
- U.S. Chess and state affiliate membership application forms
- Score sheets
- Pens, pencils, markers
- Blue tape
- Cash (for making change)
- Chess clocks
- Boards and pieces
- Board numbers
- Extra paper
- Clearly worded announcements and other tournament-specific rules
- Info on tournament prizes
- Fliers for your next event
- Trophies (if needed)

**YOU CAN FIND CHESS EQUIPMENT FOR  
PURCHASE IN THE [CHESSKID SHOP](#)**



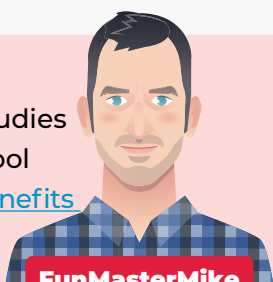
# How To Grow Your Chess Program: Part One

After you have begun to create a chess program, what should you consider next? Here are several recommendations for making the program successful and helping it to grow:



- ▶ Share the findings and conclusions of scholarly studies about the value of chess with players, their families, and other professionals. [Read summaries of these studies.](#)

**CHESSKID TIP:** Use our compilation of chess studies when trying to get school funding or approval. [Benefits of Chess Studies.](#)



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- ▶ Help others to understand the important elements for teaching chess. [Review these elements.](#)
- ▶ Gain the participation of teachers from other disciplines and inform them of the mutual benefits. [Learn about these benefits that other teachers and professionals should know.](#)
- ▶ Invite local chess coaches and experienced players to participate in an activity or give lessons. [Learn from this example.](#)

- ▶ Obtain funding for the club. [See ideas from an organizer like you.](#)

**CHESSKID TIP:** Take advantage of grants from ChessKid. Yes, really! ChessKid has grants that you can apply for. [Learn more about ChessKid grants.](#)



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- ▶ Vary the ways that the club meets in school. [Review how one club planned different times and activities.](#)
- ▶ Get your school district involved in using ChessKid. [Read this article to learn about the experiences of other schools.](#)
- ▶ Make having fun a top priority of the program. [This club explains how.](#)
- ▶ Share the inspirational stories and achievements of young players with club members and their families such as:
  - [FM Tani Adewumi](#)
  - [Artyom Bogdanov](#)
  - [NM Brewington Hardaway](#)
  - [Katherine, a friend of FunMasterMike](#)
  - [Rameshbabu "Pragg" Pragganandhaa](#)
  - [FM Shreyas Royal](#)
- ▶ Arrange to give prizes for success in a tournament or a special achievement. [See these ideas from ChessKid.](#)



# How To Grow Your Chess Program: Part Two

As your chess program matures, what else should you consider? These recommendations can help make your program even more successful:



- ▶ Organize tournaments – and more tournaments. [See ChessKid's Tournament Help Center.](#)
- ▶ Make arrangements for a local library to sponsor a webpage for your program. [Read about this example.](#)
- ▶ Involve a local chess club in your teaching activities. [See this example.](#)
- ▶ Create a parent/adult booster club. [Learn more about the value of parent involvement in this article.](#)

**CHESSKID TIP:** Let parents of your players know about the ChessKid parents' guide. [Learn more about this new resource.](#)



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- ▶ Recruit a volunteer to organize a club newsletter. [Learn from this example.](#)
- ▶ Plan an event where club members play an elite player. [See this example hosted by ChessKid.](#)

- ▶ Participate in international events hosted by ChessKid (if you reside in the eligible countries). [See this example.](#)
- ▶ Create a ladder in your program to inspire your players to advance in their skills. [See this example of how a chess group has used ChessKid for this purpose.](#)
- ▶ Compete in a ChessKid speed event. [See this example.](#)
- ▶ Inspire kids to be ready to play in a major over-the-board ChessKid event. [Can you believe the experiences of these ChessKids? Incidentally, ChessKid paid for their expenses to travel and play.](#)

**CHESSKID IS GREAT TO PLAY DURING DOWNTIME, AND NOTHING IS HANDIER THAN OUR APPS FOR A GREAT MOBILE EXPERIENCE.**

**YOU CAN GET THEM FOR FREE IN THE APPLE AND GOOGLE PLAY STORES:**







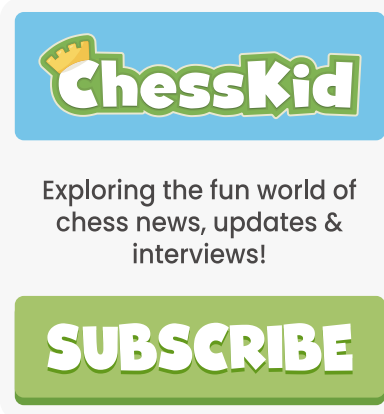
When you need supplies as your program grows or you plan tournaments, the ChessKid Shop is set up to help you.



# Conclusion

As this ebook ends, we want to inspire you to dream about all the opportunities that you can create by teaching kids to play chess and how you can shape their futures. Every grandmaster once was only a beginner.

- ▶ Learn how a 16-year-old defeated World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen in just 39 moves. This example shows that nothing is impossible for young players. [Read here.](#)
- ▶ Read more about the inspiring story of a young Nigerian refugee who won the New York State K-3 Championship while in a homeless shelter. Since then, he's become a published author, won another championship, and is advancing higher as he pursues elite chess titles. He's also a ChessKid Bot! [Read here.](#)
- ▶ Subscribe to our new monthly [chess e-magazine.](#)
- ▶ Keep up-to-date with all the new stories and events by following ChessKid on our social media.



Finally, ChessKid would love to learn about your challenges, solutions, ideas, and issues related to teaching chess. What have been your experiences? We would like to incorporate your feedback in new case studies and testimonials that we will be preparing. [Please use this form.](#)