



CHESS INSTITUTE  
OF CANADA  
INSTITUT D'ÉCHECS  
DU CANADA

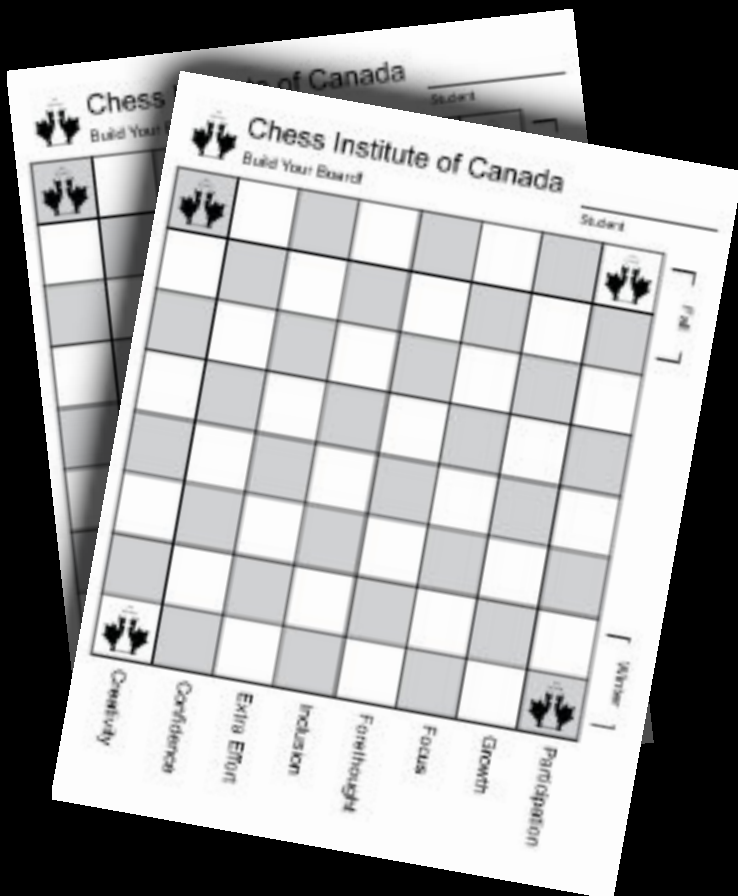
# Your child's chess journey starts here!

Chess is one of the world's most popular games. In the right hands, it is also a way to develop life-defining values and skills.

The **Chess Institute of Canada** is the nation's only charity that focuses on using chess to make better people – not just better players.

Your child will grow with the Chess Institute – as a player, and also as a person!

## Track their progress!



Your child will have their own **Build a Board** chess board to track their progress through the school year. Showing values, skills and aptitudes across the columns will help them build their boards as instructors give them stickers through the Fall and Winter terms, with the Spring term letting them fill in any blanks on the board before the school year ends.

As they make progress, instructors will reward them with stickers – and you can track their progress at home and encourage them as well!

Do you play? We have a special program for parents who want to learn chess to keep up with their kids. See the back cover for details!

# Meeting students where they are

Like life, chess evolution is a spectrum! People learn at different paces.

Our instructors meet players where they are, ensuring they get levels of chess instruction **appropriate to their ability in chess**, and coaching on life skills appropriate to their level of development as well.



## The Playful Pawn:

Learning the basics of chess, and the value of cooperation, playing well with others, and dealing with life's ups and downs. Group activities, fun play, and making friends while building a fundamental enthusiasm for chess is the key.

### Chess skills:

- The chess board and setting up for a game
- Chess basics: piece movement
  - Pawns
  - Rooks
  - Bishops
  - Knights
  - King
  - Queen

### Life skills:

- Engaging with life: getting involved and enthusiastic about learning new things
- Visual and spatial skills: how pieces are placed in relation to each other
- Cooperation: playing respectfully, taking turns
- Good losing and winning: being gracious and supportive regardless of how games go

## The Rookie Rook:

Learning how to play the game from start to finish. Understanding that like in chess, life means thinking ahead, planning ahead, and being responsible for your actions. A combination of games to illustrate the power of the pieces and strategic thinking, with some more serious lessons on pieces, values, and tactics woven throughout.

### Chess skills:

- Capturing pieces (and protecting your own)
- Using the Queen effectively
- Check and checkmate: playing full games
- King safety and defensive play

### Life skills:

- Commitment: following through on actions
- Thinking ahead: anticipating results from actions
- Diversity: every piece has value
- Confidence: making bold moves, taking risks
- Balance: aggressive at times, defensive others
- Focus: being phone-free and fully concentrated
- Fair play and good sportsmanship



### The Noble Knight:

Exposing learners to more sophisticated play – and also more advanced life skills and habits. Life is complex – and so is chess! By pairing life skills and chess teaching, we keep kids evolving as chess players, while instilling values and habits that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

### Chess skills:

- Piece valuation and safe exchanges
- Responding to challenges on the board
- Checkmating patterns and tactics
- Target types and attacks in chess
- Board control and situational advantages
- Using every piece to its full potential, including pawns

### Life skills:

- Risk and reward: sacrificing lower-value pieces for larger future gains
- Adaptability: learn and recover from setbacks
- Patience: long-term strategies lead to victory
- Patterns in life and success: learning from history and extrapolating future actions
- Situational analysis: looking at circumstances and responding
- Emotional control: managing emotions when facing difficulties
- Inclusion: the value of every piece as a key component of play
- Critical thinking: evaluating situations based on evident facts



### And beyond!

Children who finish our fundamental curriculum can continue at our **Advanced and Elite** levels, learning from high-level instructors in small-group sessions where the curriculum adapts to the classes' strengths and needs.

Our **Future Masters** classes provide individualized attention to students to prepare them for serious competition at the Elite level.

Students ranking 1400+ with the Chess Federation of Canada or Lichess will be invited to join our exclusive **Elite** classes: longer sessions that keep students working and growing until they are ready for national or international competitions.

Life skills through chess continue to be a key part of our lessons, with our highest-level instructors weaving these themes through chess lessons even at the highest levels. Strategic thinking and planning; innovation and creative problem-solving; critical thinking and growth mindsets; global attitudes – all of these pair with learning advanced play in chess.

Term after term, year after year, **chess rewards continuous study!** We're proud to be your child's companion on this amazing journey.

# Keep up with your kids!



Are you a parent without much chess experience, eager join your child on their chess journey?

We can help! We offer a **low-cost, add-on online program** for parents who haven't had much chess experience, and want to catch up to their kids.

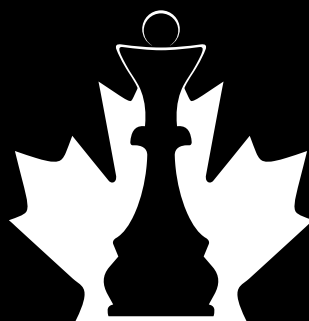
Visit <https://chessin.ca/parents> for more!

Make a better world through chess by **subsidizing chess for deserving kids!**

The Chess Institute of Canada keeps costs low for low-income schools and neighbourhoods thanks to the generosity of donors – often parents who have seen how kids benefit from chess.

As a registered charity, donations to us result in **significant tax credits** at the end of the year. If you're part of a business or corporation that donates to charity, we are also registered with many charity portals including Benevity, Canada Helps, Paypal and others.

We recognize donors in a wide variety of ways. You can give directly to support chess for deserving kids at <https://chessin.ca/give>, or contact Executive Director Matt Shepherd at [info@chessinstitute.ca](mailto:info@chessinstitute.ca) for more information on corporate and business support and recognition.



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