



## How ChessKid Coaches Can Help Young Players

### Background

This case study shows how a young player was helped by a ChessKid coach who motivated the student to grow in their knowledge of chess.

### Overview

- Student: Emerson, a 10-year-old in the fourth grade
- Skill level: Beginner
- Coach: Nick Matta, one of the coaches approved by ChessKid



Emerson, at a weekend club tournament, with his sister Eleanor beside him and his father Brian behind watching him play.



**Parent Brian Johnson:**

"It's hard to put into words just how much I appreciate Nick and his enthusiasm for coaching chess in general and his excitement to coach my son in particular."



Emerson prepares to play in his first rated tournament.

### Challenges

- Self-learners are motivated but often have serious gaps in understanding chess that hinders progress.
- Young players are easily distracted and can become unmotivated to spend regular time necessary to progress.
- Parents can be unsure what is needed to prepare for a tournament.

### Solutions

- After the student wanted to take their game to the next level, the parent arranged for one-on-one lessons with a ChessKid coach.
- The ChessKid coach analyzed the student's current chess ability based on goals, skill level, and age. The coach then set up goals, expectations, and schedules.
- ChessKid's coaching goes beyond learning chess to also help a young learner believe in themselves.

## Results

- The student was motivated with the levels of performance that can be achieved on ChessKid (and collected 15,000 stars).
- After learning the basics of chess, the student entered his first tournament and almost won it. He placed second among almost 50 fourth- and fifth-grade students. Then he went undefeated in the Texas State Championships and won his division.
- The ChessKid coach working with the student has generated new excitement and motivated the student to study more and play well.



Emerson went 7-0 and won his division in the Texas State Championships.



Coach Nick tries to have fun while teaching or playing chess, and encourages his students to do the same. "We all play at our best when our love for the game shines through!"

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### Parent Brian Johnson about the coach:

"I love how much he knew about Emerson's style of play before our first session. He had already reviewed a bunch of his games, and you could tell how excited Nick was to work with Emerson. As a father, it's a blessed thing to see someone appreciate your kid!"

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### Parent Brian Johnson:

"I am absolutely blown away by Nick and his approach to teaching and coaching."

## Feedback

- Brian Johnson, the parent: "To put it into perspective, I have personally trained over 10,000 coaches from over 100 countries around the world, and I wish they all approached their craft like Nick approaches his."
- National Master Nick Matta, the coach: "It is my belief that chess is best enjoyed as a true student of the game, when we allow our natural curiosity to guide us to new and hopefully stronger ideas."

## Your Turn

- ChessKid wants to introduce the game of chess and chess education to as many students as possible. The coaching resources of ChessKid can be important complements to encourage every student's growth in chess.
- Would you like to learn more about the benefits of using ChessKid coaches? Visit the ChessKid coaching page.