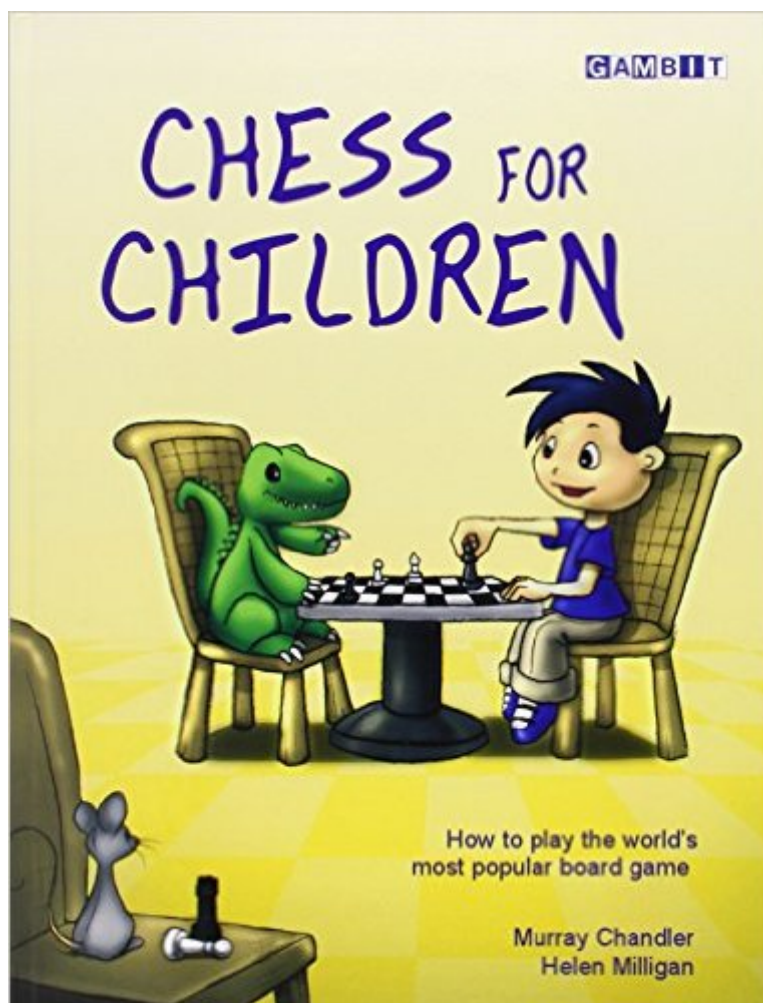


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# Chess For Children: How To Play The World's Most Popular Board Game



## Synopsis

With this charming book, children will delight in learning the basic moves of chess - the most popular and challenging strategy game of all. All the rules of chess are clearly explained, step by step, assuming no prior knowledge. The lessons are reinforced by the inventive tales that George is told by his pet alligator Kirsty, self-proclaimed Grand Alligator of chess. Chess is recognized in many countries as a useful tool for developing creative thinking in children. Although chess can be regarded as a rather complex and mysterious game, the rules themselves are straightforward. It doesn't take long to learn how the pieces move, and even children as young as five can enjoy exciting games. They will also thoroughly enjoy outwitting friends and relatives!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 112 pages

Publisher: Gambit Publications (April 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1904600069

ISBN-13: 978-1904600060

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.5 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (207 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #8,267 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Chess](#) #86 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I have seen countless books on chess aimed at youngsters over the years, but this is probably the nicest introduction I have ever seen, aimed at primary school children. The problem with so many books is that they are too ambitious, too wordy or just downright boring, but such criticisms in no way apply to this latest addition. The game is taught through the medium of a cartoon character, George, and his pet alligator, Kirsty, a self-proclaimed Grand Alligator of Chess. The large format pages and large diagrams are easier on the young eye, and the language is readily accessible to a young age group. The book consists of six parts. Part One covers the basics of how the pieces move, then subsequent parts take the young beginner through a succession of easy, well-defined

stages, until by the end of the book you are able to play through and understand a complete game. The book is also very much inter-active, as there are tests interspersed at regular intervals throughout. As I said earlier, over-ambition is the main problem with so many beginners books, but here the authors have set out with the very limited objective of getting the child started on a very basic level. Opening theory, middlegame strategy and endgame technique have no place here. The emphasis is on learning the basics in an enjoyable manner. If you have a young child or relative who wants to learn chess, then I can thoroughly recommend this book, which in addition to everything I have already said comes at a very reasonable price. This review first appeared in the magazine En Passant.

We took the extended family on a trip to Florida a couple of months ago, and picked up a plastic chess set together with this book for the children. We hoped they might learn, but we could hardly predict they would become besotted. The book was a mega-hit. Although both my father-in-law (from Switzerland) and I had played a fair bit of chess in our younger days, neither of us were completely up with the rules. Having this book was useful as both a refresher course and to consult in case of dispute. I had expected CHESS FOR CHILDREN would be at least an adequate book, as a local chess coach had steered me towards it, but it was better than that, which has prompted me to do this review. The content is brilliant, and I can only agree with other reviews that this has the clearest lay-out of any chess beginner book. Another unexpected bonus was that the kids were able to follow everything in the book without the help of an adult, even learning chess notation. Visually the book scores well, being a solid hardcover with a good mix of chess moves and illustrations. The book divides neatly into six parts, starting with setting up the chessboard, and progressing to how each piece moves and some elementary advice on strategy. The first holiday where arcade games were almost forgotten! Highly recommended.

I enjoyed it because it does a good job in telling you about the rules of chess and gives you some strategies to. It has good pictures and was enjoyable to read. A sixth grader will probably not like it as much as a second grader because of the lay out, but it is still good for both of these ages.

I gave this book to my son, aged 5, and was impressed when he sat down and read it for two hours straight. As an elementary school teacher as well as a chess player, I would recommend this book for teaching a child how to play. It is well-organized and starts with the basics - the name of each piece, how each piece moves, how to set up a chessboard. The format is large and the diagrams

and arrows are attractive. My son was particularly excited by the Terribly Tough Tests that were set every few pages, with solutions at the back of the book. The authors have got the level exactly right, which in my experience very few beginner books achieve. There are sections on chess notation, draws, basic checkmates and some simple tactics, but these are all extras - the primary aim is to teach the rules and moves of chess to a youngster, and in this the book succeeds well. The benefits of chess in teaching logical thinking are well known, and it has even been proved that chess can improve a child's skill at maths. As a genuinely instructional primer, this is easily the best I have seen.

This book is an excellent place to start teaching children chess. I almost gave it four stars because I don't think children under 7 or 8 will be able to tackle it themselves without an adult. It would still serve as an excellent guide for older children and teens and with an adult's help any younger child would love it. It has great outlines and pictures of how the pieces move, the rules, special rules (en passant for example) and can be referenced easily by anyone. Great job by Mr. Chandler.

The picture stuff is a little too much for a slightly older kid like me. I am on the chess team at my school and thought it would be a good idea for me to read up some. But for someone in 6th grade I found I needed a more serious book (I think the pictures are cute for little kids, not for anyone beyond first grade). It was not consistent that some parts of the book are for little kids, but the reading level needed was way beyond that. But the book isn't bad. It still had some good learning things in it.

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