

Evaluating your child's chess abilities

Roving ChessNuts have since 2001 been teaching people of all ages how to play chess by international rules and in a manner that gives them the skills and educational benefits to gain respect from their opponents and other chess enthusiasts. Tactics, strategies, proper openings, middle game knowledge and how to properly finish a game are taught through lectures, coaching and hands-on practice, study materials and serious play.

For students in Grades 4 and higher who already play recreationally, evaluations are needed if they wish to enter a tournament for the first time and do not have a recognized chess rating. The evaluation is needed to determine in which section of the competition they should be placed so they have a chance for success, We do not want keen but untutored young chess players to be crushed in a competition and lose interest in the sport.

These older students may also need to be evaluated to determine which class level they should be in based on their current knowledge and skills.

Prospective students and tournament players below Grade 4 and as young as four-years-old need to be evaluated to determine if they have the maturity to handle the individual competitiveness of chess, the attention and focus to both learn and play, and the ability to work with peers and children of other ages in a learning and competitive environment.



Evaluations are held at no charge by appointment at Roving ChessNuts' training facility in northeast Edmonton. The best time for younger children is 9:30 a.m. Saturdays just prior to a beginners class. If the child feels comfortable and the evaluator feels the child would be a suitable student, the child may stay for the class so that his or her group interactions can also be observed. Grades 6 and up can come at 10:30 a.m..

Evaluations other days and times can be arranged and are also free of charge, ranging from 30 to 45 minutes. Besides determining the current chess knowledge of the prospective student, an initial basic lesson or coaching tips for players beyond basics may occur.

Call 780-474-2318 or e-mail rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca to arrange an evaluation or if you require further information



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