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Chess Clubs for Junior Players



Guidance for Parents

English Chess Federation

Many juniors learn to play chess with their parents or in junior school. If your child enjoys the game, you should consider encouraging them to join a chess club. There may be a junior club in your area or an adult club which welcomes juniors.

Not all adult clubs offer suitable facilities for juniors, and this leaflet offers some advice on selecting a suitable club for your youngster

How do I find a club?

You can find out about chess clubs from your local library, or -

- The English Chess Federation
- ECF website at www.englishchess.org.uk (click on 'Clubs and Associations')
- ECF Director of Junior Chess (details overleaf)

You should visit the club to ensure that the environment and level of supervision meet the needs of your youngster

What should I look for?

The club premises -

- Location and atmosphere
- Welcoming and positive attitude to juniors and parents
- Adequate toilet facilities
- Somewhere for parents to stay if they wish

Junior policy -

- Is there a named person you can contact to get information?
- Will juniors get regular advice on chess basics and etiquette?
- Do juniors get a chance to play in club teams?

Remember, when your youngster begins to play for a club team, you may need to transport them to away matches.

Chess is a beautiful game and provides opportunities for developing social confidence and analytical skills. The choosing of your youngster's first chess club is crucial in ensuring that they get maximum enjoyment and benefit from the game. Take time to ensure the club is providing positive experiences and opportunities