

# WHAT CHESS CAN TEACH CHILDREN FOR LIFE

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# Historical Approach

Eight centuries have passed since chess was recognized by European civilization as one of the 7 chivalric arts necessary to educate the future princes and rulers of the secular states that were monarchies at the time: fencing, archery, horse riding, swimming, hunting, poetry and chess. Thus, chess was established as a military-monarchical game useful for the privileged strata of the population. In the 21st century, after many years of accumulation - trials and research, it came to a discussion in the European Parliament where the latter voted a resolution that recommended the educational institutions of 27 member states to introduce chess as a subject in schools. Written declaration on introduction of the program "Chess in School" in the educational systems of the European Union's members was accepted by the European Parliament in Brussels on 13-th of March 2012. "Chess gives not only contemporary fame, but lasting remembrance" - Robert Shindler, 1889.

The most successful and solid way to learn chess is by going through the historical stages the game has gone through.

Why should we have a conference about chess applications as an integration educational tool?

„There is nothing stronger than an idea which time has come!”

“He who opens a school door, closes a prison.” Victor Hugo

# Multicultural and Multiethnic Socialization

Chess is a **global** game with multicultural socialization - without ethnic, race, sexual and age discrimination. As universal language of communication chess facilitates social integration between nations, ages, occupations and races. It is an instrument of integrity for minorities, a key for unlocking deep personal resources of impaired people and of the students from all social groups. Chess supports socialization - through system of international open and regional tournaments, intensive Internet connections and travel around the world. Children get the opportunity of seeing more variety and diversity. Chess creates sustainable communities and integral type of education. Chess players usually learn foreign languages easily through experience.



Women's 2022 Chess Olympiad Medalists - among 162 women's and 186 men's nations

# Transferable Skills

In the last 30 years, chess has been taught in over 100 educational institutions in Sofia - schools and kindergartens. The implementation and evaluation of the Chess Teaching System reveals that in comparison with most school curriculum subjects chess as an educational tool has many advantages. It develops a large amount of transferable skills.

Here are the most often transferable effects from chess education as well as benefits for personality and society:

- ▶ Internal focus of control as a whole (self-control) and relying on personal resources
- ▶ Self-reflection through analysis and instant feedback - reward or sanction.
- ▶ Goal setting and planning
- ▶ Thinking with planning, anticipation and foresight
- ▶ Decision making and action
- ▶ Improving the functioning of all cognitive processes - perception, thinking, memory, imagination, vision, attention through studying a game
- ▶ During chess competitions chess builds character and will - based on initiative and assertiveness needed to overcome the opponent.

# TOP BENEFITS OF CHESS



# Educational Environment

Here are the benefits of implementing chess into school system:

- ▶ Interesting, easy, cheap and mass approach
- ▶ Chess changes the classroom hierarchy for mutual benefits
- ▶ Conceptual integrity between different areas of knowledge
- ▶ Students are not anymore passive and reproductive listeners and consumers but assistants
- ▶ Dealing with stress and aggression
- ▶ Chess gives the chance for learning through experience
- ▶ Chess can become a method of explaining logical aspects of life and balance of nature
- ▶ Chess doesn't teach ready answers



# Chess as an Objective Approach to Understand the World Better

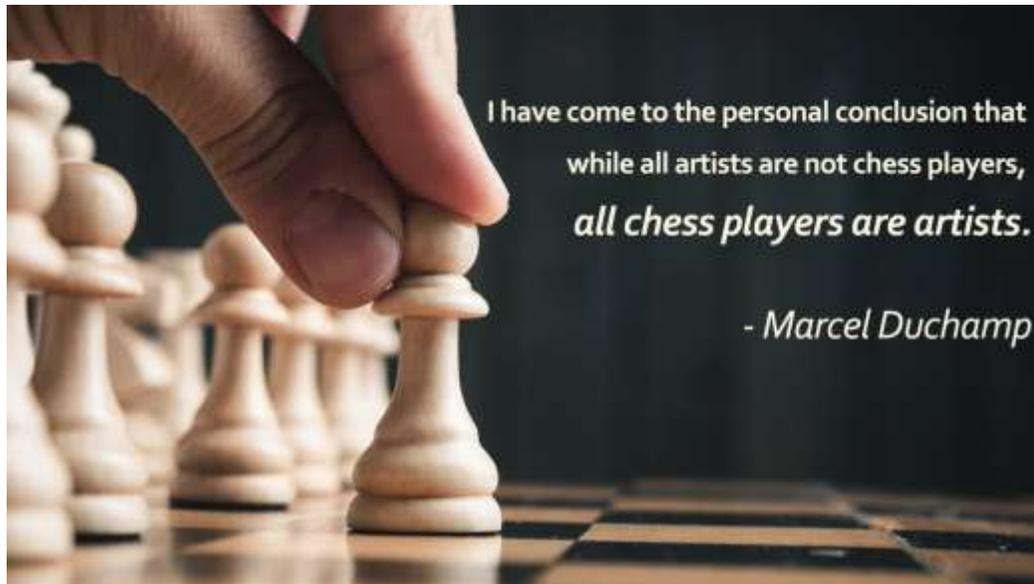
Chess study develops cognitive processes - reading and reasoning, understanding, spatial orientation, perception of space, time and time management as well as psychomotorics and fine coordination between mind, eyes and hands.

Chess can decisively stimulate preschooler's development and promotes school readiness by teaching to follow rules and ethical norms at the earliest age.



# A Triumph of Spirit Over Matter

- ▶ When they are introduced to the ideas of combinations and plans with material sacrifices, strategy and tactics, children are subtly educated in a sense of beauty and respect for the conceptual richness and depth of chess.
- ▶ The diversity of ideas when delving into the world of chess increases both motivation for learning and enthusiasm for various creative pursuits. It charges children with positivism.



# Chess as a Family Game

- ▶ Chess is a family game - it unites families and creates sustainable communities.
- ▶ Chess has been used as a supportive therapy in families for rehabilitation after cancer treatment.
- ▶ Chess has been transmitted through generation to generation.
- ▶ The parental presence - caring and protection.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

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## **DECLARATION**

**submitted pursuant to Article 123 of the Rules of Procedure**

**on the introduction of the "Chess at School" program in the educational systems in the European Union**

**Slavi Binev, John Attard-Montalto, Nirj Deva, Mario Mauro, Hannu Takkula**

**0050/2011**

**Written declaration regarding the introduction of the "Chess at School" program in the educational systems in the European Union**

**the European Parliament,**

- having regard to Articles 6 and 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,**
- having regard to Article 123 of its Rules of Procedure,**

**A. whereas Article 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU provides that sport is among the areas in which "the Union has competence to take action to support, coordinate or complement the action of the Member States";**

**B. whereas chess is a game accessible to children from every social group and can promote social cohesion and contribute to policy objectives such as social integration, combating discrimination, reducing crime and even fighting against various addictions;**

**C. whereas whatever a child's age, chess can improve their concentration, patience and persistence and can develop their sense of creativity, intuition, memory and analytical and decision-making skills; whereas chess also teaches determination, motivation and sportsmanship;**

- ▶ 1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to encourage the introduction of the "Chess at School" program in the education systems of the Member States;**
- ▶ 2. Calls on the Commission in its forthcoming communication on sport to pay due attention to the Chess in Schools program and ensure sufficient funding for it from 2012 onwards;**
- ▶ 3. Calls on the Commission to report the results of any studies on the impact of this program on children's development;**
- ▶ 4. instructs its President to transmit this declaration, accompanied by a list of the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.**