

Chess gets cool

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Move over, Monopoly! Chess is now the hottest game among kids. In fact, membership in the U.S. Chess Federation of children 14 years and younger has increased fivefold in the past decade. And thanks to the game's high-profile role in the movie Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, kids are begging for a chance at the chessboard. Educators--who applaud the game's focus on problem solving and strategic thinking—are thrilled.

"Children who learn chess become more self-confident and respectful,"

says Marley Kaplan, executive director of New York City's Chess-in-the-Schools program, which currently teaches some 36,000 kids how to play. "The game emphasizes manners, good sportsmanship, and discipline." For pointers on starting a chess club at your child's school—or teaching him at home—log on to www.uschess.org/scholastic.

Submitted by

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