

WHY TEACH CHESS TO CHILDREN???

Playing Chess has proven to help students enhance their creativity, improve their power of concentration, develop and expand critical thinking skills, boost memory and retention, and achieve superior academic performance.

The beauty of chess as a teaching tool is that it stimulates children's minds and helps them to build these skills while enjoying themselves. As a result, children become more critical thinkers, better problem solvers, and more independent decision makers.

From: Bill Warren 757-851-2791 WWW.BillWarren3.Com Date: April 19, 2008

"Win by Choice" Presentations and Seminars, "Make Every Move Count," "Heads Up, Pants Up, Grades Up", Special crime prevention programs for Police Departments – "Solutions to Gun Violence Think It Out, Don't Shoot It Out", "Push Pawns, Not Drugs".



"Chess is in many ways like life itself." "It's all condensed in a playful manner in a game format and it's extremely fascinating because first of all I'm in control of my own destiny, I'm in charge. You have to be responsible for your actions, you make a move, you had better think ahead about what's going to happen, not after it happens, because then it's too late. Chess teaches discipline from a very early age. It teaches you to have a plan and to plan ahead.

The New York City Schools Chess Program included more than 3,000 inner-city children in more than 100 public schools between 1986 and 1990. Based on academic and anecdotal records only, Palm (1990) states that the program has proven:

- **Chess dramatically improves a child's ability to think rationally.**
- **Chess increases cognitive skills.**
- **Chess improves children's communication skills and aptitude in recognizing patterns, therefore:**
 1. **Chess results in higher grades, especially in English and Math studies.**
 2. **Chess builds a sense of team spirit while emphasizing the ability of the individual.**
 3. **Chess teaches the value of hard work, concentration and commitment.**
 4. **Chess instills in young players a sense of self-confidence and self-worth.**
 5. **Chess makes a child realize that he or she is responsible for his or her own actions and must accept their consequences.**
 6. **Chess teaches children to try their best to win, while accepting defeat with grace.**
 7. **Chess provides an intellectual, competitive forum through which children can assert hostility, i.e. "let off steam," in an acceptable way.**
 8. **Chess can become a child's most eagerly awaited school activity, dramatically improving attendance.**
- **Chess allows girls to compete with boys on a non-threatening, socially acceptable plane.**
- **Chess helps children make friends more easily because it provides an easy, safe forum for gathering and discussion.**
- **Chess allows students and teachers to view each other in a more sympathetic way.**
- **Chess, through competition, gives kids a palpable sign of their accomplishments.**
- **Chess provides children with a concrete, inexpensive and compelling way to rise above the deprivation and self-doubt which are so much a part of their lives**