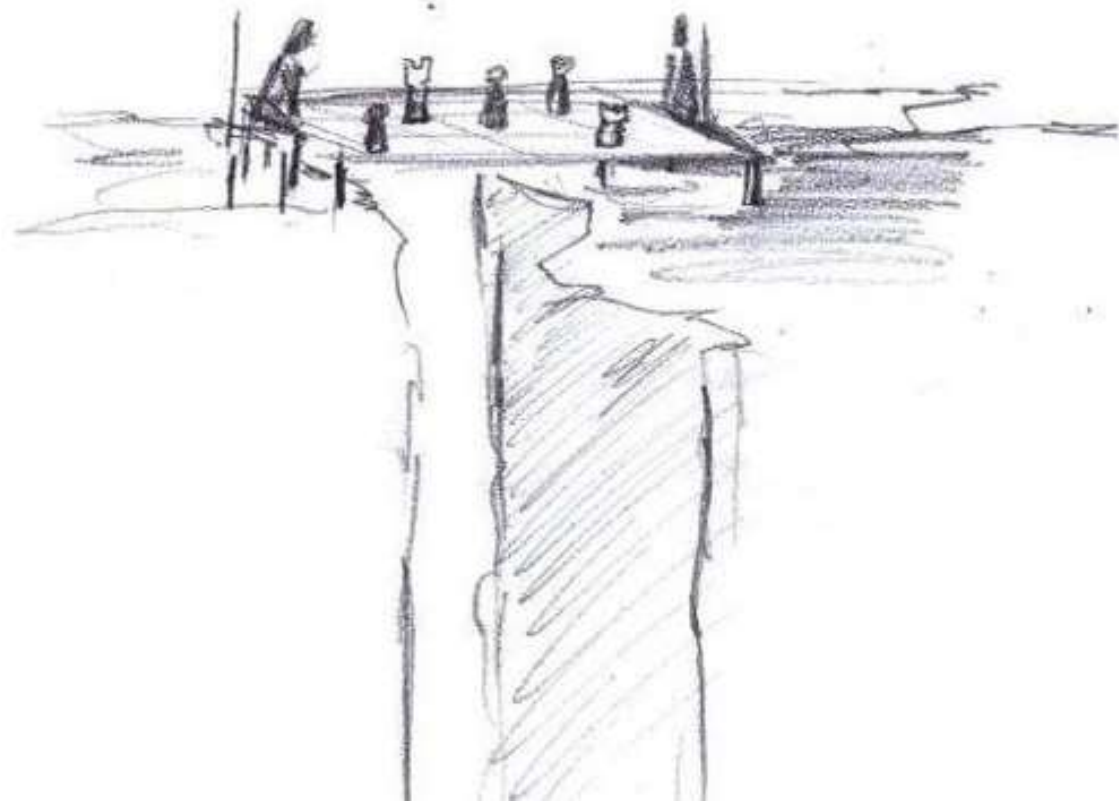


Chess and autism

Chess closes a gap, drawing Trix Meurs



Introduction

Karel van Delft

Chess teacher, journalist, psychologist
Apeldoorn, The Netherlands



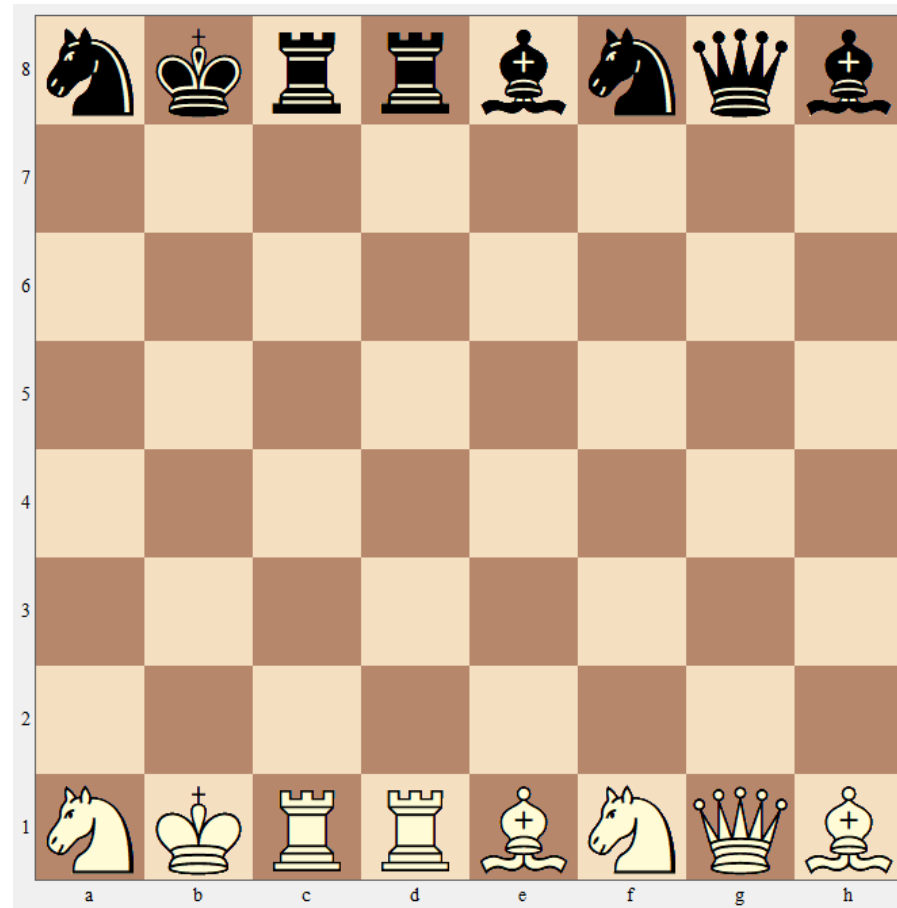
Chess academy Schaakacademie Apeldoorn
www.chesstalent.com

Science project manager Chessable
www.chessable.com/science



Return the pieces

Players stay on their own side of the board
and move pieces to the start position



Cunning plan

Girl refused: I can take the other queen.

Putting pawns in between: okay.



Earplug and fidget hose



Boy (15) with autism: What did you learn?

- Persistence, dealing with losing
- Chess knowledge and technique
- Concentration
- Proud because I win more often
- Talking with others, verbalizing
- I can trust you



What is autism?

Neurological disorder.

Trouble internalizing sensory stimuli as a whole.

1% population (male 5, female 1?)

Autistic kids seek refuge in fixed habits.

No autistic kid is the same.



Problems children with autism

- Process information slow
- Quickly over-stimulated
- Limited empathy, social skills, imagination
- Strong emotions
- Motor limitations



Autistic kids and understanding

- Problems understanding
- People difficulties to understand them
- Results: confusion, fear, frustrations



Needs

- Structure
- Safe environment
- Concrete communication
- Empathy



Strong qualities

- System thinker, eye for details
- Concentrate well
- Strong memory
- Work well by themselves
- Polite, reliable



Benefits development via chess

- Social contacts
- Cognitive challenge
- Success experiences
- Nice hobby
- Belong to a group (identity)



Chess suitable

- Individual
- Not physical
- Clear rules, logical
- Non-linguistic
- Your own tempo
- Environment structured and safe



Chess stimulates

Cognitive development

- Thinking, reasoning

Social development

- Contacts with others, social skills

Emotional development

- Selfconfidence, pleasure



<http://schaken-en-autisme.nl/english-spanish-italian-danish>



Click on the poster to see the lecture 'chess and autism' in English.

[Download](#) English article 'Chess and autism'.

[Download](#) Spanish article 'Ajedrez y autismo'.

[Download](#) Italian article 'Scacchi ed autismo'.

[See](#) Danish magazine Autismeblad page 15

[Pdf Autismeblad](#) possible to translate with Google Translate



In course how to become a teacher



Principles for a trainer

- Start with possibilities of autists, f.e. intelligence, eye for detail, strong memory, possibility to focus.
- Give own responsibility where possible and help where necessary.



<http://schaken-en-autisme.nl/english-spanish-italian-danish>



[Movie Interview](#) English subtitled with Caspar Hermeling, a chess trainer with autism.



<http://schaken-en-autisme.nl/english-spanish-italian-danish>

Year	Honoree Photo	Honoree Name	Honoree Location	Link	Presentation
2022		Karel van Delft	Netherlands	2022 Chess Educator of the Year	UT Dallas Chess Educator of the Year - 2022

Lecture chess and special needs, especially autism: <https://chess.utdallas.edu/education-programs/honorees>

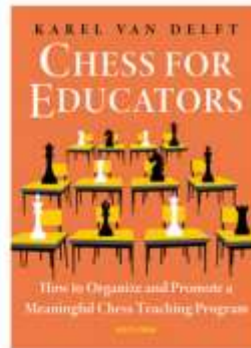


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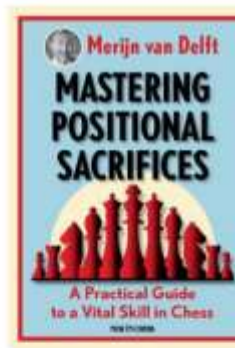
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Creating a chess culture by coaching, training, organization and communication

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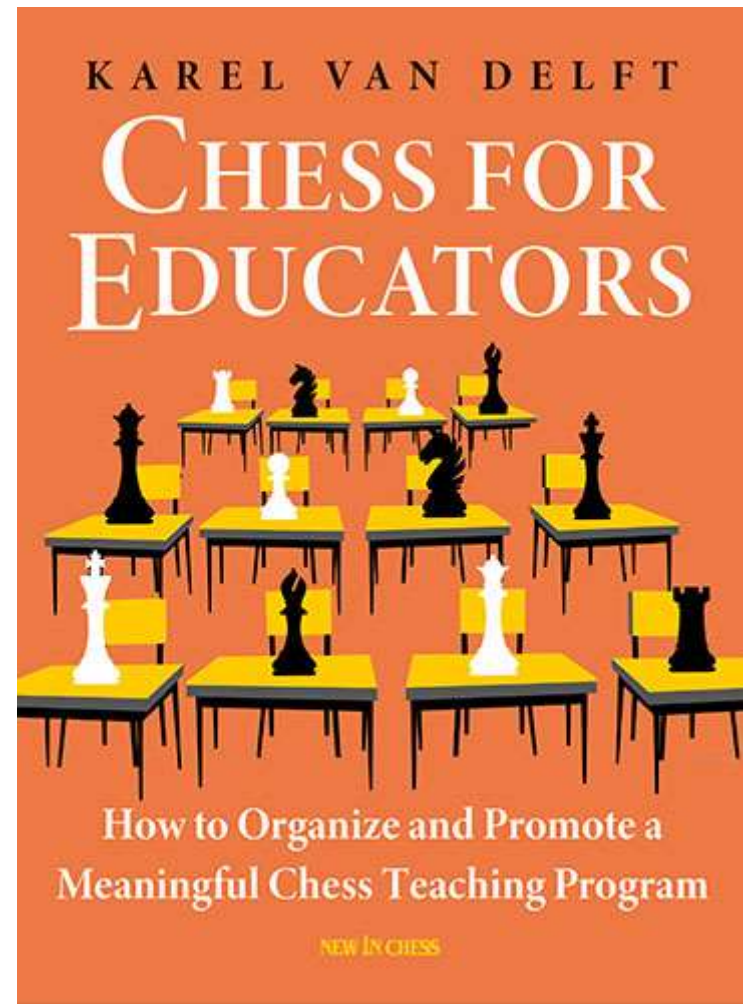
Chess For Educators

Didactics

Science

Special needs groups

Alphabet methods



Chess metaphor for life

Cognitive: analyse, plans, decisions, creativity

Emotional: mindset, dealing with challenges

Social: cooperate, communicate

Metacognitive: self-reflection, self-management



Contents

Chapter 1	School chess worldwide.....	11
Chapter 2	Didactics in school chess.....	13
Chapter 3	Pre-school chess	19
Chapter 4	Organization of a school chess club	33
Chapter 5	Organization of a youth tournament	39
Chapter 6	The role of parents	41
Chapter 7	Chess as a metaphor for life according to Moreno ..	43
Chapter 8	Chess, intelligence, and teaching highly gifted children.....	51
Chapter 9	Chess for the blind and partially sighted.....	71
Chapter 10	Chess for the deaf and hard of hearing.....	73
Chapter 11	Chess and autism.....	75
Chapter 12	Chess and dyslexia	77
Chapter 13	Girls' and women's chess	85
Chapter 14	Social and therapeutic chess.....	89
Chapter 15	Class management	99
Chapter 16	A.D. de Groot on Polgar.....	109
Chapter 17	Memorandum 'Chess Instruction in School?'	113
Chapter 18	Chess as a subject in primary school.....	117
Chapter 19	Methods of research on the benefits of chess instruction	119
Chapter 20	Research into the benefits of chess instruction	133
Chapter 21	Alphabet of methods and teaching tips for chess education.....	145

