



## Chess Academy March 2026 Update

Happy March! Both our 4s program and JK program are finishing up their respective modules and starting new ones this month. In our 4s program, they will finish module 1 where they met every 'character,' or piece. They will start module 2 which will first introduce them to the importance of planning in chess. The Cranky Princess is the main antagonist of module 2 and will also teach the kids the importance of being polite in chess. For our Junior Kindergarteners, they will finish the King Shaky Saga where that character goes on a journey where he not only strengthens his chess skills, but personally grows as well. Then, we will finish out March by learning all about check & checkmate as we prepare for our annual Chess Showcase.

### Skills Learned & Practiced:

- predicting
- working memory
- collaboration
- decision-making
- self confidence
- cognitive flexibility
- persisting and adapting
- personal growth
- victory conditions
- visuospatial reasoning
- cooperative partnerships
- strategic mindset
- recollection
- focused practice

### Chess Exercises

In module 2, the exercises primarily focus on deciphering a plan (teachers set this up on a board) and then figuring out a plan for their team.

For our Junior Kindergarteners, they will work on a lot of puzzles where they will be asked what the best plan is for the given situation. Typically, after a few puzzles, they just want to play a game of chess.

This is where teachers will encourage the kids to apply previously learned information.