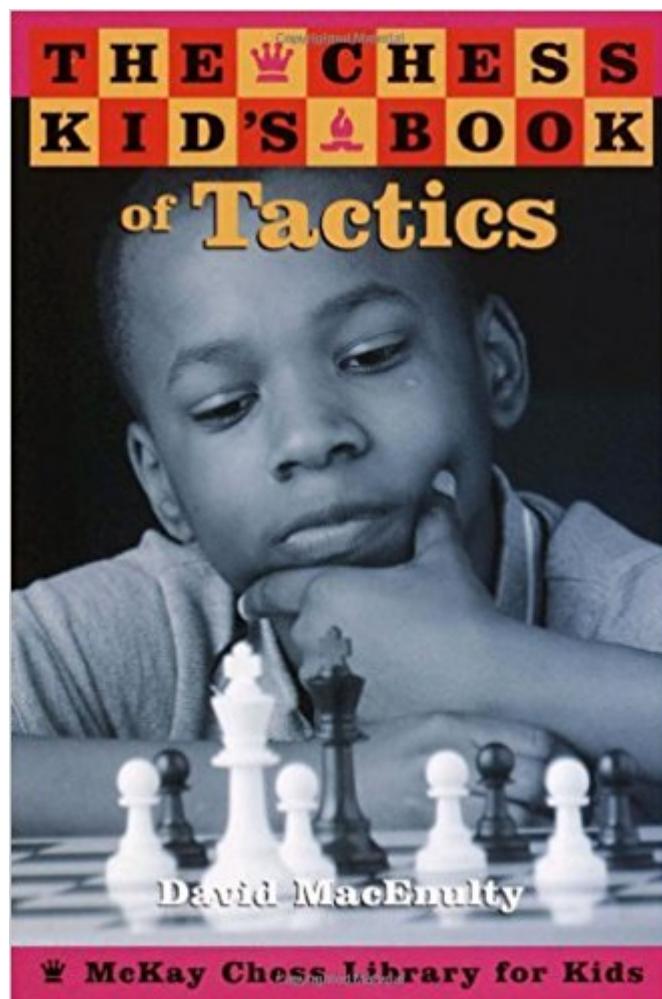


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# The Chess Kid's Book Of Tactics



## **Synopsis**

In chess, tactics are the tricks and techniques players use to get a quick advantage over their opponents. David MacEnulty, a former director of program development in New York City's award-winning Chess-in-the-Schools program, teaches students how to develop a tactical mindset. In *The Chess Kid's Book of Tactics*, he instructs 6-10-year-old players in how to recognize the basic chess patterns and how to apply those patterns to understand-and win-the game.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 9 and up

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## **Customer Reviews**

In chess, tactics are the tricks and techniques players use to get a quick advantage over their opponents. David MacEnulty, a coach in New York City's award-winning Chess-in-the-Schools program, teaches students how to develop a tactical mindset. In *The Chess Kid's Book of Tactics*, he instructs 6-10-year-old players in how to recognize the basic chess patterns and how to apply those patterns to understand-and win-the game.

David MacEnulty is the chess teacher at The Dalton School and the former director of program development at Chess-in-the-Schools in New York. His teams have won three National Champion titles and came in second four times. David and his chess teams have been featured nationally on CBS, CNN, in *Chess Life* magazine, and in many local television and print news stories.

Okay, I moved my first chess piece, NOW what do I do? This book helps newer and less advanced chess players begin to understand how to coordinate the chess pieces to achieve a goal. If your strategy was to take one piece and capture as much as you could until you lost it, THIS is the next stage to getting better. For those who looked at ALL THOSE PIECES and had swimmy-head, yes, this is the floatie to get your head above water. Bear in mind chess is both pleasurable and maddening. After reading this book a few times and playing many, many more games you'll be ready or the next rung up the ladder.

I have taught several children and some older adults how to play chess. This is the book I strongly suggest to start with! It not only has the name of the tactic(s) involved, but usually easy enough examples so that you can understand them on your own. It also warns of the few most common opening traps. I have read a number of chess books written for kids and this is my favorite by far because other books have examples too tough for new players to understand, or do not train the reader to learn habits that will really improve their chess.

Great for beginners. The author offers basic placement and moves of pieces-followed by review. The book is more a "Show" than "tell". By displaying and then explaining the author allows the reader to grasp the concepts. An especially good book for the visual learner.

Since everyone else has reviewed this book so poorly, I thought I'd register my strong disagreement. As a kid, I played chess with my grandfather, and in college I played my roommate a lot. So I'm hardly an expert, or even an amateur chess player. Anyway, one day while cleaning the closet I pulled out an old chess set. My five year old son saw it and wanted to learn how to play. I taught him the way the pieces move and then I bought this book. The book explains various tactical techniques in ascending level of difficulty in a way that is clear. I set up the easier puzzles in the book on the chess board for my son, and not only was he able to figure them out, but now he often asks me to play chess puzzles with him out of the book. My five year old son now understands the concepts of "en prise" and "pin" thanks to this book! I think, though, the book is probably better for coaches of kids than kids themselves. After reading the explanation of tactics in this book, I am in a better position to explain them clearly to my son. The puzzles beyond "pin" (things like "decoy" and "trap") are way beyond him, and perhaps beyond much older children, too; but this book is a resource I can use for a long time if my son should continue to want to learn to play chess. I'm glad I bought it.

I purchased several Random House Chess Books for review, this one, this author's Endgame book, and Chess For Juniors by Snyder. Whereas, I found this book to be better than MacEnulty's King and Pawn book for kids, this book has some serious shortcomings as well. First of all, I found that there weren't enough example positions in the book. Instead of oversized diagrams and very large print more material should have been provided to enhance covering the important tactical themes being covered. The author states in his introduction the importance of going over tactical themes, over and over again, but doesn't provide sufficient material in his own book! Second of all, I agree with some of the other reviewers who noticed that there was very little analysis of the example games and that in most cases it wasn't shown where the blunders were made. A very serious shortfall. Third of all, there are indeed some mistakes made in the book that detract from the quality of the book. Why two stars instead of one? This is because the good point of this book is that most of the example positions are good and the book is somewhat useful for a teacher. However, there are better books on tactics for kids out there.

As an 11 year old who owns this book I need to point out, though this book may not be the sharpest tool in the shed when it comes to tactics it is not that bad. It does have some good points. It does cover a good number of different types of positions. And, I have only found two mistakes in the positions (it seems some of the other readers have found more - but I am only rated about 700 but have beaten some adults at the chess club in Newark). It is good that it does have some example games that go with the positions. But it is also true that there is very little explaining what is going on with those games - this is a major weakness as it doesn't tell me where the player went wrong in the games. I really, really think that a kids book should explain what is happening. I have seen a couple of better books covering problems and tactics for kids and will probably get them when I get some more money. I love chess!

I own more than two hundred chess books and I've been teaching chess to kids in both public and private schools in California for ten years. In my opinion this book gives very clear explanations of the concepts behind many of the most basic chess tactics. Tactical puzzles are organized by theme so that the student can learn one type of tactic at a time. Games are included that show how the various tactics can arise from typical chess games played by kids. This book is not for students who are just learning how the pieces move, but it is an excellent work for students who have learned how the pieces move and want to move on to the next level of chess. Another excellent work for that

purpose is grandmaster Daniel King's book How To Win At Chess, The Ten Golden Rules.

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