My Chess Family

Chess opening tips for kids: bring out your pieces and castle

Try each question on a real board, then check the answers at the end of the sheet.

Develop and castle

To develop means to bring your knights and bishops out from the back row, so they can join the game.

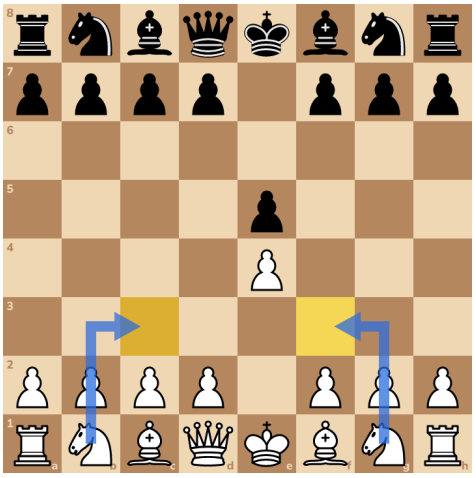


Good! Knights usually come out first, aiming at the centre.

Try it 2. Here's a new position. White played Nf3, and Black played Nc6. Now develop your bishop to c4, where it aims at the centre.



Try it 1. Develop a knight, towards the centre.



Your king is still in the middle, where it's easier to attack. The squares between it and the rook are empty now.



Try it 3. Castle! Move your king two squares towards the rook, and the rook jumps over.



Try it 4. Which piece do you usually bring out first?

A:  **B:**  **C:** 

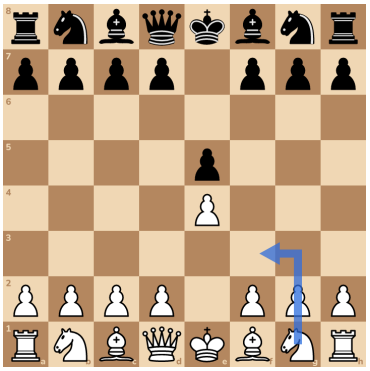
Castled! Your king is safe behind its pawns, and your rook can join in.

Try not to move the same piece twice at the start. Bring out a new piece each move instead.



Answers

1. Nf3 or Nc3



2. Bc4



3. O-O



4. A: the white knight