

# Chess Kingdoms

(working document)

## Premise:

You are the ruler of a growing medieval kingdom, and your army is your chess set. Every piece has a role in your kingdom, and as you play chess matches, you earn resources to expand your city. The goal is to become a grandmaster while also building the most prosperous kingdom

## Core Mechanics

### 1. Chess Battles with Interactive Pieces

- Each chess game is framed as a battle between two kingdoms.
- The pieces are personified with unique personalities, voices, and animations (e.g., knights charge forward, rooks transform into castles).
- Before making a move, tapping a piece gives kids a short explanation of its movement pattern and a suggested strategy. As your play progresses this becomes more advanced and can also be turned off for quicker play.

### 2. City Building & Upgrades

- Winning matches earns resources to develop the kingdom.
- Each chess piece has a dedicated structure in the city:
  - **King:** The royal palace
  - **Queen:** The grand hall
  - **Bishops:** The church or magical academy
  - **Knights:** The stables and training grounds
  - **Rooks:** Guard towers and fortifications
  - **Pawns:** Farms, markets, and villages
- Upgrading these structures gives slight advantages in battles (e.g., faster tutorial hints, extra warning tokens, special battle effects).

### 3. Interactive Learning with Warning Tokens

- **Warning Tokens:** When a player is about to move into danger, a visual warning token appears, hinting at the threat.
- **Guided Missions:** Special challenges teach advanced moves like forks, pins, and checkmates.
- **Mini-games:** Quick exercises that reinforce tactics (e.g., a pawn promotion challenge where pawns must reach the other side to "unlock" new heroes for the city).

## Progression & Rewards

- **Titles & Ranks:** Players move from "Squire" to "Grandmaster King" based on their skill level.
- **Customization:** Unlock different board themes, piece designs, and city aesthetics.
- **Story Mode:** A light RPG narrative where you defeat rival kingdoms through strategic chess matches.