

A New Game

It was summer. The days were long and hot. Toby had nothing to do. All his friends were off at camp. Toby had to stay home. His mother needed him to help care for his little sister. Toby spent most of his time at home watching television.

One sunny afternoon, his mother told him to go outside and play. For a while, Toby sat all alone on the front steps of his apartment building. Then he felt a tap on his shoulder. It was Mr. Blumberg. Mr. Blumberg lived upstairs. He was on his way to play chess in the park. Mr. Blumberg did this every day. He asked Toby if he wanted to learn the game.

Toby often watched Mr. Blumberg and his friends play chess. Toby had never thought of asking if he could join them. Toby said he would love to learn. Mr. Blumberg and Toby walked together to the park.

Toby met all of Mr. Blumberg's friends. Then Toby sat down. He was excited. He really wanted to learn this new game.

1. Why did Toby's mother tell him to go outside?
2. How did Toby feel about learning chess?