Children Construct the Rules for Checkers Transcript

Golden: And then you take your checker over there. I'm gonna move here and then your turn.

Emma: So I'm going to move this back out?

Golden: What?

Emma: This black one.

Golden: You have to do a red. Always do a red.

Emma places a red from her pile onto the board. Golden looks confused but goes with it.

Golden: Now I jumped over you, and now I get your checker.

Emma isn't looking, so Golden repeats himself.

Golden: I jumped over you, so I get your checker.

Emma: Okay. So now...

Golden: (pointing to the board) You can jump over me there to there.

Emma: So I'd get another checker.

Emma places a black checker from her pile back onto the board and picks up the one Golden wanted her to "jump". Golden gives it back to her.

Golden: But, you can get two. You can have both of those. I'm going to take that one, and then you can move. You can move. Your turn.

Emma: If I have to move, then do you have to jump over me?

Golden: No, I don't need to. Only when you get there, then you jump over me.

Emma: Okay. So. What do I do?

Golden: You can move whatever place you want.

Emma places a checker from her pile onto the board. Although this doesn't follow traditional rules, Golden replies, "Good."

He seems to notice that he can jump one of her checkers, as he places his fingers on it, but then removes his fingers and moves another one instead in order to set up a play for Emma.

Golden: Your turn, and then you can jump over me, and then you take mine.

Emma again pulls a checker from her pile and places it on the board. She then takes Golden's checker. Golden picks up the checker and shows her how to "jump" it.

Golden: But you have to jump here, okay?

Emma imitates his actions.

Emma: So now I have three. Now you have to get three of mine because, cause, cause...

Golden: I can jump over you, and I get your checker.

Emma hands him two more of her checkers, as if trying to ensure that they each have the same number, three, of each other's checkers.

Golden: (as he arranges these new checkers on the board) You've got two, and I've got three. You've got two, and I've got three. Wait. Wait. I've got two, and you've got three. You've got three, and I've got two.

Emma: (as she plays with her checkers) First you were wrong when you said, "You've got two, and I've got three." But really I've got three, and you've got two. Look, it looks like Mickey Mouse