



Sumdog - A Guide for Parents & Carers

Sumdog is a fantastic website (and APP) that uses motivating games to encourage children to practice their mental maths skills. The children love it as they are able to play against each other and they can practice any skill with any game. This ensures that Sumdog is never boring and always relevant.

The screenshot shows the Sumdog app interface. At the top, there is a header with the Sumdog logo, a dinosaur illustration, and the text: "Parents: get your child a dinosaur! Extra house items in the store with a [Family Membership](#)". Below this, a notification reads: "ERIN: PREPARE FOR Identify and graph ordered pairs".

The main interface features a vertical menu on the left with the following options: "Log out", "Maths", "Training", "Choose skills", "Games", "Play world", and "House" (with a house icon and "531 coins" below it). The main area displays a virtual shop with a woman avatar, a monkey, and a dog. A progress bar is visible at the top right of the shop area.

Callouts provide the following information:

- Can fix games to practise times tables or past skills revision here.** (Points to the "Games" button)
- Specific skills to practise can be chosen here.** (Points to the "Choose skills" button)
- Games can be chosen by scrolling across the screen or by pressing on the Games icon on the left hand side of the screen.**
- The 'Play world' button on the left hand side lets the pupil choose to play anyone else playing (all pupils playing have to be logged in and the program will only show their first name and school so it is safe for the children to play in this mode), someone in their class or the computer (a robot).**
- Shop to spend coins, earned playing games, on clothes for avatar or decorating their Sumdog house. They love this!**
- Child's personal avatar.** (Points to the woman character)
- Pet earned from completing the initial diagnostic test.** (Points to the dog)
- Skill being focused on when playing games (set as a result of the initial diagnostic test). The bar underneath shows how many times they have practised it and how close they are to completing that skill.** (Points to the progress bar)

Log in and explore

Each child has been given a unique username and password. This allows them to access their personalised home screen, which includes information about their animal level, earned coins and the Sumdog house. This is where they can scroll through and choose games to play or select which skill to work on.

The first few questions are aimed at finding the right level for the child so they may vary in difficulty at first. Once they have completed the diagnostic test, the children will be given questions suitable for their level and based on a target skill that Sumdog has identified as needing further practice. Each time a child becomes confident at answering questions about that skill, Sumdog automatically selects a new skill to develop.

Each week, teachers have the option to set a challenge of answering a certain number of questions related to a focus area. Different challenges can be set for different children in order to support their progress. Teachers can access useful information about children's accuracy in answering questions correctly and how much time they have been spending on Sumdog.

We believe Sumdog is a fantastic tool for keeping the children of Hillside First School engaged in maths. We hope that this guide will enable you to be involved too. If you have any further questions, please do contact the school office.