

A Sumdog Guide for Parents

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

Each child has been given their own unique password which has been given to each child on a login card. This means that when they log on to the Sumdog website they will automatically see their own personalised home screen. From here they can scroll across the screen to choose games that appeal to them. Whichever game they choose they will still be given questions relevant to their level so it doesn't matter if they prefer some games over others.

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 this 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 practise. Each time a child becomes confident at answering questions about that skill, Sumdog automatically selects a new skill to develop.

The image shows a screenshot of the Sumdog website interface. At the top, a banner displays the current skill focus: "Divide unit fractions and whole numbers". Below this is a navigation menu with buttons for "Log out", "Maths", "Training", "Choose skills", "Games", "Play world", "House", and "Dashboard". The main area features a virtual shop with a child's avatar, a dog pet, and various clothing items. A progress bar is visible at the bottom of the shop area.

Can fix games to practise times tables or past skills revision here.

Specific skills to practise can be chosen here.

Shop to spend coins, earned playing games, on clothes for avatar or decorating their Sumdog house. They love this!

Child's personal avatar.

Pet earned from completing the initial diagnostic test.

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 pupil 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).

Skill being focussed 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.

Above is a picture of the personalised home screen that your child will see when they log on. We have included some labels to help you to understand the different features of Sumdog and how you can adapt it if needed to help your child practise specific skills such as their times tables.

We think Sumdog is a fantastic tool for keeping our pupils engaged in maths and we hope that this factsheet will enable you to get involved too. If you have any further questions please see <http://www.sumdog.com/en/parents/> or ask your child's teacher.