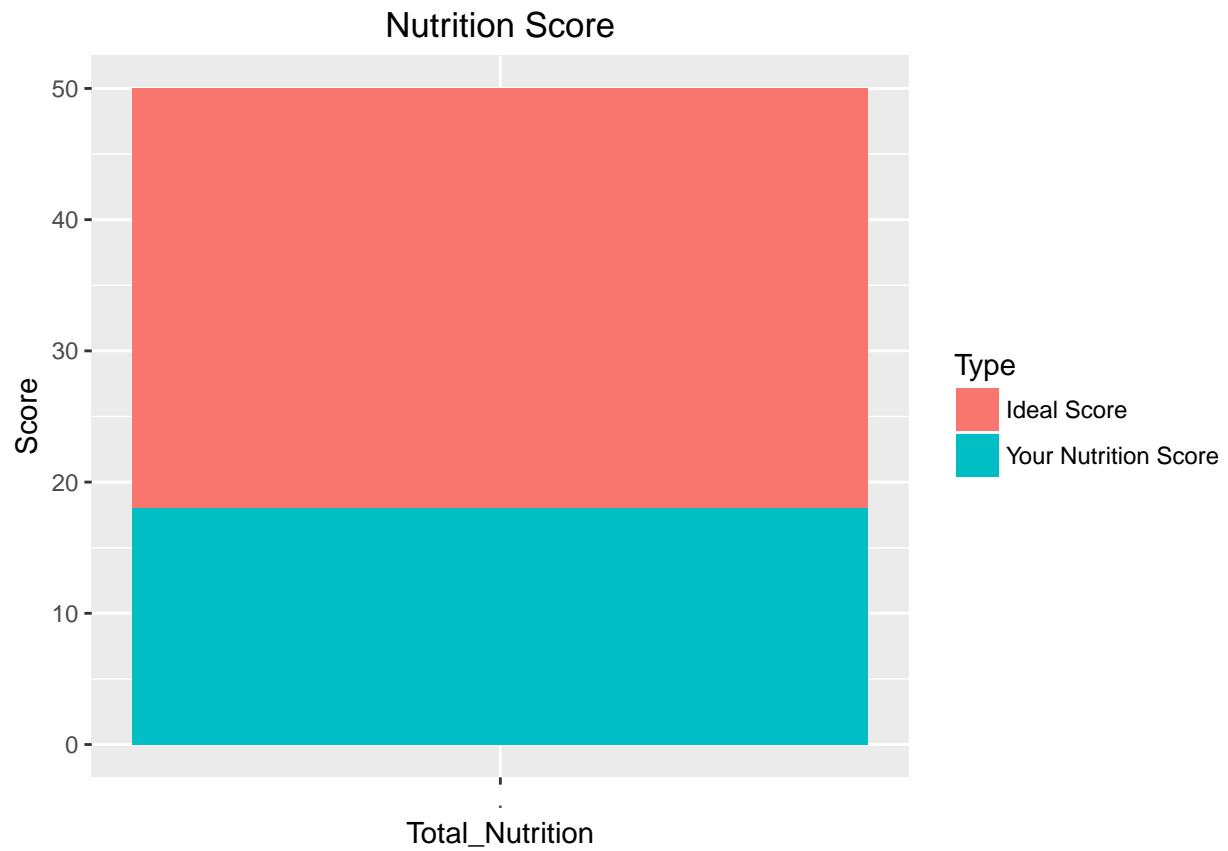


Nutrition Report 2017



Methibai Devraj Gundecha Foundation's
CHATRABHUJ NARSEE SCHOOL®
From Knowledge to Life



Viha has a total nutrition score of 18 out of 50 possible points. Read on to know what you're doing well and how you can get even better



A higher proportion of blue green indicates better performance. For example, blue/green in vegetables indicates that your child is getting enough vegetables, while more blue/green in junk food and screen indicates your child is getting *less* junk and screen time

Things You're Doing Well



Sweet Food

We are happy to notice that unlike other children Viha is keeping her intake of sugar to a minimum. Apart from promoting obesity and cardiac disease, sugar can have a harmful impact on academic performance. In an interesting study researchers fed normal preschoolers a high-sugar drink containing the amount of sugar in the average can of soda and compared them with children who received a non-sugar drink. The sugar group experienced decreased learning performance and more hyperactivity than the non-sugar group. So, great job!

Things You Could Improve at

Below are some tips on how you could improve Viha health and nutrition. After going through the bulleted tips and your appointment with the nutritionist, we recommend you select 3-5 tips to focus on and improve over the next year

Protein

Viha needs to get more protein. Protein repairs your builds and repairs body tissue and organs, especially vital at this age. Proteins also form antibodies that help prevent infection, illness, and disease. The following foods contain protein:

- Dals and beans
- Nuts and seeds
- Eggs and poultry
- Fish



Dairy

Viha could do with some more dairy. Dairy and dairy-containing foods contribute many essential nutrients. Calcium and Vitamin D, especially, are most easily absorbed from dairy. Both these nutrients are important in ensuring that Viha has healthy bones and teeth. You could squeeze in a serving as a snack in the evening, or a cup of yogurt post the evening play. Here are some other tips to increase dairy intake:

- Add milk in homemade puddings or fruit custards. You can control sugar with homemade stuff.
- Parathas with paneer
- Cheese cubes with fruit can be a great snack



Vegetables

Viha could do with more vegetables in diet. They have nutrients that can boost immunity and keep ailments like a common cold and flu at bay. It's especially important that Viha is eating vegetables at this early age

because food tastes are formed young. Eating vegetables in a rainbow of colors will provide a wide range of nutrients that will help keep Viha healthy

- Include vegetables in almost all foods (finely chopped if necessary)
- Offer vegetable sticks like cucumber and carrots with curd dips or hummus
- Add slices of cucumber, capsicum, grated carrot and lettuce to sandwiches
- Use pureed or grated vegetables in pasta sauces or soups
- Include them in parathas (even aloo parathas can have other mashed vegetables)
- Keep trying. It takes almost 10 times before children warm up to a particular food



Fruits

It would be great if you could include more fruits in Viha's diet. Fruits give you sustainable energy, unlike sugar highs that last a few hours or less. Fruits also have many micronutrients. For example, citrus fruits and strawberries are rich in immune system-boosting vitamin C. Apples contain 16 different polyphenols, which are antioxidants with health-promoting properties.

- Try food smoothies or milkshakes as snacks
- Add fruits to salads which will make salad colourful and appealing
- Maybe add fruit to yogurt
- You can sprinkle chaat masala on fruits to improve how they taste
- Fruits can be added to cereal or porridge and to pancakes



Fast Food

Viha seems to be getting more of junk and processed foods in her diet. Junk food is appealing to most children. However, regularly consuming fattening junk food can be addictive for children and lead to complications like obesity, chronic illness as well as affecting how they perform in school and extracurricular activities. Some strategies to help make healthier choices are:

- Stock your home with healthy snacking options like dried fruits, nuts, fruits and vegetables with dips like hummus and curd dips etc
- Cook healthier alternatives of junk food eg baked fries instead of frying them, homemade pizzas with the healthy base and sauce, homemade burgers, whole wheat pastas, etc

Exercise

Getting more physical activity would be good for Viha. This is especially important at a young age because physical (body) and cognitive (brain) development go hand-in-hand. While this continues for life, this relationship is most critical at a young age. When kids are active, their brain develops, allowing for new types of activity. Frequent physical activity has been associated with improved behavior in the classroom and beyond. Aerobic activity has been shown to increase the size of essential brain structures and number of neural connections. Here are a few things you could do to encourage more physical activity.

- Most importantly be a role good model. If children see you being active they will follow suit.
- You could initiate forming a play group with other children
- Walk short distances with the child instead of taking a vehicle
- Decrease screen time as hand held devices, computers and mobile phones for a few hours may reduce active play time

Water

Viha is not getting enough water. Kids don't always recognise the early stages of thirst, which can make them particularly vulnerable to becoming dehydrated, especially during times that can drive up their body fluid losses, for example when they are playing sport or during warm weather. Dehydration, even if only mild, can cause tiredness, headaches, lack of concentration, reduced mental performance and dry skin. Here are a couple things you can try to make Viha drink more water

- Diluting a fresh juice with some water is an option if the child is not willing to drink water voluntarily
- Actively encourage them to drink more and lead by example

