

# Nutrition Report 2017



# **JAMNABAI NARSEE**

## **INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

Khusshi has a total nutrition score of 39 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



### Dairy

Getting enough dairy is not a problem for Khusshi . 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 Khusshi has healthy bones and teeth



### Fruits

Khusshi is getting enough fruit. 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. Eating fruits and vegetables in a rainbow of colors will provide a wide range of nutrients that will help keep healthy

### Exercise

Khusshi seems to be getting enough physical activity. 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.

## Things You Could Improve at

Below are some tips on how you could improve Khushshi 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

Khushshi 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



### Vegetables

Khushshi 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 Khushshi 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 Khushshi 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



## Sweet Food

Khusshi needs to keep a tab on the intake of sugar based foods. High intake can affect the bone development, the brain activity and contribute to unnecessary empty calorie intake. It has been well documented in various studies that high intake of sugar in foods decreases attention span and memory. Some things you can do as a parent to reduce the intake of sugar in her diet

- Parents - lead by example. If children see you snacking on sweet foods and drinks they will follow you
- Set a specific day and mealtime for dessert
- Offer sweet fruits or dried fruits as snacks
- Buy plain yogurt instead of the flavoured one and sweeten it with dried fruits or berries to enhance the taste

## Fast Food

Khusshi 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

## Water

Khusshi 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 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

