

# Somali

## Carbohydrate Counting Guide

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Eating a well-balanced diet is an important part of keeping your child healthy and controlling your child's blood sugars. A healthy diet contains foods from the following food groups:

- Starches and Grains
- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Dairy
- Meats, Chicken, Fish, Eggs, Beans, Nuts and Seeds
- Fats

## For a Healthy Diet:

### Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.

- Eat red, orange and dark-green vegetables, such as tomatoes, carrots, and leafy green vegetables such as spinach and lettuce with meals and for snacks.
- Choose fresh or canned fruit packed in its own juice more often than fruit juice.

### Drink skim or 1% milk.

- They have the same amount of calcium as whole milk, but less fat.
- Try calcium-fortified soy milk instead of dairy if you cannot drink milk from cows.

### Eat more whole grains.

- Check the ingredients on food packages. Choose 100% whole-grains, flours, cereals, breads, rice, and spaghetti.

### Choose healthy sources of protein.

- Twice a week, eat fish or seafood.
- Eat beans, a natural source of protein and fiber.
- Keep meat and chicken low in fat. Trim away any fat on meat and take the skin off chicken.

### Choose mostly heart healthy fats.

- Healthy fats are in vegetable oils, nuts, seeds, avocados, and fat from fish and seafood.
- Less healthy fats are fats from fatty meats, fatty dairy products, ghee, butter, and stick margarine.

### Choose sweets and sweet drinks less often.

- Drink more water instead of sweet drinks.
- Eat desserts and sweet treats less often.
- Do not add extra sugar to juice and other foods.

# Not All Foods Affect Blood Sugar the Same Way

There are six different nutrients in foods:

*Carbohydrate, protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water.*

All of these nutrients are found in healthy foods and give your child the energy he/she needs to grow normally. Of these nutrients, carbohydrates have the greatest effect on blood sugar.

## Carbohydrates in Foods

The two main types of carbohydrates found in foods are starches and sugars. Both types affect blood sugar equally when eaten in similar amounts.

Foods that contain healthy carbohydrates include all types of grains and grain products (bread, rice, pasta, and cereal-100% whole grains are best), fruits (fresh fruit, canned and dried fruit, and fruit juice), vegetables, but starchy vegetables have the most carbohydrate (white potatoes, sweet potatoes and yams, corn, green peas, and winter squash), milk and yogurt, and beans, peas, and legumes (red beans, cow peas, mung beans, lentils etc).

Foods that contain less healthy carbohydrates are candy, desserts, salty and fatty snack foods, and sweet beverages.

## Insulin

The body needs insulin in order to use the energy from carbohydrates in foods, and keep blood sugars in a healthy range. The amount of insulin your child needs depends on the amount of carbohydrate that is in the food or beverage. The more carbohydrate that is consumed, the more insulin will be needed.

If your child receives rapid-acting analog insulin such as Humalog (Lispro), Novolog (Aspart) or Apidra (Glulisine), or if your child receives short-acting insulin (Actrapid, Soluble/Regular), the amount of insulin he or she needs will be based on an “insulin-to-carbohydrate ratio” which will be determined by your child’s doctor. This is usually prescribed as the number of grams of carbohydrate that require 1 unit of insulin.

In some cases, if rapid-acting or short-acting insulin is not available and your child is receiving intermediate-acting insulin (Mixtard; NPH; Novomix), you will not be able to adjust the insulin based on the number of carbohydrates your child takes, and instead you must give your child the number of grams of carbohydrate at each meal that your doctor prescribes. Good diabetes control is possible with both methods.

# Calculating Carbohydrates and Reading Food Labels

In order for you to calculate how much insulin to give your child for meals and snacks, you will need to count the amount of carbohydrates in the food your child eats. Reading food labels on packages, cans, and bags is one way to find out how much carbohydrate is in a food item:

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
Serving Size 1 cup (249g)	
Servings Per Container 8	
<b>Amount Per Serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b> 170	<b>Calories from Fat</b> 60
% Daily Value*	
<b>Total Fat</b> 7g	<b>11%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.5g	8%
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 15g	<b>5%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 360g	<b>19%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 17g	<b>6%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>16%</b>
Sugars 9g	
<b>Protein</b> 11g	
Vitamin A 15%	• Vitamin C 25%
Calcium 4%	• Iron 15%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.	
	Calories: 2,000    2,500
Trans Fat	Less than 56g    80g
Saturated Fat	Less than 20g    25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg    300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg    2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g    375g
Dietary Fiber	25g    30g
Calories per gram	
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4	

## First:

Look at the "Serving Size" for the amount of food that equals one serving. This example says a serving is 1 cup. The weight of the food is 249 grams. You can ignore the weight.

## Second:

Look at the "Total Carbohydrate". This example says there is 17 grams of total carbohydrate. You can ignore the dietary fiber and dietary sugar. They are included in the Total Carbohydrate amount of 17 grams.

If your child is going to eat more than one serving, for example 2 cups, then you need to multiply 17 grams x 2 which equals 34 grams of carbohydrate.

## Insulin Calculation Example

If your child is going to eat 2 cups of this food above, and needs 1 unit of rapid-acting insulin for every 15 grams of carbohydrate, you can round the 34 grams down to 30 grams (it's close enough), and give your child 2 units of rapid-acting insulin for this food. Remember that the dose of rapid-acting insulin depends on your child's insulin-to-carbohydrate ratio.

## Measuring Cups, Spoons, and Food Scale



## Grains, Beans, Sauce, Potato and Bread



**Bariis**

½ Cup = 22 g carbohydrate



**Bariis**

1 Cup = 44 g carbohydrate



**Baasto**

½ Cup = 22 g carbohydrate



**Baasto**

1 Cup = 44 g carbohydrate



**Soor/ Shuuro**

½ Cup = 19 g carbohydrate



**Soor/ Shuuro**

1 Cup = 38 g carbohydrate



**Qamadi/ Sareen**

½ Cup = 22 g carbohydrate



**Qamadi/ Sareen**

1 Cup = 44 g carbohydrate



**Mushaari**

½ Cup = 14 g carbohydrate

## Grains, Beans, Sauce, Potato and Bread



**Mushaari**

1 Cup = 27 g carbohydrate



**Ambuulo Sareen**

½ Cup = 15 g carbohydrate



**Ambuulo Sareen**

1 Cup = 30 g carbohydrate



**Ambuulo Galey**

½ Cup = 15 g carbohydrate



**Ambuulo Galey**

1 Cup = 30 g carbohydrate



**Ambuulo Bariis**

½ Cup = 15 g carbohydrate



**Ambuulo Bariis**

1 Cup = 30 g carbohydrate



**Maraq Digir**

½ Cup = 15 g carbohydrate



**Maraq Digir**

1 Cup = 30 g carbohydrate

# Grains, Beans, Sauce, Potato and Bread



**Digir**

½ Cup = 15-20 g carbohydrate



**Maraq Bilaash**

½ Cup = 5 g carbohydrate



**Spaghetti Sauce (Jar)**

½ Cup = 12 g carbohydrate



**Spaghetti Sauce (Home)**

½ Cup = 6 g carbohydrate



**Baradho**

1 (5½ oz) = 34 g carbohydrate



**Anjeero/ Lahooch**

1 (2 oz.) = 14 g carbohydrate



**Malawah**

1 (2 oz.) = 18 g carbohydrate



**Muufo Baraawe**

1 (1.8 oz.) = 26 g carbohydrate



**Muufo**

1 (3 oz.) = 34 g carbohydrate

# Grains, Beans, Sauce, Potato and Bread



**Sabaayadi/ Burkaaki**

1 = 37 g carbohydrate



**Pocket Bread**

½ Pocket = 15 g carbohydrate



**Hambasha**

½ Slice = 28 g carbohydrate



**Rooti Somali**

½ Rooti = 30 g carbohydrate



**Whole Wheat Bread**

1 Slice = 11 g carbohydrate



**Whole Wheat Bread**

1 Slice = 14 g carbohydrate



**Breakfast Cereal**

Carbs will vary. Check label.

## Fruit and Fruit Juice



**Sm/ Md/ Lg Banana**

Sm: 23 g / Md: 27 g / Lg: 30g



**Medium Apple**

19 g carbohydrate



**Medium Pear**

25 g carbohydrate



**Medium Orange**

21 g carbohydrate



**Clementine**

9 g carbohydrate



**Medium Peach**

14 g carbohydrate



**Kiwi**

11 g carbohydrate



**Strawberries**

½ Cup = 6 g carbohydrate



**Mango**

½ Cup = 12 g carbohydrate

## Fruit and Fruit Juice



**Watermelon**

½ Cup = 6 g carbohydrate



**Papaya**

½ Cup = 8 g carbohydrate



**Pineapple**

½ Cup = 11 g carbohydrate



**Grapes**

17 = 15 g carbohydrate



**Unsweetened Applesauce**

½ Cup = 14 g carbohydrate



**Unsweetened Canned Fruit**

1 Container = 17 g carbohydrate



**Dates**

2 = 15 g carbohydrate



**Apple Juice**

½ Cup = 14 g carbohydrate



**Apple Juice**

1 Cup = 28 g carbohydrate

## Fruit and Fruit Juice



### Orange Juice

½ Cup = 13 g carbohydrate



### Orange Juice

1 Cup = 26 g carbohydrate



### Mango Juice

½ Cup = 16 g carbohydrate



### Juice Boxes

1 = 24 g carbohydrate

# Milk, Yogurt and Cheese



## Lowfat Milk

1 Cup = 13 g carbohydrates



## Buttermilk

1 Cup = 13 g carbohydrate



## Plain Yogurt

1 Cup = 19 g carbohydrate



## Flavored Yogurts

Carbs will vary. Check label.



## Yogurt Drink

1 bottle = 36 g carbohydrate



## Cheese

0 g carbohydrate

## Vegetables



**Isbinaasha**

½ Cup = 4 g carbohydrate



**Cabbage**

½ Cup = 4 g carbohydrate



**Ansalaato/ Saladh**

½ Cup = 1 g carbohydrate



**Ansalaato/ Saladh**

½ Cup = 1 g carbohydrate



**Vegetables**

½ Cup = 2-6 g carbohydrate



**Frozen Vegetables**

Carbs will vary. Check label.

## Meat, Chicken, Fish, Eggs



**Beef**

0 grams carbohydrate



**Goat**

0 grams carbohydrate



**Goat Liver**

0 grams carbohydrate



**Goat Kidney**

0 grams carbohydrate



**Lamb**

0 grams carbohydrate



**Camel**

0 grams carbohydrate



**Fish/ Seafood**

0 grams carbohydrate



**Chicken**

0 grams carbohydrate



**Eggs**

0 grams carbohydrate

## Fats and Oils



**Ghee**

0 g carbohydrate



**Oil**

0 g carbohydrate



**Butter**

0 g carbohydrate



**Tub Margarine**

0 g carbohydrate



**Salad Dressing**

2 Tablespoons =  
0-8 g carbohydrate



**Mayonnaise**

0 g carbohydrate

## Meat, Chicken, Fish, with Sauces



**Oodkac**

0 g carbohydrate



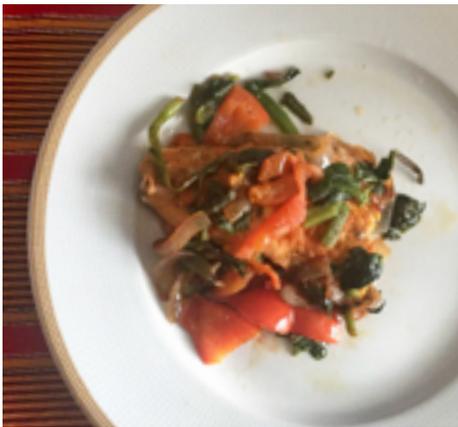
**Suqaar**

$\frac{1}{2}$  Cup = 5 g carbohydrate



**Suqaar**

1 Cup = 10 g carbohydrate



**Mallaay/Kalluun Yuumbi**

1 serving = 2 g carbohydrate



**Hilib Digaag**

$\frac{1}{2}$  Cup Sauce = 8 g carbohydrate



**Maraq/ Fahfah**

1 Cup = 18 g carbohydrate

## Appetizers and Snacks



**Bajiya**

1 = 9 grams carbohydrate



**Sambuusi**

1 = 15 grams carbohydrate



**Nafago**

1 = 15 grams carbohydrate



**Bur Mandhasi**

1 = 28 grams carbohydrate



**Bur Katuunboow**

1 = 11 grams carbohydrate



**Bur Macsharo**

1 = 86 grams carbohydrate



**Bur Macsharo**

$\frac{1}{4}$  = 22 g carbohydrate

## Spreads, Condiments and Spices



**Peanut Butter**

1 Tablespoon = 3 g carbohydrate



**Nutella**

1 Tablespoon = 12 g carbohydrate



**Jam**

1 Teaspoon = 4 g carbohydrate



**Jam**

1 Tablespoon = 13 g carbohydrate



**Sugar-Free Jam**

1 Tablespoon = 5 g carbohydrate



**Honey**

1 Teaspoon = 6 g carbohydrate



**Honey**

1 Tablespoon = 17 g carbohydrate



**Regular Maple Syrup**

1 Tablespoon = 15 g carbohydrate



**Light Maple Syrup**

1 Tablespoon = 8 g carbohydrate

## Spreads, Condiments and Spices



**Sugar-Free Maple Syrup**

1 Tablespoon = 3 g carbohydrate



**White Sugar**

1 Teaspoon = 4 g carbohydrate



**White Sugar**

1 Tablespoon = 12 g carbohydrate



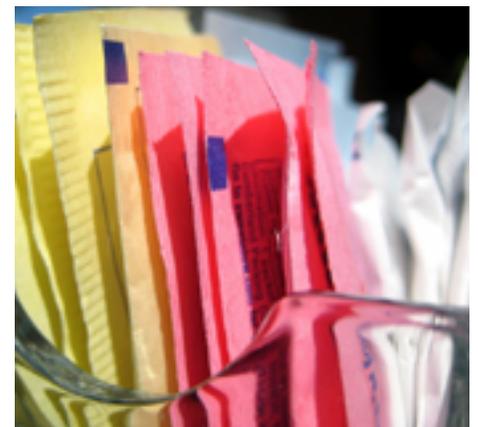
**Brown Sugar**

1 Teaspoon = 4 g carbohydrate



**Brown Sugar**

1 Tablespoon = 12 g carbohydrate



**Artificial Sweetener**

0 g carbohydrate



**Spices**

0 g carbohydrate

## Desserts and Sweets



**Doolsho Subuq**

$\frac{1}{16}$  = 24 g carbohydrate



**Doolsho Soomaali**

$\frac{1}{12}$  = 25 g carbohydrate



**Halwa**

1 (1 oz.) = 24 g carbohydrate



**Buskut Eid**

1 (0.4 oz.) = 6 g carbohydrate



**Qumbe Macaan**

1 (1 oz.) = 18 g carbohydrate



**Sisin**

1 (1 oz.) = 18 g carbohydrate



**Sisin Laduubay**

2 (0.6 oz.) = 5 g carbohydrate



**Shuushuumoow**

1 (0.8 oz.) = 12 g carbohydrate



**Loos Malabis**

1 (1 oz.) = 16 g carbohydrate

## Beverages



### Shaah Soomaali

with 1 teaspoon sugar =  
4 g carbohydrate



### Shaah Soomaali

with 1 tablespoon sugar =  
12 g carbohydrate



### Shaah Soomaali

with artificial sweetener =  
0 g carbohydrate



### Vimto

1 Can = 46 g carbohydrate



### Diet Soda

0 g carbohydrate



### Regular Soda

Carbs will vary. Check label.

#### References:

1. US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Nutrient Data Laboratory. USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 28. Version Current: September 2015. <http://www.ars.usda.gov/nea/bhnrc/ndl>
2. Barlin Ali. Somali Cuisine. AuthorHouse, Bloomington, IN 2007