## Crockpot Freezer Meals: Postpartum Survival Guide

by Natalie Broders, Portland Birth Photographer https://www.nataliebroders.com

Step 1: Add raw ingredients to a gallon size freezer bag, then freeze

**Step 2**: Night before: move the meal from the freezer to the fridge to defrost overnight

Step 3: Throw it in the crockpot.

Pro tip: make 2 of each!

## Teriyaki Chicken

Cook time: 8 hours on LOW
2 pounds chicken thighs
1/2 cup soy sauce
1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
1/4 cup brown sugar
one 20-ounce can pineapple chunks
(drained)

**Serve with:** cooked white or brown rice, green veggies

## **Beef Stroganoff**

Cook time: 8 hours on LOW

2 pounds stew meat

1 pound sliced mushrooms

1 diced onion

1/2 cup red wine

1 tablespoon beef stock paste (or 2 bouillon

cubes)

**Extra directions:** Add 1 cup water to slow cooker before cooking. Stir in 1/2 cup sour cream before serving (do not freeze with other ingredients or add at beginning of

cooking time or it will curdle)

Serve with: noodles or rice

### Sloppy Joes

Cook time: 3-4 hours on HIGH

One pound ground beef

1 diced onion

1 diced green bell pepper

15-ounce can tomato sauce (or 1 6-ounce can tomato paste mixed with 1 cup water) one Sloppy Joes seasoning mix packet

Serve with: buns, fries

## **Ham and Pinto Bean Soup**

Cook time: 5-6 hours on HIGH or 8 hours on

LOW

1 pound dried pinto beans1.5 pound bone-in ham shank

3/4 cup ketchup

Water

Salt. to taste

#### Directions -

Night before: place beans in crockpot and cover with 8 cups of water. Let sit overnight

(don't turn the crockpot on)

In the morning: add ham shank. Cover and cook 5-6 hours on HIGH or 8 hours on LOW. After cook time, add ketchup and salt to taste.

Ham should fall off the bone.

Serve with: crusty bread or salad

## **Creamy Italian Chicken**

**Cook time:** 4 hours on LOW or 8 hours on HIGH

1 and 1/2 pounds chicken breasts, cut up in one inch pieces

1 bar of cream cheese

1 can cream of chicken soup

1 packet zesty Italian salad dressing mix

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 cup green beans, frozen or fresh

**Extra directions:** Add 1 cup water to slow cooker before cooking. Stir in 1/2 cup sour cream before serving (do not freeze with other ingredients or add at beginning of cooking time or it will curdle)

Serve with: noodles and Parmesan

## **Vegetable Beef Stew**

Cook time: 8-10 hours on LOW

2 pounds stew meat

1 diced onion

2 sliced carrots

1 sliced parsnip

1 large rutabaga (peeled and cut into cubes)

1/2 cup red wine

2 tablespoons beef stock base or 3 bouillon cubes

1 1/2 cups water

Serve with: mashed potatoes or rice

Shopping list on the next page!

## SHOPPING LIST

\* = you probably already have these items in your cupboard

2 pounds chicken thighs

1.5 pounds chicken breasts

1 pound ground beef

2 pounds stew meat

1.5 pound bone-in ham shank

brown rice

fettuccine noodles

bowtie noodles

ketchup \*

1/2 cup soy sauce \*

1/4 cup rice wine vinegar \*

1/4 cup brown sugar \*

red wine (1 cup)

1 packet zesty Italian salad dressing mix one Sloppy Joes seasoning mix packet

beef stock paste (or beef bouillon cubes) \*

frozen french fries

frozen green beans

1 20-ounce can pineapple chunks

15-ounce can tomato sauce (or 1 6-ounce can tomato paste mixed with 1 cup water)

1 pound dried pinto beans

1 can cream of chicken soup

3 yellow onion

1 diced green bell pepper

1 pound sliced mushrooms

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 carrots

1 parsnip (substitute a carrot if you want)

1 large rutabaga (substitute a potato if you want)

Parmesan

1 bar of cream cheese

# Day-of shopping list – Buy when you're ready to cook it:

broccoli (or other green veggie)

whole wheat buns

sour cream

crusty bread

salad mix

country crock pre-made mashed potatoes

from the deli