the nourishing home whole Food meal Plan: week One

The following **Whole Food Meal Plan**, **Shopping List** and **Prep Day Chart** feature budget-friendly, healthy gluten-free meals that typically feed a family of four. For those not living GF, no worries! I'm a GF girl living in household of grain lovers. So let me assure you, this real food menu can easily be adjusted to meet your needs. In addition, for those following a grain-free diet, this meal plan is especially easy to adjust, since the majority of recipes I develop and share are grain-free. It's a joy to share our meals with you! Many blessings, Kelly



Shopping List (dinner only) Mushrooms (1 cup) Pure maple syrup (for dessert recipe) Meat, Poultry & Fish ____ Pineapple (1.5 cups, or 1 can) Wild rice Chicken Stock (4 cups) Chicken Breasts; boneless, skinless (1 lb.) Russet Potatoes (3-5 lbs) **Dry Herbs & Spices** 2 Split Chicken Breasts (about 2 lbs) Snap peas (6 oz) White Fish (1 fillet per person) Sweet onion (1 small) Arrowroot powder Cinnamon sticks (for cocoa recipe) Tomatoes (2 small) Ground Turkey or Beef (2 lb) Yellow Onion (2) Nitrate-free Bacon (2 slices) Cumin Zucchini (6-7 large) Garlic powder Sliced Deli Ham or Turkey Ginger Dairy, Eggs & Cold Case Items Ground cinnamon Fresh Herbs Cilantro (1 small bunch) Herb Seasoning Blend Cheddar cheese (12 oz) Parsley (1/2 tbsp) Italian Herb Blend Fresh salsa (or homemade) Mexican Seasoning Blend Sliced Swiss (1 package) **Frozen Produce** Oregano Sour cream Organic Veggie Medley (1 small pack) Red pepper flakes **Fresh Produce** Rosemary **Pantry Items** Avocado (1-2) Thyme Black olives (1 small cans) Black Pepper Baby spinach (2 small bunches) Brown (or White) Basmati Rice Sea Salt Bok choy (optional, 1 head) Cashew Butter (if making GF bread) Broccoli (2 heads) Cherry or grape tomatoes (8oz) Diced tomatoes (2 small cans) Staples Dry black beans (or 2 cans) Blanched almond flour (optional) Carrots (4 large) Dry white beans (or 2 cans) Garlic (2 heads) Butter Elbow macaroni (GF, if desired) Olive Oil Green onions (1 small bunch) Vanilla extract (for dessert recipe) Jalapeno pepper (1) Organic Ketchup Organic soy sauce (or coconut aminos) Sea Salt Lemons (4) Lettuce: Romaine (1 bunch) Organic tomato paste (1 small can) Black Pepper Lime (2) Pineapple Juice (or sub with lime juice)

the nourishing home whole Food meal plan: week One

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dinner	Lemon-Garlic Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Steamed Broccoli	Grilled Pineapple Chicken with Pineapple Salsa, Crockpot Black Beans & Rice	<u>Taco Salad</u> w/Leftover Black Beans & Rice	<u>Veggie Stirfry</u> w/Leftover Grilled Chicken	Shepherd's Pie and Spinach Salad w/Raspberry Vinaigrette	Minestrone Soup with Grilled Ham & Swiss Sandwiches on GF Brown Bread	Grilled Fish Provencal over Wild Rice Dessert: Snickerdoodles
Lunch	<u>Veggie Mini</u> <u>Omelets</u> with Garden Salad	Fruit & Cheese Kebobs with Multiseed Crackers	Grilled Chicken Salad Sandwiches on Sweet Brown Bread and Fresh Fruit	Raw Veggie Kebobs with <u>Greek</u> <u>Hummus Dip</u> and <u>Multiseed</u> <u>Crackers</u>	Nut Butter Apple Slice Sandwiches (see note below) and Vanilla Yogurt	Greek Hummus Veggie Wraps and Fruit & Nut Bar	Leftover Minestrone Soup with Garden Salad
Breakfast	Cinnamon Apple Oatmeal Bake and Boiled Eggs	Leftover Cinnamon Apple Oatmeal Bake and Scrambled Eggs	Leftover <u>Veggie</u> <u>Mini Omelets</u> and <u>Gingerbread</u> <u>Smoothie</u>	Pineapple Coconut Muffins and Eggs Over Easy	Leftover Pineapple Coconut Muffins and Vanilla Yogurt w/Homemade Granola	<u>Homemade</u>	Savory Baked Eggs and Sweet Brown Bread Toast w/Butter
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Daily Prep	 Bake bread and crackers Soak beans Save leftover oatmeal & mini omelets Make extra potatoes4Thurs 	 Grilled extra chicken for lunch Tues and dinner Wed Save extra beans & rice for Tues' dinner 	 Brown extra ground meat and save for Thurs' dinner 	 Save leftover muffins for breakfast tomorrow Make extra hummus and save for Fri 	To make apple sandwiches: Core & slice apples horizontally spread with nut butter & raisins	 Save leftover soup for lunch tomorrow Defrost fish fillets in fridge overnight 	 Make meal plan, go to market and prep for next week's meal plan

Subscribe to The Nourishing Home Newsletter and receive a Weekly Meal Plan Shopping List, Prep Day Chart, recipes and more!

the nourishing home Prep Day TIPS

As you can see from my meal plans, I schedule daily prep-ahead tasks that keep me organized in getting homecooked meals on the table. But I also schedule a 1-2 hour block of time each weekend for simple prep-ahead tasks that make putting meals together a snap during busy weekdays.

Why schedule a Prep Day? Investing Time Now = Less Time Later!

Scheduling a meal plan prep-session, whenever possible, allows you to get prepared for the week ahead. By prepping ahead, you'll save time and you'll be less stressed in getting healthy, homemade meals on the table during busy weeknights. Want to see a step-by-step prep session, click here.

A few easy ideas on the types of tasks you can accomplish in a 1-2 hour Prep Session:

- Make marinades and salad dressings
- Cut meats, poultry and seafood (if appropriate, you can also place them into marinades)
- Pre-brown ground beef and meats for stews
- Bake cookies, crackers and snacks for lunchboxes and treats
- Pre-chop fruits and veggies that hold-up well, such as carrots, and onions (just be sure to store chopped onion in airtight containers whew!)

Now, let's get down to business! Here are some specific ideas on what you can do to prep ahead for this week's meal plan ...

- Make the Fresh Pineapple Salsa only if you're planning to serve the salsa within 1-2 days of making it.
- Make the Pineapple Chicken Marinate, but don't add the chicken until your ready to grilled, as per recipe instructions.
- Brown the ground turkey or beef for the Taco Salad and Shepherd's Pie. Place in fridge (if using within 4-5 days) or place in freezer. (Time-saving tip: Brown 2-3 pounds of ground meat and store in freezer in 2-cup-size containers. Then, high five yourself for saving even more time in putting together future meals.)
- Make the Crockpot Black Beans. If you opt to cook the beans during your prep session, just remember to soak them the night before. Once their done cooking, measure out what you'll need for the Grilled Pineapple Chickenand for Taco Salad. If you've got any leftovers, mash them up and repurpose them as a yummy bean dip for lunch.
- Soak and cook dry beans. If you don't plan to cook the black beans during your prep session, you may want to prep the white beans ahead of time for the Minestrone Soup. (I'll most likely be making the white beans since Fridays are busy.)
- Prepare salad fixings and dressings. Chop lettuce and store in an airtight container with a paper towel (or dish cloth) to help keep the lettuce crisp. You can also pre-chop most salad fixings like cucumbers, peppers, carrot, radishes, etc. and store in airtight containers in fridge. And if you make your own salad dressings, prepare those as well.



Prep Day TIPS continued

- Pre-chop and slice the veggies for one or two of the following meals (depending on the time you have available). Be sure to place the veggies in their own individual airtight containers per meal and store in fridge.
 - -Veggie Stirfry: Chop the green onions, carrots, bok choy, zucchini, broccoli and mushrooms
 - -Shepherd's Pie: Chop the carrots and onion
 - -Minestrone Soup: Chop the onion and zucchini
 - -Grilled Fish Provencal

Other prep ahead ideas:

- If you're planning to make the GF Brown Bread, make it on you prep day. Allow it to cool, slice it, place in an airtight container and store in fridge. Then pull out what you need and warm in toaster oven throughout the week ahead. If you like it make 2-3 loaves and slice and freeze them.
- Consider what you'll be making for lunch and breakfast during the week ahead, use whatever time you have to prep ahead items that keep well. Such as boiled eggs, which can be peeled and stored in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 3-4 days. Another example is homemade crackers, cookies or snacks.

Some final words of wisdom ...

- If this is your first time prepping ahead, **start SLOW**. Please! It always takes more time when you're learning the ropes, which is why I don't provide exact prep times for each step here as they truly vary by person. So don't overwhelm yourself by taking on the world. Just pick 1-2 tasks and get comfortable with those. Then pace yourself to keep adding more tasks as time permits.
- **Enlist some help!** If you've got wee ones, ask your hubby to help keep junior happy while you prep. The promise of delicious home-cooked meals should be all the incentive he needs. At the same time, consider how practical and rewarding it is to get your Kids in the Kitchen with you. You'll find <u>my tips and recommendations here</u> for making your kitchen time together productive and fun!
- And last but not least, **enjoy yourself!** It's a blessing to be able to provide healthy homecooked meals to your family and with a little time and practice, you'll be amazed at how much easier and enjoyable it will become.

Let's get together again soon! Of course, you're always welcome to pop over for a visit anytime at The Nourishing Home.



Blessings