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Title:

Timesaving Chili: A Family Favorite

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Summary:

Weeknight dinners that satisfy the whole family can be less of a challenge than many people realize.

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Article Body:

Weeknight dinners that satisfy the whole family can be less of a challenge than many people realize. Comforting, filling and quickly prepared meals don't have to mean less nutritious choices for busy families. One good idea, for example, is chili-a dish most families enjoy. With a timesaving recipe that's ready to serve in half an hour, the family can be eating in less time than the pizza delivery.

Picadillo is a classic Latin chili that combines smoky and spicy flavors with a touch of sweetness found in natural raisins. Commonly made with ground beef, a substitution of chicken cut into chunks is a healthy alternative to the traditional dish. Serve it ladled into bowls as it is or over rice for a heartier one-dish meal.

For guests, chili makes a crowd-pleasing presentation served buffet style, along with a selection of toppings such as grated cheese, scallions, cilantro, chopped avocado and sour cream. Tortilla chips and a simple green salad complete the meal.

The next day, picadillo chili can be used for filling tortillas for lunch. Simply reheat leftovers and spoon onto a warmed flour tortilla. Add shredded cheese if you still have some, roll up and serve.

Quick Chicken Picadillo Chili

- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. chili powder

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- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cans (14.5 oz. each) Mexican-style diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1/2 cup chipotle salsa or medium heat salsa
- 3/4 cup Sun-Maid Raisins
- 1 can (16-oz.) red or black beans, drained

Optional toppings: chopped cilantro, shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream

Combine cumin, chili powder, salt and cinnamon. Coat chicken evenly with seasonings. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and cook 5 minutes. Add chicken and garlic. Cook 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in tomatoes, salsa and raisins. Bring to a simmer. Cover and cook 10 minutes.

Stir in beans. Cover and continue to simmer 5 minutes. Ladle into bowls and serve with desired toppings. Makes 6 servings.