KITCHENART THE STORE FOR COOKS

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Easy Cheesy Broccoli Soup

Serves 4

This soup assembles quickly and produces a savory, satisfying result. The melted sharp cheddar cheese and half-'n- half add richness, and the fresh broccoli and garnish of green onions add veggie freshness. We like pureeing half of the soup for an extra-creamy experience.

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon butter 1 tablespoon olive oil 1 small onion, diced 2 cloves garlic, minced 2 tablespoons flour 4 cups chicken broth 5 cups broccoli (about two small heads), cut into extra small florets, stems diced 1 cup half-'n-half Pinch of nutmeg 2 teaspoons salt or to taste 1/2 teaspoon black pepper or to taste 4 oz grated sharp white cheddar cheese (plus, extra for garnishing)

3 green onions, sliced for garnish

Directions:

1. In a large Dutch oven or soup pot, sauté the onion in the butter and olive oil until translucent. Add the garlic and sauté for another 2 minutes. Sprinkle with flour, stir until the aromatics are coated and sauté for another 2 minutes.

2. Add the chicken broth and bring to a boil.

3. Add the broccoli florets and boil until tender, about 15-20 minutes.

4. For a fully creamy texture, blend the soup in batches with a blender or use an immersion hand blender. For a half-creamy texture, blend 1/2 of the soup in a blender, and return to the soup pot.

5. Season the soup with the nutmeg, salt and pepper. Add the half-'n-half, and grated cheddar cheese. Stir until the cheese melts.

6. Garnish with additional shredded cheese and sliced green onions. Serve piping hot!