Applesauce Muffins

Make this batter now - bake later!

Level: Easy

Ingredients:
- ¼ cup margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1½ teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1¼ cups applesauce

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line muffin tin with paper baking cups or grease bottom of muffin tin with margarine or cooking spray.

2. Cream margarine and sugar with an electric mixer. Add egg, mixing well. Blend in remaining ingredients.

3. Fill muffin tins ⅔ full and bake for 15 to 18 minutes.

Optional: Add ⅛ cup of diced apple or raisins to batter.

Helpful Hints:

While an electric mixer makes mixing these muffins a quick task, they will turn out best if mixed by hand. Either way - by hand, or by mixer, it is important to remember that muffins are a "quick bread" and that means muffins or coffeecakes will come out best if not overmixed. Just lightly stir the ingredients together - so dry ingredients are barely moistened. The batter will still be slightly lumpy, and that's fine. Overstirring or mixing a quick bread will make the muffins tough. Sometimes kids who help in the kitchen really like to stir big and long - and there are good recipes for that — but when it comes to mixing muffins, less is more!

Safety Tip #1: Before children use an electric mixer, it is important that they are shown how to use it safely. Be sure they know how to safely plug in and unplug an electric appliance and that they can operate the mixer's control switch. It may take practice for a child to be able to scrape a mixing bowl with a rubber spatula and use the electric mixer. Encourage them to stop the mixer and scrape the bowl, then restart the mixer.

Safety Tip #2: Remember, this recipe and most batters contain raw egg. Don't lick the spoon or bowl, because the raw egg can make us sick - especially young children. Wait until the batter is baked; it's then safe to go ahead and enjoy!

For more information about this and other fun recipes: contact your county extension office or visit the Web site at www.kidsacookin.ksu.edu, or e-mail kidsacookin@ksu.edu.

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