Classic Vanilla Pudding

2 ½ cups (675mL) whole milk (or milk alternative)

½ cup (125mL) sugar

1/4 tsp (1mL) salt

¼ cup (50mL) cornstarch

3 large egg yolks

2 Tbsp (30 mL) butter, chilled (or margarine)

1 Tbsp (15mL) vanilla extract

Method:

- 1. Heat 2 ½ cups (625mL) milk, sugar, and salt in large saucepan over medium heat until simmering, stirring occasionally to dissolve sugar.
- 2. Meanwhile, whisk cornstarch and remaining ¼ cup (50mL) milk in large bowl until no lumps remain, about 15 seconds. Whisk in egg yolks until fully incorporated, about 30 seconds.
- 3. When milk mixture comes to a simmer, remove from heat and whisking constantly, slowly add milk mixture to yolk mixture to temper.
- 4. Return milk-yolk mixture to saucepan. Return saucepan to medium heat and cook, whisking constantly, until pudding is thickened and registers 180 degrees, about 1 minute. Off heat, whisk in butter and vanilla. Strain through fine mesh strainer set over clean bowl.
- 5. Place cling wrap directly on top of pudding to prevent skin from forming. Refrigerate until cold and set. Whisk pudding until smooth just before serving.

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