



YOUR BUCKETFILLING WORKSHOP

Bucketfilling Ideas to Create Bucketfilling Schools

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STEP SIX

Recognizing bucket filling

From Your Bucket Fillers Team



Mark Twain, once said, "I can live for two months on a good compliment."

It's true that when we are recognized for our accomplishments, we feel good about ourselves.

As educators and parents, correcting unacceptable behavior is a significant part of what you do each day. However, we've found that when negative words ("Don't!", "Stop!") are replaced with positive recognition of good behavior, children become more caring, responsible, and well behaved. Make it a priority to look for bucket filling in your classroom and when you see it, immediately let the class and the bucket filler know how they filled your bucket. ("Class, Karen just filled my bucket by.....") When you focus on positive behavior, you will have far less negative behavior in your school. Karen's classmates will want to be told they are bucket fillers too.

Sadly, there are too many children who have empty buckets, but when these children are given at least one sincere compliment each day, the change in their behavior can be remarkable. Be alert for children who have empty buckets and make a special effort to praise and encourage them every day. We've heard many stories of children who thrive in the presence of one sincere, caring, bucketfilling adult.

IDEAS FOR RECOGNIZING BUCKET FILLING IN YOUR SCHOOL:

- Create colorful school or classroom bulletin boards. Show all the things children and others are doing to fill buckets.
- Place a bucketfilling "way to go" note in staff mailboxes recognizing their bucketfilling efforts.
- Ask student reporters to cover newsworthy bucketfilling stories and then share them with the school.
- Create a bucketfilling newsletter or include bucket filling in your daily broadcast.
- Have your local newspaper cover a bucketfilling story at your school.
- Acknowledge major bucketfilling achievements throughout the year. Have a year-end bucketfilling party where everyone receives recognition!

IDEAS FOR REWARD PROGRAMS:

- In some schools the staff is asked to fill in slips that record how students have filled buckets. The slips are sent to the office for a weekly "Bucket Filler of the Week" drawing and the winner may choose a prize.
- In one school prizes are displayed on a board. The prizes included wristbands, pencils and used books but there were also opportunities to help the school's teachers by reading to first graders or making copies of classroom materials. Often these bucket filling jobs were the first prizes chosen.
- In another school, one unusual and fun prize was a scooter race with the principal in the cafeteria!
- The Bucket Filler of the Week in another school won the use of the classroom's rolling chair for the following week.

While rewards create excitement and help motivate children, they can also be overdone and lead to empty buckets. If a child's name is entered weekly, but never selected, this can be a problem. No one wants to feel like a "loser". Initially, it's fine to show recognition with material rewards, but you will soon need to transition to frequent, sincere praise with far fewer prizes. The long-term goal of this step is not to turn bucket filling into a competition, but for everyone to realize that bucket filling has its own reward — happiness.

BUCKET FILLER!

Name: Bobby Brown

How bucket was filled: When Bobby saw Tommy Smith spill his milk, he not only helped clean up the table and floor, he made Tommy feel better by telling him about the times he'd done the same thing.
Thank you for filling buckets, Bobby!

Ms. Jones, Second Grade