



BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Words of Wisdom to Keep Your Bucket Filled

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Shaping the Future

By Carol McCloud

For many years, I have worked with, trained, and observed thousands of preschool and elementary school teachers. In 1999, just before returning to Michigan, I organized my final early childhood conference. It was called **Good Beginnings Never End**. I believe that this statement is as true today as it was then. (Should I ever forget, I still have the conference T-shirt to remind me.)

I also believe that teachers are third, right after parents and involved grandparents, in their importance to a child. We each have, to a significant degree, become the people we are today because of a teacher whose words and demeanor made a positive, lasting impression.

I often wish that everyone, especially parents, could witness the magic that I have observed within the walls of childcare centers, family child care homes, and schools. They would see, as I have, infinite dedication, love, caring, learning, and growth. Recently, I met a first-grade teacher who works in an inner-city city magnet school. She talked about "our classroom." I love the word, "our" — a classroom that belongs to everyone. She explained to her first graders why it was important to have rules and then proceeded to let the children think about what their classroom rules should be. Imagine my delight when the children put "To be bucket fillers" at the top of their list of rules.

The extraordinary, dedicated, conscientious, talented educators that I observe in the field each day, warm my heart; there are often tears of happiness in my eyes. Today, we frequently hear distressing news, some of which involves our schools, but rather than concentrate on the negative, I would rather fill my bucket with the fact that there are thousands of remarkable teachers for



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every unremarkable one. I see bucket fillers who truly care about each child. When a child achieves something in a bucket filler's classroom, their achievement is recognized with enthusiasm and love.

I remember hearing the story of a teacher who had taught for many years. She attended a dinner party and was seated next to the CEO of a large international company. The CEO, impressed with this teacher, asked, "Why on earth have you spent all these years teaching? What have you made? You sure don't make much money." To which this teacher responded,

"I'll tell you what I make every day.

I make kids feel better.

I make kids feel loved.

I make them feel that learning is fun.

I make kids wonder and appreciate.

I make them appreciate the wonder of books.

I make them see the good in others.

I make them learn to listen and respect others.

More than anything, I make a difference.

That's what I make."

Making a Difference

Since September 2006,
we have visited

810

schools and organizations,

conducted **2,300** sessions,

and appeared before **351,000**
children and adults.

Designed and edited by Glenn Merillat

Congratulations, Bill!

Dr. Bill Lawrence, of Foley, Alabama, is our bucket filler of the week. You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner. Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled by subscribing to our free e-newsletter at www.bucketfillers101.com

Words of Wisdom

"The best thing a parent can hope for at the beginning of a school year is that their child is with a bucketfilling teacher, who cares, encourages, and inspires students to learn." — Carol McCloud