



BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Words of Wisdom to Keep Your Bucket Filled

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Parenting & Working

A Balancing Act

By Donna deWitt Schnell, Bucket Fillers Team Member

A few weeks ago, the female CEO of a huge internet company abruptly pulled the plug on its employee telecommuting policy. Many considered this dramatic change in operations a huge step backwards, one that would spin its employees back to the days of being tethered to a desk in an office or cubical.

Once again the issue of work/life balance is in the news and this latest mandate also appears to be bucket dipping on a corporate level.

What will it take to resolve these convoluted work/family balance issues?

I have worked for more than three decades in the teaching profession, as have many of my friends. There was no Family Leave Act to give us a temporary cushion of time to stay home, unpaid, for that first critical year of an infant's development and bonding. My children grew up with baby care, toddler care, and after-school care. Now, my daughter, Mara, a new mother, is repeating the same patterns of baby care with her son, Zander. Not much has changed from one generation to the next.

Here in the U.S., policymakers and the majority of employers have not made a serious effort to adapt to the needs of working parents and their families. Yet, frequently embedded in their PR spin are the words, "children are our most important asset."

Every bucket filler understands the full significance of these words; but without corporate and government action, we are left with parents who are struggling for balance and another generation of children who are suffering the consequences.

Forbes Magazine recently published its list of the top 100 companies deemed the best places to work. This year, of those in the top 100 list, 84 of these companies are offering work/family balance benefits: the option to telecommute, access to on-site child care, or flexible working hours.



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These are bucketfilling options and research shows that workers are happier, company productivity rises, and people are satisfied by an improved work-life balance. However, the majority of Americans are not likely to find employment in one of these enlightened companies.

What can the rest of us do?

We can become bucketfilling advocates for our working families and especially our children.

We can launch a nationwide dialogue about America's lack of a system for supportive child care and work/family balance.

Corporate America and our elected representatives need to hear our words and understand our experiences before there can be a bucketfilling change. To accomplish this, we must voice our concerns about these obsolete policies in letters and email that explain how we've personally been affected.

As we become bucketfilling advocates for our nation's working families, let's continue to enthusiastically support one another with thoughtful, bucketfilling actions and words.

Editors Note: Bucket Fillers, Inc. maintains a customized family-friendly work environment with flexible schedules, work-from-home or bring-a-child-to-work options, and job sharing.

Making a Difference

Since September 2006,

our Bucket Fillers Team has visited **865**

schools and organizations, given 2,460 sessions

and spoken to

375,000 children and adults.

Designed and edited by Glenn Merillat

Congratulations, Ashlee!

Ashlee Shields, of Havertown, Connecticut, 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 time is always right to do what is right."— Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)