

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Weekly words of wisdom to keep your bucket filled

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Making a Difference

No-nonsense review

Emily J. Taylor is a first grade teacher in Utah. The headline she wrote for her Amazon.com 5-star review of *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* caught my eye. Emily's review pulls no punches:

Guess what?

Kids are not naturally kind!

"I was sucked into the whole bucket thing because the corresponding program is what my elementary school is doing this year. We have the posters throughout the school, the assemblies, and the books.

Sure, the cynical part of me was perfectly willing to mock this (and yes, we did have a little "don't shoot holes in Mike's bucket!" banter during faculty meeting).

But, when it gets down to it, this simple little book packs a message that every kid needs to know. Because, despite what we think, too many kids need lessons in how to be kind.

The book is not preachy or moralizing. It is what it is, a quick explanation on what happens if we fill or dip someone's bucket."

BUCKET CHUCKLES

Good Advice:

- "Never let your three-year-old brother in the same room as your school assignment." - Traci, age 14
- "When your Mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair." - Taylia, age 11
- "Stay away from prunes." - Randy, age 9

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*Bucket Nuggets from
Carol McCloud, The Bucket Lady*

Slowing down—a trick that can turn into a treat

Not too long ago I told a friend that I am making a conscious effort to stop rushing. I sometimes rush to the point of missing the wonders that surround me. I want to take the time necessary to appreciate the hundreds of positive letters, e-mails and comments that we receive regarding bucket filling like this one from Koleen Sargent out in Ventura, California:

"Hi there!

I feel it a blessing that my son's kindergarten class recently read *Have You Filled A Bucket Today?*

My son, who is a deep-thinking, sensitive child raised to appreciate the differences in folks, was singled out on the first day of school as not fitting in with a group of boys he wanted to play with.

Every day since, as soon as he arrives at school, his usual happy-go-lucky spirit melts away as one, or all, of these boys dip in his bucket. What an awful way to start his day!

This past Monday when I picked him up from school he couldn't stop talking about the "bucket story," and even had a wonderful drawing he had made with rainbow colored buckets all over it. It was as if someone at school had finally spoken his language.

He rose the next morning singing about how much he loved kindergarten—music to his parents ears! However, on this day, two of the boys my son was having difficulty with jumped in front of my son in line and would not move when he told them that they were in was his spot. A third boy, who happens to be the child my son seems to have the most trouble with, came to my son's defense. There had definitely been a shift in thinking!

I believe your wonderful book created the space for this shift. Understanding that such moments can be fleeting with such little ones, I am intrigued at what could continue to happen for them with additional mentoring."

Thank you for your kind words, Koleen. The Bucketfilling Team agrees that additional reinforcement is necessary. In addition to school assemblies, we offer seminars for school staff and administrators in an effort to insure the lasting value of the bucketfilling program.

This week's winners

Congratulations!



Cherry Palko of Ottawa Hills Elementary in Ohio is our Bucket Filler of the Week. Congratulations, Cherry! You have a book coming your way. Every bucket filler is a winner! Encourage your friends to get their buckets filled every week by signing on for our newsletter at

www.bucketfillers101.com.

Quote of the Week

"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark."
—Ancient Chinese proverb

