



# Bucket Fillers

## 10 Easy Ways to Create a Virtual, Bucketfilling Classroom

Any time is a great time to create a bucketfilling classroom, but there is no better time than at the beginning of a school year. With many of you teaching in virtual classrooms this school year, we put together 10 simple ideas for creating a virtual classroom.

- 1) When you welcome your students, tell them that you understand that school looks totally different this year. It may not be the same for every student, but that is all right. Let them know that it's normal if some students feel upset, lonely, or worried about this new way to learn. Explain to them that you will all get through it together.
- 2) Set the stage from the beginning: Use a bucketfilling poster, wear a bucketfilling shirt, or create a fun bucketfilling video background. Simple, visual reminders will go a long way in helping your students understand the bucketfilling concept.
- 3) Read and discuss the book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* Have a lively discussion with your students. List ways that you can fill each other's buckets in your virtual classroom or at home (i.e. - paying attention, helping, working together, etc.). Write them all down and post them to your virtual classroom space online.
- 4) Keep a small bucket near you during your video lesson and be sure to reference it as you go. Fill it with little hearts and stars as you use statements like, "Amy, I can tell you are listening so closely today; that really fills my bucket." Let the students see your small bucket being filled with hearts and stars. (You can also use small pom-poms to fill your bucket. Almost any visual the students can see will work.)
- 5) Be sure to recognize bucket filling. Praise acts of kindness and positivity that you see or hear about. This is going to be a bit more challenging with everyone distant from each other. Work on ways to help build a bucketfilling community even though your students are distant from each other.
- 6) Make it a priority to give positive attention to the children who have the emptiest buckets. Challenge yourself to sincerely fill these buckets with words of encouragement, kindness or praise.
- 7) At the end of each video session, give your students a reminder: "Remember to fill a bucket today!"
- 8) Display the Bucket Filler's Pledge where possible. Recite it together, as a class, regularly:

*I promise to do my best  
to be a bucket filler every day,  
at home, at school,  
and everywhere I go.*

- 9) At the end of each week, choose one student that has made significant progress. Call, email or text that student's parent or guardian and praise the student with specific details. This will fill the parents'/guardians' buckets.
- 10) Be sure to fill your own bucket! You can't fill from an empty bucket. Even if you are unhappy or worried about the challenge of providing a virtual classroom, make a list of the ways you can view this challenge in a new light (i.e., shorter commute, less prep time for supplies, a (hopefully!) healthier home, etc.). Stay connected with your fellow teachers and share ideas on how to create bucketfilling classrooms.

Remember, bucketfilling classrooms led by bucketfilling teachers create a wonderful learning environment for our children, whether an in-person or a virtual classroom!