

# YOUR BUCKETFILLING WORKSHOP

## Bucketfilling Ideas to Create Bucketfilling Schools

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### STEP SEVEN

# Welcoming new students

*From Your Bucket Fillers Team*

The first day in a new school can be a good thing or a scary thing. A lot depends on how others respond to the new student or staff member. When you graciously and sincerely welcome someone new to your bucketfilling school, you will make a wonderful and lasting first impression.

When you talk with your students about their feelings as a “newbie”, you will help them understand that it’s not easy to face the unknown and sometimes the experience can dip into their buckets.

Other examples of scary, new situations are a new brother, sister, or step-parent, or a change in appearance such as glasses, braces, or a hair cut. Discuss these with your new students. Ask them whether their buckets would be empty or full? Then ask yourself how you can fill the empty buckets with acceptance and confidence.



*Here are some bucketfilling ideas for welcoming new students and staff to your bucketfilling school.*

- Prepare in advance a “Welcoming Bucket” for all new students to help them feel welcome and part of your school. Fill it with goodies (pencil, notepaper, school t-shirt, stickers, etc.). Let the new student know that the bucket is theirs to take home. Include some additional welcoming information for the parents.
- Create a different welcoming bucket for new teachers and other staff. Include a copy of *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* which will clarify your school’s bucketfilling philosophy.
- Have your students write a note or draw a picture that will help the new student feel welcome. Fill a small bucket with these notes and present the overflowing bucket to the student upon arrival. Have the new student keep the bucket on their desk to remind them that they have a whole class full new friends.
- You might ask everyone in your classroom to wear nametags at the beginning of a school year and during the year when a new student arrives. This will facilitate putting names with faces and getting to know classmates.
- Ask for a volunteer “Bucketfilling Buddy” or assign one to each new student. Discuss the possible ways the Buddy can help fill the bucket of a new student. Suggest sitting with them in the lunch room, on the bus, joining them on the playground, or making them an e-mail pen pal.
- Call the parents at the end of the week to see if their child seems to be enjoying his new bucketfilling school. Offer the parents one or two sincere, specific praises and encouraging words about their child.
- Encourage the parents to stay in touch and let you know if there seem to be any adjustment issues and be ready to bring in professional assistance if needed.

First impressions are important. As a bucketfilling school, you have an important opportunity to create wonderful memories of a first day at school that will last a lifetime.