

BUCKET FILL-OSOPHY 101™

Weekly words of wisdom to keep your bucket filled

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Making a Difference

Pets have buckets, too

Barbara Gruener of Friendswood, Texas sent us this wonderful story of pets and children and Sadie.

Sadie, a trained reading dog, visited our small group counseling classes recently to help us learn about filling buckets.

Using the book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*, Mrs. Gruener helped classes look at how to fill the invisible bucket that everyone has.

Where does Sadie come in? We weave in what we can do for pets and what they can do for us as we talk about ways to manage feelings and problem solve.

Did you know that the sole purpose of the Keeshond, also known as a Wolf Spitz, is to be a companion to kids and the elderly? Literally, to be man's best friend.



Sadie's owner, Phil Johnson, shared with students that her job is to go to schools and convalescent homes to

cheer people up, to read with them, and to fill their buckets.

Students then gave each other examples of bucket fillers and bucket dippers to help them distinguish between the two and choose to be a bucket filler.

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Bucket Nuggets from Carol McCloud, The Bucket Lady

PART ONE

Get on board with bucket filling

I recently presented a "How to Create a Bucketfilling Bus" workshop to a team of specialists who transport children for the Manistee Area Public Schools in Michigan. The drivers who attended, many with ten to 30 years experience, take their jobs very seriously.

They listened attentively to the presentation and agreed that a lot of "bucket dipping" occurs on buses. As we discussed the problem, they were genuinely interested in how they could "connect" with children by sincerely "filling their buckets."

They admitted that they could—and should—do more to show the children how to reduce or eliminate the "dipping" that is sometimes so severe it becomes the featured story on the evening news.

All children deserve to feel safe, valued and respected on every school bus in our country and they will, when everyone works to create bucketfilling buses. As this school year ends, I urge you to find a way to let these dedicated drivers know how much they are appreciated.



It's been nearly two years since I wrote the following article recognizing our school transportation specialists, and the words are just as true today:

I am Much More Than a Bus Driver

I am a professional, a transportation specialist for children and adolescents. Families depend on me for the safety of their most precious possessions. When I'm behind the wheel of my bus, their children's lives are in my hands.

I am skilled in maneuvering a large commercial vehicle. I am responsible for delivering children to and from school safely. I must make safety a priority regardless of weather, road conditions, visibility, or other challenges. Children depend on me to keep them safe when they are riding the bus and I am very aware that safety inside the bus is as important as safety outside the bus or on the road.

I must keep my eyes on children who are walking, entering and exiting the bus. My eyes are on the road, on other vehicles, and on the children behind me. I see and interact with as many as 150 children every school day. My classroom is on wheels and I watch as children develop socially, emotionally and mentally within the confines of my bus.

Some children spend nearly two hours a day in the seats behind me. Think of it — *that's more time in my classroom on wheels than in some of their schoolrooms.* We all know what would happen if a teacher left her room unsupervised or had her back to the children for an hour with no planned activity.

I have the opportunity to brighten a child's day and connect emotionally through a kind face, a friendly tone of voice and a smile. I can make sure their buckets are filled and that they fill buckets and know that dipping in someone's bucket is never a good thing.

Yes, I drive a bus and that in itself is a challenging job. However, I am much more than a bus driver.

Editor's note: In part two we will introduce you to a transportation specialist who has created a bucketfilling bus.

This week's winners

Congratulations!



Darrell Langley, a Counselor in Sioux City Community School District, Sioux City, Iowa, is our Bucket Filler of the Week. Congratulations, Darrell! 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

It's funny how dogs and cats know the inside of folks better than other folks do, isn't it?—Eleanor H. Porter (1868 - 1920), Pollyanna, 1912