



Bucket Fillers



Sharing Bucketfilling Ideas
Bucket Lesson #27

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Filling Staff's Buckets

Recently we led a staff workshop at the Stottlemeyer Early Childhood Center in Westland, MI. Nancy Ely is the new Director of Preschool Programs there. Having come from a Bucket Filling school, she knew that she wanted to start off the year by filling the buckets of her staff: figuratively, by allowing us to introduce the concept to them; and literally, with a wonderful gift for each staff member at the end. We wanted to share her ideas with you!

Nancy found small metal buckets and filled them with the following items, along with a small note to explain each item:

- A smiley face sticker with a note saying, *'A smiley face to cheer you on and help you have fun!'*
- Small foam, felt or sticker hearts with a note saying, *'Hearts to help you to remember that all children need love!'*



- Small foam, felt or sticker stars with a note saying, '*Stars to hold high expectations for all children. They can be superstars!*'
- A small card saying "Permission to Make a Mistake Card" with a note saying, '*A "Get Out of Jail Free" card, to encourage your creativity.*' (We all make mistakes! A person who never made a mistake, never tried anything new.)
- A small plastic ring with a note saying, '*A Super Power Ring, to give you courage and strength when you need it the most.*' (This was Nancy's favorite, and ours, too! She remembers other years when she or a staff member either wore or pocketed their Super Power Ring when they had a difficult situation to face, and that silly, inexpensive token made all the difference.)

By the time we left Stottlemyer, the staff GOT it! Their buckets were full and ready to face the new school year! But when a challenge comes along, they have each other, Nancy, AND a Super Power Ring to help them face it.

For even more ideas, be sure to check out our past *Bucket Lessons* on our [website](#)!

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