Bloom Buzz

October 2026

Fall is officially in full swing at Bloom! As the leaves begin to change and the days get a little cooler, we've been busy welcoming a new season and celebrating some big milestones. We recently said goodbye to our Pre-K kiddos as they head off to kindergarten. Preparing children for that next big step is at the heart of what we do at Bloom, so while we are incredibly proud to watch them grow and move on to kindergarten, saying goodbye is always a little bittersweet.

This special edition of the Bloom Buzz has many updates happening around the Centers. We hope you enjoy this glimpse of all that's been happening at Bloom!

Donate Now

A Note from David Robertson

This month's Virtues Project virtue is Patience: "Waiting peacefully. Quiet hope and faith that things will turn out right." Teaching patience to young children can be a challenge, but it's an important quality to learn, and we adults need the reminder too.

Last month at our gala, I had the honor of presenting Pastor Steve Richards with Bloom's Hall of Fame Award. Steve was on the Board when I joined, and he was a role model to me. Whenever we faced a hard decision, whether financial, strategic, or otherwise, he brought us back to what mattered most: the kids, their families, and our staff. He served with his whole heart and soul.

Now it's my turn to rotate off the Board and join Bloom's community of former board members. My experience with Bloom has been priceless. I originally joined for the public policy perspective, inspired by the seminal work of Art Rolnick and Rob Grunewald at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Their analysis showed that every dollar invested in early childhood learning now pays a societal return later in life, including savings in the costs of social services for people in need. The science points the same way: eighty percent of a child's brain develops by age three, and

ninety percent by age five. A safe, secure, and nurturing environment in those early years gives children a much better chance of becoming healthy functioning adults.

Serving on the Board deepened my appreciation for Bloom's mission and successes. Our staff's commitment to our kiddos and families is outstanding, and whenever I spend time in the classrooms, where the real magic happens, I witness remarkable nurturing. Few things bring me more joy than children running up to hug me after we've read books together. I wouldn't trade my Bloom experience for anything.

I'm excited to hand board leadership to our next generation of leaders. We have amazing talent and dedication on our Board and Board Committees. The Board has elected Sharon Rundell as Chair and Wendy Geving as Vice Chair, and I look forward to watching them guide Bloom through its next phase, including some long-term projects that call for continuity of leadership. I hope you will give them the same support you have given me.

As I close out my tenure, I know the Board will keep following Steve's example: it's all about our kids, our families, and our staff, and the impact we can make. And it will take patience, trusting that through this hard work, things will turn out right.

Thank you for all you do for Bloom.

Bloom Bash

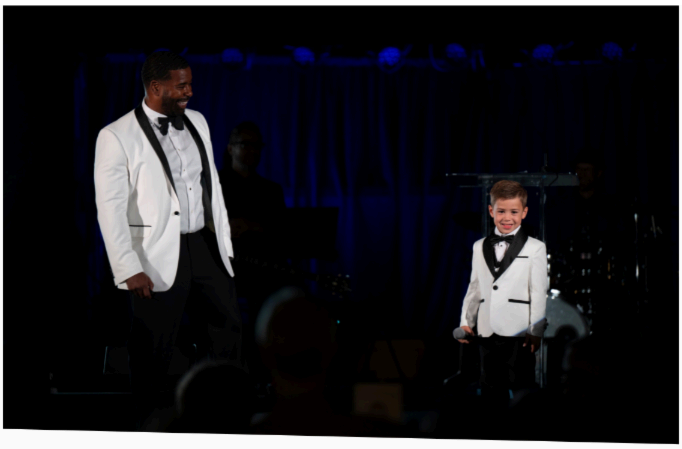
On September 18, we gathered at the Medina Entertainment Center for an evening of purpose, promise, and possibilities to celebrate the 2026 Bloom Bash. Thanks to the generosity of our amazing Bloom community, we have raised more than **$411,000** to support Bloom and the children and families we serve.

We were honored to recognize **Pastor Steve Richards** as the recipient of the Bloom Hall of Fame Award. Pastor Steve shared some kind words about Bloom and our wonderful teachers, making the evening even more special.

We were thrilled to have a very special guest, Lincoln, a recent Pre-K graduate from our Dunkirk Center, introduce the Little Legends video at this year's Bash! Lincoln gave a sweet introduction to the video, which features Bloom kiddos and classrooms from both of Bloom's centers. If you missed the Bash or want to relive the evening, you can watch all the event videos on our YouTube channel. (click Here **Bloom Early Learning - YouTube**)

From raffle basket winners and games to celebrating the incredible community that makes Bloom possible, it was a wonderful night from start to finish. And the giving isn't over yet! Donations will remain open through the month of October, so it's not too late to help us reach our goal and make an even greater impact.

Watch the Bloom Bash Program Here



Dunkirk Playground Name

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors at the 2025 Bloom Ball, we were able to raise the funds needed to build our new playground! We are so grateful to everyone who helped make this special space possible for our kiddos.

At the Bloom Bash in September, our guests had the opportunity to help us officially name the new playground. Bloom kiddos came up with three fun options: **Power Rangers, Little Bloomers, and Butterfly Haven**. The votes are in, and **Little Bloomers** was the clear winner!









Straight from the Classroom

There is always so much happening in our Bloom classrooms! Here's a peek at some of the fun, learning, and adventures our kiddos have been enjoying this fall.

Fall Harvest Apple Orchard

Our Bloom kiddos had a wonderful time visiting the Fall Harvest Apple Orchard! They enjoyed exploring the orchard, taking in all the sights and sounds of fall, and experiencing a little autumn adventure outside the classroom. It was a fun day filled with learning, exploring, and making special memories together!

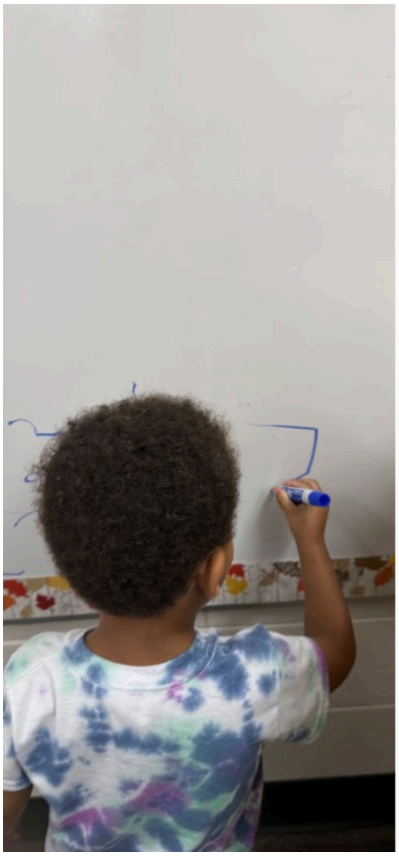





Literacy Is Everywhere!

Literacy is present in every age group at Bloom and goes far beyond the library! Children explore letters, words, and sounds in a variety of ways throughout their day. Each classroom provides a print-rich environment for even our youngest learners, giving them opportunities to play with words and letters while practicing seeing, saying, and writing them.

Literacy activities are woven throughout the entire day and incorporated into both indoor and outdoor activities. From reading and storytelling to exploring letters and sounds through play, our classrooms are filled with opportunities for children to build their early literacy skills.







Sensory Exploration

Sensory opportunities are plentiful for children of all ages at Bloom! Sensory play is a wonderful way for our littlest learners to explore the world around them using their senses. Whether they are exploring independently or with friends, these experiences give children opportunities to discover, share their findings, and learn new vocabulary along the way.

Through sensory exploration, children are building curiosity, confidence, and a deeper understanding of the world around them, all while having fun!






Virtue of the Month

The Virtues Project is an important tool we use at our centers to model positive behavior and help children cultivate these traits within themselves. It emphasizes basic values that build character and responsibility, with each month focusing on a different virtue.

This month, we are practicing **patience**! It is not age-appropriate for all children at Bloom to understand and demonstrate patience at all times. Our days are filled with opportunities for children to practice and recognize what patience looks like and how it affects our routines and interactions at Bloom.

We model patience in age-appropriate ways, such as singing songs or playing I Spy while waiting for a transition. These activities help children build patience while keeping expectations appropriate for their age. Just like any skill we practice, repetition is key!

What does patience look like in the classroom?

Working together, listening, transition activities, taking turns, helping others, conversations, mealtimes, board games, and waiting to wash hands.






Bloom's Annual Report

Take a look at Bloom's Annual Report to see the impact we are making together! From providing high-quality learning to supporting families through tuition assistance, your generosity helps us break the cycle of poverty and build brighter futures for your children and families in our community. Thank you for being part of Bloom's story!

Bloom's Annual Report

Fall Pre-K Enrollment Now Open

Bloom Early Learning is now enrolling for Fall Pre-K! Our Pre-K program helps children build the academic, social, and emotional skills they need for a successful transition to kindergarten. Through hands-on learning, play-based experiences, and nurturing teacher guidance, children develop confidence, independence, and a love of learning.

We are excited to welcome a new group of Pre-K learners. Limited openings are available at our centers, and families are encouraged to inquire early to reserve a spot.

To learn more about our Pre-K program or schedule a tour, please email office@bloomearlylearning.org.

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Bloom Early Learning & Child Care | 17805 County Road 6 | Plymouth, MN 55447 US

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