

Planting seeds in young minds

Business name: Let's Bloom Together

Type of business: Gardening program for children

Owner: Michael Bedrick

Address: PO Box 1234 Morristown, NJ 07962

Phone: (973) 270-0102

Web site:

www.letsbloomtogether.com

Hours of operation: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Founded: 2008

Why did you start the business? I started Let's Bloom Together for a reason that most people these days start a business. I was not satisfied with what I was doing with my career. I wanted to start something that I could feel good about and at the same time give back to the community. With Let's Bloom Together, I have that ability. My goal is simple: Gardening is fun and children learn best when they are having fun!

What exactly do you do? Let's Bloom Together is an enrichment program that provides fun and engrossing gardening classes and helps develop an appreciation of plants and flowers to children ages 4 to 10. The children will participate in a hands-on program where they will plant and nurture flowers and plants and watch them grow throughout the seven- to eight-week curriculum. They will work both individually and together with the class and, at the end of the program, each child will get to bring home their own project, and continue their involvement beyond the class time. While having fun and participating in different activities each week, they will learn the 1-2-3's of basic gardening and in the process:

- Learn how plants and flowers grow
- Learn the names of plants and flowers and what they look like
- Learn the proper use of gardening tools
- Learn the importance of ongoing care for plants and flowers
- Develop an appreciation for nature and the environment
- Learn responsibility for them-



KAREN FUCITO / MORRISTOWN THIS WEEK

Michael Bedrick of Let's Bloom Together leads a group of students from the Goddard School in Randolph through the first day of their gardening class. Here, he shows the kids a picture of the Earth.

- seIves and for the planet (Keep It Green)
 - Develop hand/eye coordination as well as fine and gross motor skills
 - Develop observational, social, emotional and creative skills
 - Get a basic introduction to an array of academic subjects
 - Have a fun learning experience they will carry with them for the rest of their lives
- "Marigold Mike" creates a fun and interactive experience for any group or gathering, including birthday parties, Scouts, religious

organizations and 4-H clubs. The typical gardening party lasts 45-60 minutes.

What's the best business advice your parents gave? Just keep on working! It will all work out as long as you keep on working.

What personality trait helps you the most? I have a lot of energy and passion and it shows in everything I do. That results in a very fun, animated and interactive experience with the kids which they love.

What's the hardest part of the



Noah Paulino, center, digs into a bag of dirt to fill a clay pot during a Let's Bloom Together class at the Goddard School.

job? I wouldn't say anything is really hard because I love what I am doing. The biggest challenge is being patient with a new business because I have so many ideas that I want to do, but need to make sure I start out and plan, which will only ensure long-term success.

The easiest? Teaching is the most fun and exciting aspect of what I do. Being with the kids is the entire reason I started this business and when you see a child get excited, learn and share your passion, it is the best.

When you leave the business, what will you do? I have no plans

to leave the business as I feel I have been waiting my entire professional career to do exactly this.

In one sentence, tell us why customers should call you. If you are interested in doing something different, fun, exciting and hands-on for your child, this is the event or program you want to get them involved with!

Got a business in Morristown, Morris Township or Morris Plains that you would like us to profile? Tell us about it at contact@morristownthisweek.com. Put "my business" in the subject line.