

GROWING A CHILD



STAGE 3: FLOWER

This symbolises the attributes that Parents identify for their children, the skills they feel their children will need in the future, e.g. health, happiness, friends, confidence etc.

STAGE 5: STEM:

This symbolises those things that adults need to give to children to enable them to develop from the new born 'seed' to the adult 'flower', overcoming or coping with their 'slugs', e.g. boundaries, fun, love, experiences etc.

STAGE 4: SLUGS:

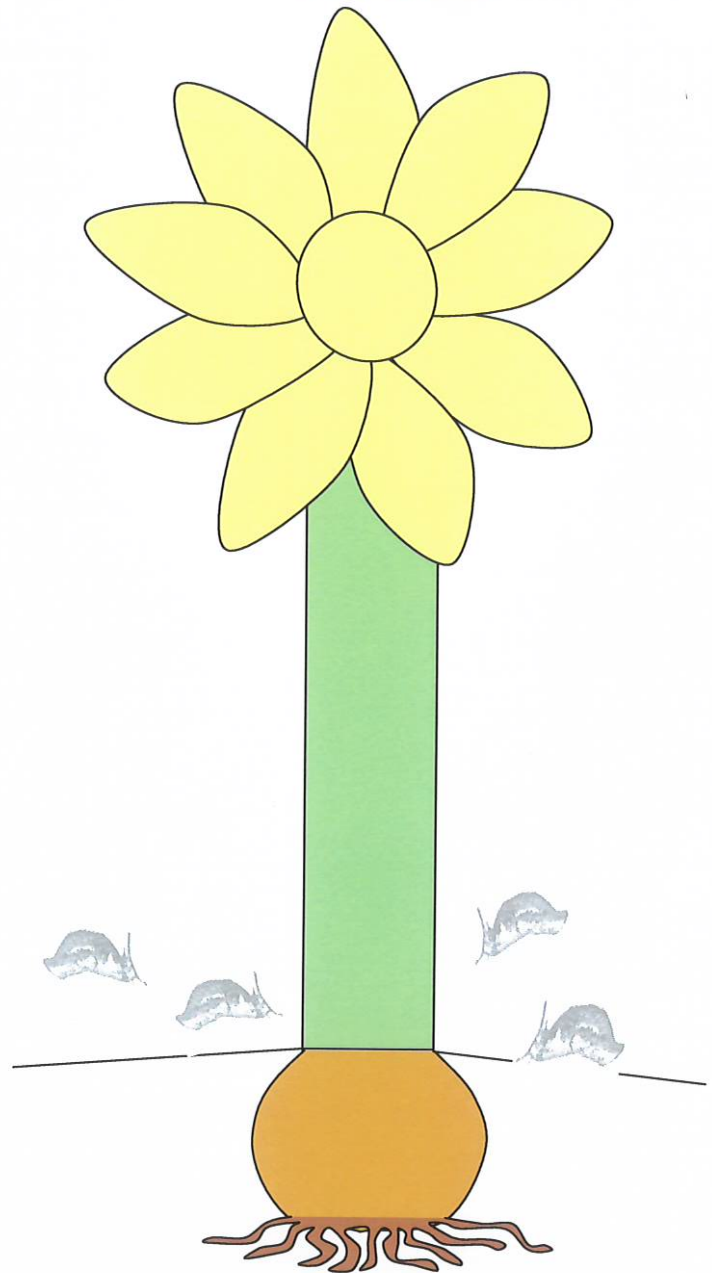
Possible life events that could impede a child's progress or development to a fully grown 'flower', e.g. bullying, new sibling, bereavement, family separation

STAGE 1: BULB:

Attributes of the new born baby; what they bring with them, e.g. health, temperament, learning ability

STAGE 2: SOIL:

The tangible needs of the baby e.g. food, clothing, security, warmth



The following 'flower' example is a typical group contribution, but there is no definitive flower; everyone has their own priorities and experiences and every group creates a different end result. Groups of parents may be purely objective or may share many personal concerns, especially in the 'slugs'. It is important that all contributions are respected and valued, being written up as spoken. The 'empty' version of the picture (above) is a suggestion of the sort of thing you might sketch on the flip chart to start the exercise. Starting with stage 1, asking parents for their suggestions, move through the stages until complete. It is important to finish with stage 5 (The Stem) as these suggestions offer the positive hope for future parenting strategies in order to limit the effects of the 'slugs' – in effect parents are their child's miracle grow or slug pellets!

This exercise can also be completed at home and this information is provided as a handout on [PAGE 104/5](#)