## **FLOWER GARDEN**

Follow the progress of a little girl and her father as they purchase "a garden" and board the bus to carry it home.

Author: Eve Bunting Illustrator: Kathryn Hewitt Ages: 3-7 Pages: 32

Themes: Cooperation, Color Identification, Science

How does your garden grow? Even if you don't have a garden of your own, it's fun to talk about the flower garden that this little girl and her father plant in their window box. Tell your child the names of the different flowers (tulip, geranium, daffodil, pansy, daisy). Ask your child what colors the flowers are. You may want to talk about how the little girl and her father cooperated with each other to get all of the groceries and the flowers home from the store. They also helped each other prepare for and plant the flowers in the window box. This made it an extra special gift of love for her mother and also made it something that they could watch grow and change every day.

Can your child tell you what makes plants grow? Do they know how plants get food? Cut off about one inch from the bottom of a stalk of celery and show your child the little holes (veins) in the stalk. You can explain that the plant draws water up through the holes – the way we drink from a straw. If you put the celery stalk in a jar of colored water for a few hours, the top leaves will begin to turn the same color as the water. Cut one of the celery stalks in half and you can see the colored water in the veins.