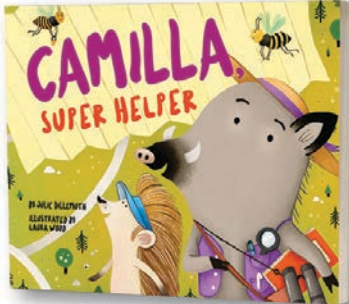




Helping Bees and Each Other



Camilla, Super Helper is the third book in the acclaimed series, following [Camilla, Cartographer](#) and [Camilla and the Big Change](#). This new book features themes of bee conservation, spatial thinking, helping others, and working together. Here's an excerpt from the Note to Parents & Caregivers.

Why Help Bees?

Bees around the world face a variety of challenges. In this story, the honey bees' habitat is hotter and drier from climate change, and flowers blooming earlier in the season conflicts with bees' schedule of pollen/nectar collection.

And the bees get dehydrated as they forage. Humans have a big interest in bee health, since so much of the food we eat depends on pollinators like bees. Did you know that bees need to visit two million flowers to make one pound of honey? And that it takes twelve bees working full time to make one teaspoon of honey in their lifetime? Encourage your child to learn more about bees and the importance of helping and protecting them with books from their school or public library, or by visiting websites like thebeeconservancy.org together.

A great way to help bees survive and thrive is by planting trees and flowers (free of toxic pesticides) and making a water source available to bees. (For step-by-step instructions about how to create a bee garden, see the full Note to Parents & Caregivers.)

Helping Others & Working Together

An important aspect in this story is making sure the bees are involved in saying what kind of help they want. Sometimes we have the best intentions in helping others, but if we don't take the time to understand what would be most helpful or wanted, our efforts can be not-helpful—or even harmful. A close-to-home example would be, if a young child is trying to master a new skill on their own and a parent or big sibling swoops in to help, that kindness can prevent the little one from learning or practicing the skill. This story presents an opportunity to talk about the nuances of different kinds of helping. You can ask your child questions like:

- When Camilla got her idea of how to help the bees, why was it important to talk to them first?
- Did Camilla insist on doing it her way, or did she ask the bees what would be best for them?
- How did Camilla feel when she was helping the bees? What clues in the story tell you that?
- Can you think of a time when you helped someone? How did you know what kind of help they needed or wanted? How did you feel when you helped them?
- What do you think would have happened if Camilla tried to do all the work herself?
- Why was it “more fun with friends”?
- Can you think of a time you worked together with others to solve a problem? How did you work together? Did it help to have more than one person solving the problem?