

# bee thankful



How do you feel when you see a bee? Talk with your child about his attitude toward bees and other insects. Children may be concerned that a bee will sting. The nonfiction title you read together should help your child understand why and when a bee might sting and how to avoid that situation.

In the fiction book you read — especially in *The Honeybee Man* or in *The Bee-Keeper of Orn* — point out how bees and people get along. The bees are considered friendly, helpful creatures, especially when they are busy making honey. And when people take care to be considerate and careful around bees, they benefit from the bees hard work.

Thanks to bees, we have many good foods to eat in addition to delicious honey. While bees are out collecting nectar and filling their pollen baskets, they are also moving pollen from flower to flower making possible pollination and the growth of important fruit and vegetable crops that we eat.

You and your child can raise a glass and toast the hardworking bees with a refreshing drink you make together.

## Supplies

- >> Glasses
- >> Straws
- >> Blender or food processor
- >> Measuring cups and measuring spoons
- >> Honey
- >> Juice — apple, cranberry, mixed berry
- >> Fresh or frozen strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, cherries or raspberries
- >> Ice

## Getting Started

Choose your own fruits and juice to make this smoothie-style drink to your own tastes. Blend together about 2-3 cups of fruit, 1 to 1½ cups of juice, and 2 to 4 teaspoons of honey. If you are using fresh fruit, you may want to blend in ice to make a thicker, frozen creation.

As you and your child decide what to add, have him write down the ingredients and amounts used in order to create a recipe that can be made again or to help you both to figure out what to change or try differently if you don't like the results.

Before you toast the bees, add a straw for drinking and ask your child to pretend with you that you are bees, sucking up sweet nectar with your proboscis — the bee's long, hollow tongue.

If the season and weather is right, enjoy your drinks outdoors. Take some time to observe the interaction between plants and insects and talk with your child about how plants and insects depend on each other and the role the honeybee plays in pollinating more than 150 agricultural crops — including your drink ingredients! If there are no busy bees about, check out this video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_etyEdu9fQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_etyEdu9fQ) featuring bees in action as they perform pollination for peaches, apples, blueberries, blackberries and more.