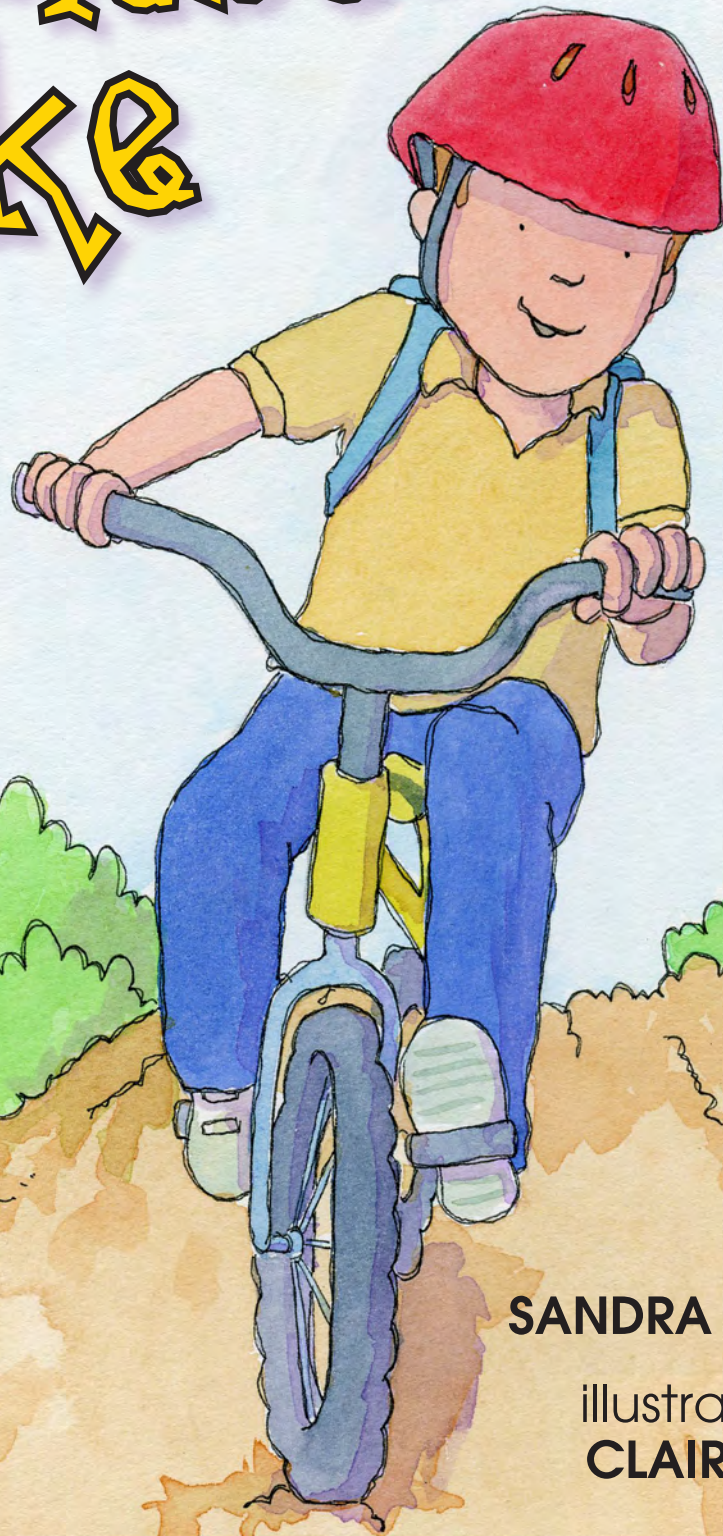
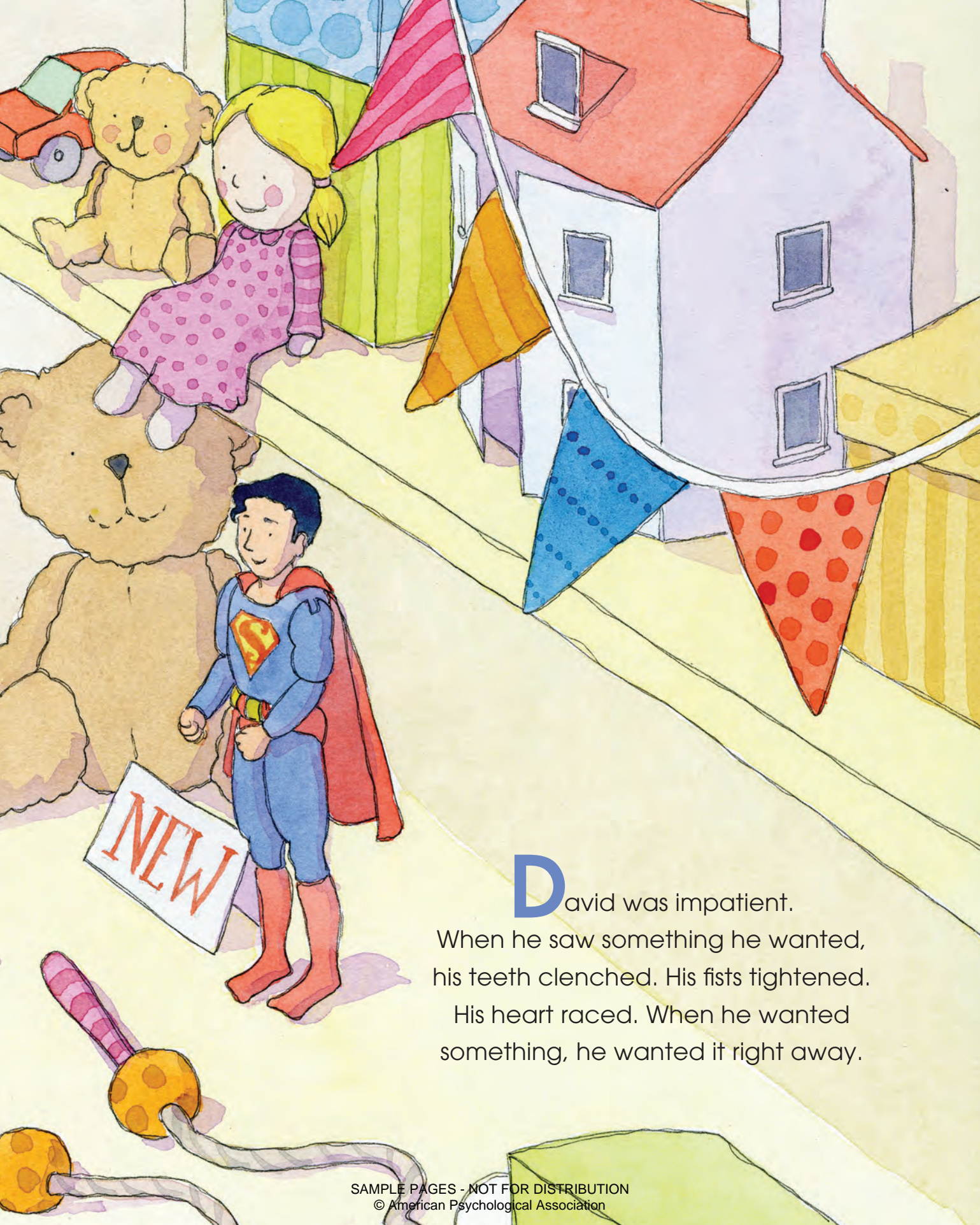


Bumblebee Bike



by
SANDRA LEVINS

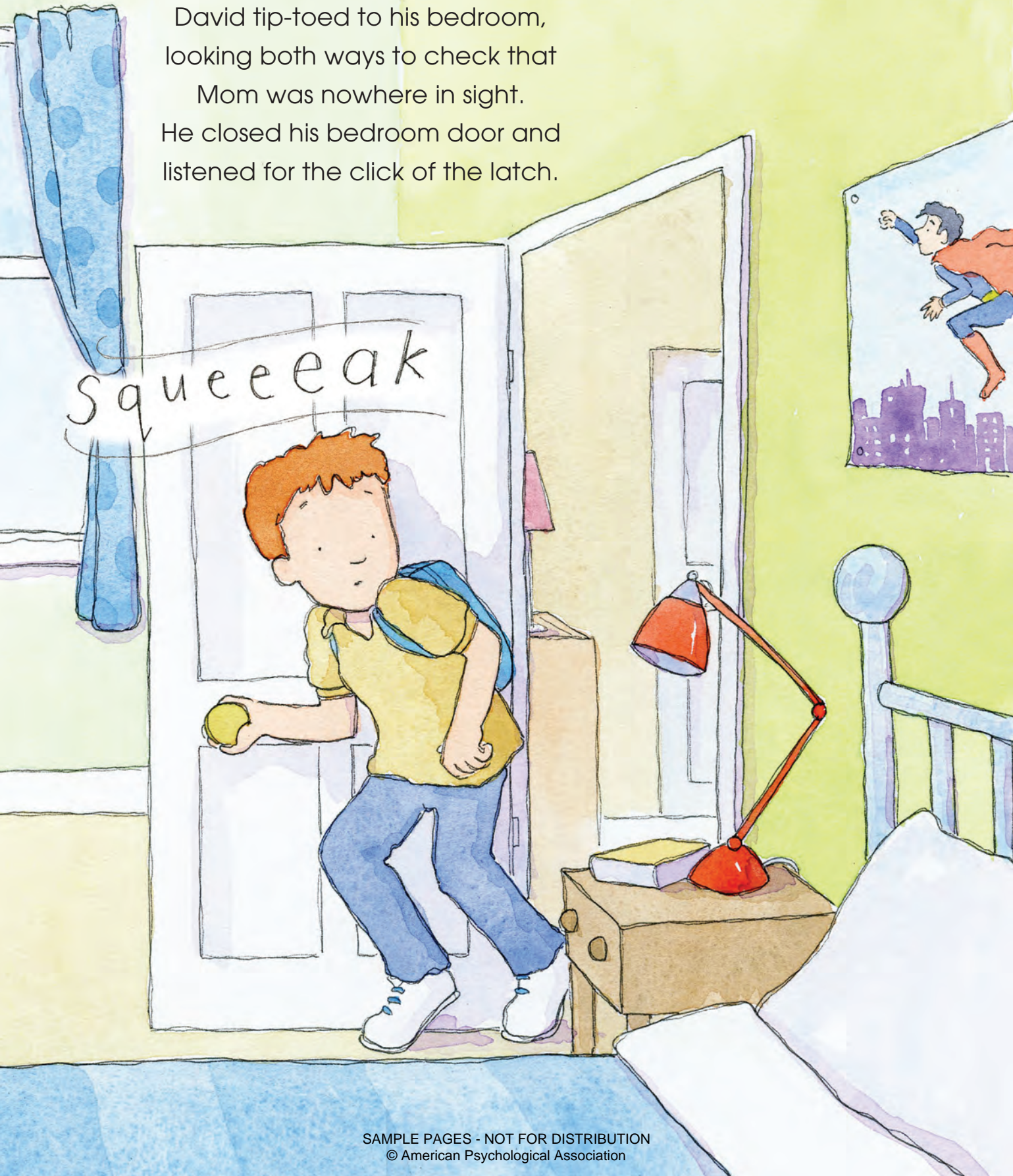
illustrated by
CLAIRE KEAY



David was impatient. When he saw something he wanted, his teeth clenched. His fists tightened. His heart raced. When he wanted something, he wanted it right away.

David tip-toed to his bedroom,
looking both ways to check that
Mom was nowhere in sight.
He closed his bedroom door and
listened for the click of the latch.

squeeeak





David opened the closet and dropped to his knees.

“Scuze me, Elton Don,” he whispered.

Elton Don was more than a floppy-eared friend. He was camouflage.
The shoebox he rested on was David’s treasure chest.



His heart thumping, David unzipped his backpack and reached inside.

He felt it. Smooth and slick. Superman. The sparkly red cape shimmered. One word escaped his lips.

“Cool.”



David felt a little guilty. Superman belonged to his best friend Payton. David borrowed it. Well, he sort of borrowed it. He borrowed it without asking. When David saw Payton's Superman, he felt his teeth clench. His fists tighten. His heart race. He wanted it right away.

David and Payton played together all morning, but David's mind was on that sparkly cape. Those red boots. That big red **S**.



When Payton's mom called, "Lunch is ready," David hung back. This was his chance. He snatched Superman faster than a speeding bullet.



Bumblebee Bike

Children's / Honesty
Ages 4-8

When David wants something, he wants it right away. So when David sees his friend Payton's Superman, he borrows it. Well, he sort of borrows it. He borrows it without asking. In fact, David has a secret treasure chest of things he's borrowed without asking.

But when someone takes David's prize possession—his bumblebee bike—he realizes how borrowing without asking makes other people feel, and sets out to make things right.

A Note to Parents and Caregivers by Mary Lania, PhD, provides more information about this normal phase of childhood development, and offers strategies for teaching children ethical behavior.



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