



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**San Diego Public Library**

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**LEARNING ALLY AND SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY PARTNER TO EDUCATE  
PUBLIC ON DYSLEXIA**

**SAN DIEGO, CA** -- The San Diego Public Library has invited Learning Ally, the Dyslexia Training Institute, and Decoding Dyslexia to kick off their *I Can, Too Discovery Series*, a free program of educational presentations focused on disabilities in children, with a session on dyslexia on Thursday, May 29, 2014.

The event, titled "**Empowering Literacy & Learning**," will feature a live question and answer session with a panel of local parents and educators. Author Ben Foss will discuss his book, *The Dyslexia Empowerment Plan*, and share his ideas on shifting the focus around dyslexia to strengths instead of shame. Attendees will also be able to participate in a dyslexia simulation that gives an in-depth look at what life is like with the reading disability. Children who accompany their parents will be treated separately to *Craig Newton's Really Big Show!*, a multi-instrumental celebration of songs about following your dreams.

Deborah Lynam, the Director of Parent Community Engagement at Learning Ally, says, "An estimated one in five Americans has some degree of dyslexia, yet misconceptions about the learning disability are widespread. Programs like the San Diego Library's *I Can, Too Discovery Series* that build the dyslexia

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support community, put people in contact with local resources, and educate the public will go a long way toward helping families. Learning Ally is thrilled to contribute to the program and to see a wider conversation taking place around children and literacy.”

**When:** Thursday, May 29, 2014, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Shiley Special Events Suite, 9th Fl, at the San Diego Central Library @  
Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, 330 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101

**Registration:** Required for this free event. Light refreshments will be served.  
Call 619-238-6642 or visit [tiny.cc/LiteracySDPL](http://tiny.cc/LiteracySDPL) to register.

**Parking:** [Affordable parking](#) is available at the library and thousands of public spaces are within walking distance of the library.

#### **About Learning Ally™**

Founded in 1948, Learning Ally serves thousands of K-12, college and graduate students, veterans and lifelong learners – all of whom cannot read standard print due to blindness, visual impairment, dyslexia, or other learning disabilities. Through its programs and audiobooks, Learning Ally enables families and schools to manage the needs of students with learning disabilities. The organization offers integrated learning management systems and professional development for teachers, as well as support for parents through personal consultations, webinars and other tools. In addition, Learning Ally’s collection of more than 80,000 human-narrated textbooks and literature titles can be downloaded on mainstream smartphones and tablets, and is the largest of its kind in the world. Several thousand volunteers help to produce the educational materials, which students rely on to achieve academic and professional success. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Learning Ally is partially funded by grants from state and local education programs, and the generous contributions of individuals, foundations and corporations. For more information, visit <http://LearningAlly.org>.

#### **About the San Diego Public Library**

San Diego Public Library, which is the largest library system in the region, serves a population of more than 1.3 million people. Its mission is to inspire lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other. Learn about other events at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common and 35 community branch libraries, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s online catalog at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

*Inspiring lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other*

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