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**Contact: Jennifer Tucker
856-489-8654 x303
Jennifer@SmithPublicity.com**

***There's a Monkey In My Backpack!*
by Don M. Winn
Illustrated by Dave Allred**

**AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S AUTHOR EXPLORES CHALLENGES
& BENEFITS OF LEARNING DIFFICULTIES IN CLEVER NEW BOOK**

One in five children in the United States has a learning difficulty, such as dyslexia or ADHD. These challenges can make children feel inadequate, misunderstood, and frustrated in and out of the classroom, yet – if harnessed correctly – they can also be viewed as beneficial and *empower* the kids who live with them.

In his clever new picture book, *There's A Monkey In My Backpack!* (September 2019), award-winning children's author Don Winn explores the ways learning difficulties affect kids in a unique way which helps children and those who care for them better understand their challenge. Winn writes from personal experience as a lifelong dyslexic reader and writer.

There's A Monkey In My Backpack! follows Anna, a third-grade student who has an unusual companion – a monkey in her backpack! Not everyone can see him, but he causes a whole lot of trouble for Anna by mixing up her spelling letters, distracting her in class, and making it hard for her to keep up with her schoolwork. He causes so many problems for Anna that she wonders if she will ever make it to the end of third grade with the other children. But she learns that her troublesome monkey can also be a big *help* to her if she learns to understand, accept, and appreciate her unique situation.

Winn hopes the engaging picture book will help explain how a learning difficulty feels to parents and educators, and will change the way kids *view* their learning difficulty, providing them with tools to propel them forward.

“All people engage in self-talk, and all people experience challenges. When we encounter limitations in life, the nature of our inner dialogue can either help or hurt us,” Winn says. “If the story inside one's head takes a negative track, one feels helpless, hopeless, inferior and stuck. But this book offers a different way: even when life presents us with something we don't like, we

get to choose how to respond. Our greatest successes come when we accept the things we cannot change and actually *use* those things to our benefit.”

There’s A Monkey In My Backpack! explores:

- What it feels like for children who experience learning difficulties
- How kids can explain their challenges to someone who might not understand
- Tools which children, as well as parents and educators, can use to harness the benefits of learning difficulties
- How *every* child can work with their unique situation and reach their potential
- And much more!

In addition to his latest picture book, Winn is also the author of the forthcoming nonfiction book, ***Raising a Child with Dyslexia: What Every Parent Needs to Know*** (October 2019). Through the book, Winn provides a user-friendly guide for parents about nurturing and supporting their dyslexic child. He explores symptoms of dyslexia that warrant diagnosis by a professional, what to expect during the dyslexia testing process, how parents can help their child at home, working with school to create an optimal learning environment, and how to offer their child a safe, encouraging space in which to cope with the emotional fallout of the dyslexic struggle. ***Raising a Child with Dyslexia*** is keyed to current, cutting-edge research and is sure to help families at all stages pre- and post-diagnosis.

Don M. Winn is a multiple award-winning children’s author of thirteen picture books and the *Sir Kaye the Boy Knight*® series of novels for independent readers. As a dyslexia advocate and a dyslexic himself, he frequently addresses parents and educators on how to maximize the value of shared reading time and help dyslexic and other struggling readers to learn to love to read. Winn lives and writes in Round Rock, Texas.

In addition to his latest picture book, Winn’s first nonfiction book, *Raising a Child with Dyslexia: What Every Parent Needs to Know* is forthcoming this fall. In October, Winn will be the keynote speaker at the Central Texas Dyslexia Conference.

Find out more at www.donwinn.com and connect with the author on: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Goodreads](#), and [Pinterest](#).

***There’s A Monkey In My Backpack!* will be available through [Amazon](#) as well as additional retailers by request.**

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