



City's First Readers

An initiative of the New York City Council

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***Author Phyllis E. Grann, Illustrator Tomie dePaola and City's First Readers
Announce Campaign to Distribute Book to
Parents of Newborn Children in New York City, Encouraging the Importance of
Talking and Reading to Children from Birth***

Manhattan, NY – City's First Readers (CFR) will host a press conference in the Saul Farber Auditorium of NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue at 4pm on Tuesday, May 9th to announce an exciting donation by Phyllis E. Grann of more than 200,000 copies of her new children's book, [I Will Talk to You, Little One](#). These books will be a gift to families of newborns at 27 hospitals serving high needs neighborhoods across New York City, distributed during the discharge process. At Bellevue the books will be distributed through the Reach Out and Read Program.

Written by Ms. Grann, a groundbreaking editor and publisher of best-selling adult books, with artwork by award winning children's illustrator/author Tomie dePaola, [I Will Talk to You, Little One](#) conveys a message to parents about the importance of talking and reading to your baby from infancy to expand a child's learning skills for life. Both Grann and dePaola will speak at the conference about the research behind this book and the importance of talking to your child – from birth.

City Council Member Stephen Levin will also be in attendance and address the crowd about how City's First Readers, a collaboration of ten nonprofit organizations, fosters the literacy development of NYC children, ages 0-5.

What: Author Phyllis E. Grann and Illustrator Tomie dePaola Announce Children's Book to be Donated to City's First Readers Initiative

Where: NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue: Saul Farber Auditorium, 462 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10016

When: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 4pm

Who: Author, Phyllis E. Grann, Illustrator, Tomie dePaola, City Council Member Stephen Levin, City's First Readers Partner Organizations, Families who participate in City's First Readers programming

ABOUT CITY'S FIRST READERS

*City's First Readers is an initiative of the New York City Council made possible by Council Member Stephen Levin and Council Member Antonio Reynoso, under the leadership of Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. The initiative joins 10 literacy focused nonprofits in an effort to prevent the achievement gap from forming by surrounding children and families with opportunities that build strong foundations in early literacy. These partnering organizations include: **Brooklyn Public Library, Jumpstart, Literacy Inc., The New York Public Library, Parent-Child Home Program, Queens Library, Reach Out and Read of Greater New York, Video Interaction Project, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families and United Way.** Together, these programs help make sure our youngest residents begin school ready to be successful students. Learn more at www.citysfirstreaders.com.*