FALL 2019

You’re not alone
Connecting for Kids (CFK) provides education and support to families who have concerns about their child. We serve all families, including those children with and without formal diagnoses. CFK offers educational programs, support groups, a Parent Match Program and numerous resources.

Designed for your family
Programs are designed to educate and support families of children (birth - 12 years) who are struggling. Look for these icons to choose programs for your family:

- Families with young children (0-6 years)
- Families with elementary-aged children (7-12 years)
- All families with children (0-12 years)

Free programs
All Connecting for Kids programs are free and open to the public.

For more information:
Call/Text: 440-570-5908
(para español 440-907-9130)
info@connectingforkids.org
connectingforkids.org/register

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Concerned about your child?
Whatever the reason...
Connecting for Kids can help.

Speaker Series
Join us for presentations on various childhood topics by local, pediatric professionals. Free, supervised children’s activities are available, but adults and children must register separately. connectingforkids.org/speakerseries

Enhancing Growth Mindset to Improve Motivation and Achievement
Does your child struggle with self-doubt? Is motivation an issue? Is schoolwork completed to the best of his or her abilities? Join Heather Dukes-Murray, Ph.D., licensed independent clinical psychologist, as she discusses how encouraging a growth mindset for your child, and developing a growth mindset in parenting, can help your child develop resilience in thinking and actions. She will provide growth mindset exercises to incorporate into daily activities that can be used to combat common struggles with homework, motivation and self-doubt. In addition, Dr. Dukes-Murray will provide you with ways to help your child identify, express, and regulate emotions as well as ideas for changing negative thinking patterns. Growth mindset exercises geared towards parenting will also be discussed.

October 24, 6:30 pm
Westlake Porter Public Library

Register at connectingforkids.org/register
Akron-Summit County Public Library, Ellet Branch (ASCPL)
9/14  Adapted Storytime
10/12  Adapted Storytime
11/9  Adapted Storytime

Avon Lake Public Library (ALPL)
9/21  Inspirations Dance Academy
10/7  Sensory-Friendly Play
10/12  Music Enrichment with Music Therapist Hannah Gonzalez
11/4  Sensory-Friendly Play
12/2  Sensory-Friendly Play

Cuyahoga County Public Library, Middleburg Heights Branch (CCPL)
9/7  Adapted Storytime
9/21  Music Therapy & More
10/5  Adapted Storytime
10/15  (SS) Overcoming OCD
10/19  Music Therapy & More
10/19  (EE) Increase Focus and Decrease Anxiety: BAAM!
11/2  Adapted Storytime
11/16  Music Therapy & More

Cuyahoga County Public Library, North Royalton Branch (CCPL)
9/21  Adapted Storytime

Cuyahoga County Public Library, Parma Branch (CCPL)
9/14  Adapted Storytime
10/12  Adapted Storytime
11/9  Adapted Storytime

Cuyahoga County Public Library, Parma-Snow Branch (CCPL)
9/7  Sensory-Friendly Movie
10/11  Sensory-Friendly Movie
11/5  Sensory-Friendly Movie
12/2  Adapted Storytime
12/7  Sensory-Friendly Movie

Cuyahoga County Public Library, Solon Branch (CCPL)
9/14  Adapted Storytime
9/27  Play & Say
10/4  Music Therapy & More
10/12  Adapted Storytime
10/25  Play & Say
11/1  Music Therapy & More
11/6  (SS) How to Get Your Preschooler to Listen
11/9  Adapted Storytime

Cuyahoga County Public Library, Solon Branch (CCPL)
11/22  Play & Say
12/6  Music Therapy & More
12/14  Adapted Storytime

Cuyahoga County Public Library, Warrensville Heights Branch (CCPL)
10/21  Mother 2 Mother Support Meeting

Elyria Public Library System, West River Branch (EPLS)
9/12  Music Therapy & More
10/3  Teach Me to Play
10/5  Matching Emotions with Music
10/5  Music Making with Songs from Your Animated Favorites, for Children with Moderate-Severe Disabilities
10/10  Music Therapy & More
10/17  Sensory Consult
11/7  Teach Me to Play
11/14  Music Therapy & More
12/5  Teach Me to Play
12/12  Music Therapy & More

Euclid Public Library (EPL)
9/21  Adapted Storytime
10/19  Adapted Storytime
11/16  Adapted Storytime
12/21  Adapted Storytime

Lakewood Public Library, Main Library (LPL)
9/15  Adapted Storytime
10/5  Music Therapy & More
10/13  Adapted Storytime
11/2  Music Therapy & More
11/10  Adapted Storytime
11/12  (SS) Late Language: When Repeat After Me Doesn't Work
11/16  Social Series: Wrapping up Social Skills for the Holidays
12/7  Music Therapy & More
12/8  Adapted Storytime

Rocky River Public Library (RRPL)
9/7  Adapted Storytime
10/5  Adapted Storytime
10/8  Sensory Consult
11/2  Adapted Storytime
12/7  Adapted Storytime

Westlake Porter Public Library (WPPL)
9/5  Adapted Storytime
9/12  Adapted Storytime
9/13  Music Therapy & More
9/14  Music Therapy & More
9/19  Adapted Storytime
9/24  (CC) Parenting is Lonely
9/26  Teach Me to Play
9/27  Teach Me to Play
10/3  Adapted Storytime
10/10  Adapted Storytime
10/11  Music Therapy & More
10/12  Music Therapy & More
10/17  Teach Me to Play
10/18  Teach Me to Play
10/22  Sensory Station
10/24  (SS) Enhancing Growth Mindset to Improve Motivation and Achievement
10/25  Adapted Storytime
10/31  Adapted Storytime
11/1  Adapted Storytime
11/7  Adapted Storytime
11/8  Music Therapy & More
11/9  Music Therapy & More
11/9  Kids in the Kitchen
11/14  Adapted Storytime
11/22  Adapted Storytime
11/21  Teach Me to Play
11/22  Teach Me to Play
11/25  Sensory Tea Time Play
12/5  Adapted Storytime
12/12  Adapted Storytime
12/13  Music Therapy & More
12/14  Music Therapy & More
12/19  Adapted Storytime
12/19  Cookie Decorating
12/27  Adapted Storytime
12/30  Sensory-Friendly Movie

ABBREVIATIONS
CC  Coffee and Chat
EE  Elementary Experiences
SS  Speaker Series

Note: Connecting for Kids programs are highlighted in orange. All other programs are offered by partners.
Speaker Series (cont.)

**Overcoming OCD**
Join Jonah Lakin, Psy.D., of the OCD & Anxiety Center of Cleveland, as he discusses the difficulties families face when a child has OCD. Attendees will learn about evidence-based strategies they can use to support, encourage and help their children.

*Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 pm*
Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

**How to Get Your Preschooler to Listen**
Join Rachel Torrance, M.Ed, BCBA, COBA, and Jennifer Pearson, M.Ed, BCBA, COBA, of Accessing Abilities, as they provide families with the top 10 tips and tricks of the trade used by behavior analysts and educators. From grandma’s rule to breaking into song and dance, they will share proven strategies to help increase desirable behaviors and set your child up for success. Learn skills that will make both your life and your child’s life easier. This program is designed for both typically developing children as well as children with special needs.

*Wednesday, November 6, 6:30 pm*
Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

**Late Language: When Repeat After Me Doesn’t Work**
Join Kelly Wilber, MS, CCC-SLP, of Cleveland Clinic Children’s Rehab as she teaches six practical strategies to enhance language development for “late talkers” or emergent communicators. Apply these strategies at home and supplement your child’s speech therapy sessions with increased confidence. This program is for families of toddlers and preschoolers (ages 2-6 years) and will be relevant to children with and without a formal diagnosis. Co-sponsored by the Lakewood Family Room.

*November 12, 6:30 pm, Lakewood Public Library*

**Coffee and Chat**
Join our interactive support group and meet other families facing similar struggles. Coffee and Chat is for families of children ages 0-12 years. Free, supervised children’s activities are available, but adults and children must register separately.

*connectingforkids.org/support*

**Parenting is Lonely**
The isolation of raising a child with special needs is real. People we once counted as friends disappear or invitations stop coming. Meet other families and receive encouragement as we discuss the article, “13 Things Hard for Me to Admit as a Special Needs Parent.” Lisa Ruman, LISW, CHt, of The Child & Family Counseling Center of Westlake, will facilitate a discussion about ways to find support for the journey.

*Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 pm*
Westlake Porter Public Library

**Mother 2 Mother Support Meeting**
Are you looking for some coffee and conversation in a judgement-free zone? Mother 2 Mother provides a structured, safe place for you to share your thoughts, feelings and experiences. Connecting for Kids is co-sponsoring one fall meeting and CFK staff will be on hand to provide local resources. Light refreshments will be served. For more information on Mother 2 Mother, visit mother2mother.info

*NOTE: Child care is not offered at this Mother 2 Mother program.*

**Warrensville Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**
- *Monday, October 21, 6:30 pm*

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**Get Registered and Reserve Free, Supervised Children’s Activities**
All Connecting for Kids adult programs offer free, supervised children’s activities on a first-come, first-served basis. Register early to secure a spot as space is limited!

Call/Text: 440-570-5908 (para español 440-907-9130)
info@connectingforkids.org
connectingforkids.org/register
Elementary Experiences℠

These hands-on training programs are designed for families and their children (ages 7-12 years) who are struggling. Families will learn targeted skills together and receive a handout with ideas and resources to use at home. Adults are expected to participate in the program with their children. Siblings (ages 7-12 years) may also attend but must register separately. connectingforkids.org/elementary

Matching Emotions with Music
Are you concerned about your child's anxiety, anger or sensory needs? Come and learn how to incorporate music to aid in self-regulation of big emotions. Adults and children will participate together in this group music therapy session led by a certified music therapist. Together you will learn strategies such as song writing, instrument playing, lyric analysis, and listening practices, and how these strategies can assist in steadying emotions.

Saturday, October 5, 1:00 pm
West River Branch of Elyria Public Library System

Music Making with Songs from Your Animated Favorites, for Children with Moderate-Severe Disabilities
Sing and play along to popular movie tunes featuring your child’s favorite animated princesses, heroes and more! Children will play, sing, move and experience all aspects of music making to enhance cognition, motor, social, emotional, behavioral and communication needs. Adults and children will participate together in this group music therapy session which will include alternative communication devices as needed. Adaptations will be made for all needs for everyone’s participation and enjoyment.

Saturday, October 5, 2:30 pm
West River Branch of Elyria Public Library System

Increase Focus and Decrease Anxiety: BAAM!
Learn four self-care techniques, Breathing, Aromatherapy, Acupressure and Movement. BAAM directly affects symptoms of anxiety and can be used to increase focus and regulate emotions. Join Diane Mastnardo, BS, LMT, of Mastnardo Massage Therapies as she shares these skills that can assist in improving self-regulation both in school and social settings. Not only will attendees receive a basic introduction to aromatherapy (lavender, lemon and spearmint), they will learn belly breathing, acupressure points and a movement sequence to develop self awareness through our senses.

Saturday, October 19, 1:00 pm
Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

Social Series: Wrapping up Social Skills for the Holidays
The holidays are a fun and exciting time but can also become overwhelming and confusing for those who struggle with social skills. This program, led by Ellen Spear, MA, CCC-SLP, of Lakeshore Speech Therapy, LLC., is designed to help navigate the many social situations, hidden rules and potential problems related to the holidays. Join us as we discuss how to make conversation with relatives and friends, tips for handling holiday parties and appropriate ways to give and receive gifts.

Saturday, November 16, 1:00 pm
Lakewood Public Library

Sensory Consults
Does your child hate “itchy” clothes? Is your child bothered by noises or have difficulty with busy environments? Are you concerned about your child’s frequent meltdowns and difficulty interacting with others? Does your child frequently spin, jump and crash his or her body into things? If so, come to our Sensory Consult where you and your child will meet with a pediatric occupational therapist. This consult is open to children ages 18 months-12 years. Your child will be encouraged to engage in some activities while you complete a checklist. You will also learn strategies to help him or her at home. This program is supported by Abilities First, LLC. connectingforkids.org/consult

Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Rocky River Public Library

Thursday, October 17, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
West River Branch of Elyria Public Library System

There are lots of ways to connect with CFK!
We now have three Family Resource Specialists to help families find education and support. You can get to know Nicole Born-Crow, Andrea Campesino and Nikki Montgomery on our staff web page: connectingforkids.org/staff

Have Questions?
Call/Text: 440-570-5908 (para español 440-907-9130)
info@connectingforkids.org
FALL PROGRAMS: WITH MY CHILD

Play & Say
Join us for an adapted playgroup that is safe and welcoming for families who have concerns about their child (ages 0-6 years). Learn new skills, meet other families and connect to community resources to help your child. Play & Say will mix free play opportunities with small group activities such as parachute play or bubbles. As participants practice social and communication skills, staff members will be available to answer questions and offer tips. Each month, a new topic will be highlighted and families will go home with an educational handout. Typical siblings are welcome, but must register separately. Families are encouraged to play together at this program. The playgroup will be led by an experienced Speech-Language Pathologist from the Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center. connectingforkids.org/play-say

Teach Me to Play™
Do you have questions or concerns about your child’s development? Are you looking for a social opportunity for you and your child in the community? Do you want ideas about how to encourage your child’s learning through play? With fun, new themes each month, Teach Me to Play offers your child a host of new activities and experiences each time he or she attends. For parents and caregivers, there is a Parent Education Focus every month that provides information on a variety of developmentally appropriate topics. Your child will enjoy playing with other children while practicing language and social skills. Since you attend together, you will have the option of interacting with our experienced Early Intervention Specialist and Speech-Language Pathologist. They can suggest strategies for managing problem behaviors, offer tips for increasing your child’s communication skills, or share appropriate resources. This program is specifically designed for children ages 18 months-6 years who are struggling in an area of development. Come connect with other families in a supportive and accepting environment. connectingforkids.org/play

Westlake Porter Public Library
Thursday Preschool sessions begin at 6:30 pm, Friday Preschool sessions begin at 9:30 am and Friday Toddler sessions begin at 11:30 am.
- Thursday, September 26
- Friday, September 27
- Thursday, October 17
- Friday, October 18
- Thursday, November 21
- Friday, November 22

West River Branch of Elyria Public Library System
Preschool sessions begin at 6:00 pm.
- Thursday, October 3
- Thursday, November 7
- Thursday, December 5

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library
Sessions begin at 10:30 am
- Friday, September 27
- Friday, October 25
- Friday, November 22
Music Therapy & MoreSM

This program is designed for families and their children (ages 0-6 years) who are struggling in an area of development. Join us for a hands-on program designed to teach families how to use music to improve their child’s motor, communication and social skills as well as behavior. This program is led by a Board-Certified Music Therapist. Siblings (ages 0-6 years) may also attend but must register separately.

Lakewood Public Library, Main Library
Sessions begin at 10:30 am.
- Saturday, October 5
- Saturday, November 2
- Saturday, December 7

Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library
Sessions begin at 10:30 am.
- Saturday, September 21
- Saturday, October 19
- Saturday, November 16

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library
Sessions begin at 10:30 am.
- Friday, October 4
- Friday, November 1
- Friday, December 6

Westlake Porter Public Library
Sessions begin at 9:30 am and 10:30 am.
- Friday, September 13
- Saturday, September 14
- Friday, October 11
- Saturday, October 12
- Friday, November 8
- Saturday, November 9
- Friday, December 13
- Saturday, December 14

West River Branch of Elyria Public Library System
Sessions begin at 6:00 pm.
- Thursday, September 12
- Thursday, October 10
- Thursday, November 14
- Thursday, December 12

Adapted Library Programs

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/library

Adapted Storytimes
Children with varying learning styles and abilities learn together in a safe, supportive environment where respect and appreciation for differences is encouraged. This storyline, followed by a time for socialization, is designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storyline experience. Content is geared toward ages 3 to 7 years, but all ages are welcome. Siblings may also attend but must register separately.

Akron-Summit County Public Library
Ellit Branch
- Saturday, September 14, 10:30 am
- Saturday, October 12, 10:30 am
- Saturday, November 9, 10:30 am

Cuyahoga County Public Library
Middleburg Heights Branch
- Saturday, September 7, 11:00 am
- Saturday, October 5, 11:00 am
- Saturday, November 2, 11:00 am

North Royalton Branch
- Saturday, September 21, 10:00 am

Parma Branch
- Saturday, September 14, 11:00 am
- Saturday, October 12, 11:00 am
- Saturday, November 9, 11:00 am

Parma-Snow Branch
- Monday, December 2, 10:00 am

Solon Branch
- Saturday, September 14, 10:30 am
- Saturday, October 12, 10:30 am
- Saturday, November 9, 10:30 am
- Saturday, December 21, 10:30 am

Lakewood Public Library
- Sunday, September 15, 3:30 pm
- Sunday, October 13, 3:30 pm
- Sunday, November 10, 3:30 pm
- Sunday, December 8, 3:30 pm

Rocky River Public Library
- Saturday, September 7, 10:00 am
- Saturday, October 5, 10:00 am
- Saturday, November 2, 10:00 am
- Saturday, December 7, 10:00 am

Westlake Porter Public Library
- Thursday, September 5, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, September 12, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, September 19, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, October 3, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, October 10, 6:00 pm
- Friday, October 25, 11:00 am
- Thursday, October 31, 6:00 pm
- Friday, November 1, 11:00 am
- Thursday, November 7, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, November 14, 6:00 pm
- Friday, November 22, 11:00 am
- Thursday, December 12, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, December 19, 6:00 pm
- Friday, December 27, 11:00 am

A child follows along in adapted storytime.
Additional Adapted Library Programs
For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/library

P.A.L.S. Big Screen Sensory-Friendly Movie
Cuyahoga County Public Library, Parma-Snow Branch
Join us for a Sensory Friendly Movie, where the sound is lower, the lights are brighter, and where talking, singing and moving is perfectly acceptable! Most movies take place in our fully accessible state-of-the-art Auditorium. P.A.L.S. Sensory Friendly Movie programs are especially for people on the autism spectrum and/or with special needs (and their families), or for anyone who prefers this type of movie watching environment. All movies begin at 11:00 AM. Fidget objects will be available during the movie. Light snacks and covered beverages are welcome. Please register. Sponsored by the Friends of the Parma Libraries.

Saturday, September 7, 11:00 am
Friday, October 11, 11:00 am
Tuesday, November 5, 11:00 am
Saturday, December 7, 11:00 am

Inspirations Dance Academy
Adapted Storytime
Avon Lake Public Library
Join Inspirations Dance Academy for a dance-themed story time for kids with special needs. We will read books about dance, learn some new moves, play dance games, and make a dance craft. This story time will be sensory-friendly and physically adapted to fit any ability level. Siblings/friends are welcome to participate. Suggested for ages 3 and up.
Saturday, September 21, 1:00 pm

DiscoveryWorks Sensory-Friendly Play
Avon Lake Public Library
We know that DiscoveryWorks can be overwhelming, especially for children with sensory sensitivities. Join us for a private playtime, just for kids who need a quieter, less crowded experience, and their families. Lights will be dimmed, admission will be limited, and loud displays will be quieted. All ages welcome with a caregiver.
Monday, October 7, 9:15 am
Monday, November 4, 9:15 am
Monday, December 2, 9:15 am

Music Enrichment with Music Therapist Hannah Gonzalez
Avon Lake Public Library
Join in on the fun with this all-inclusive program of engaging musical activities with music therapist Hannah Gonzalez. Hannah will bring her guitar, and everyone will sing songs and dance along, as well as try out some musical instruments. Siblings/friends are welcome to participate. Suggested for ages 9 months to 6 years old.
Saturday, October 12, 11:00 am

Sensory Station
Westlake Porter Public Library
Drop in for sensory fun! Engage your child’s senses by scooping, pouring, and sorting a variety of fun materials. This session specifically for children ages 2-7 with special needs, their families, and their typical siblings/peers. Please register. Space for 12 registrants.
Tuesday, October 22, 1:00 pm

Kids in the Kitchen
Westlake Porter Public Library
Learn basic cooking skills and the joy of cooking with fast, simple no-bake recipes just for kids! For students with special needs and their typical peers. If you have allergy or special diet concerns, please contact the Youth Services Department at 440-250-5471 for a complete list of ingredients. Please register. Space for 8 registrants. Ages 8-10.
Saturday, November 9, 3:00 pm

Sensory Tea Time Play
Westlake Porter Public Library
Ooh la la – it’s teatime! Engage your child’s senses by scooping, pouring, and sorting a tea party theme, but no materials will be consumed. This session specifically for children ages 2-7 with special needs, their families, and their typical siblings/peers. Please register. Space for 12 registrants.
Monday, November 25, 1:30 pm

Cookie Decorating
Westlake Porter Public Library
Engage your child’s senses and encourage messy play while delighting in the fun and wonder of the season. No baking or decorating experience necessary. If you have allergy or special diet concerns, please contact the Youth Services Department at 440-250-5471 for a complete list of ingredients. For students with special needs and their typical peers. Please register. Space for 8 registrants.
Thursday, December 19, 4:00 pm

Sensory Friendly Movie (Winter Break)
Westlake Porter Public Library
A sensory-friendly environment including more light less sound and the option to move around the room will help families enjoy this free movie screening. All ages. No registration necessary.
Monday, December 30, 2:00 pm
Connect With Us

It’s free to join Connecting for Kids and start connecting with other Northeast Ohio families on a similar path.

**Online**
connectingforkids.org/joinus

**Call or Text**
440-570-5908
(para español 440-907-9130)

**Email**
info@connectingforkids.org

With Our Thanks

**Elyria**
CFK programs are supported by a grant from The Nordson Corporation Foundation.

**Lakewood**
CFK programs are supported by a grant from Community West Foundation and presented in partnership with Lakewood Public Library. Music Therapy & More in Lakewood is supported by a grant from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River.

**Middleburg Heights and Solon**
CFK programs are presented in partnership with Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Play & Say in Solon is supported by a grant from the Rotary Club of Solon.

**Rocky River**
CFK programs are presented in partnership with Rocky River Public Library.

**Westlake**
Music Therapy & More is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Teach Me to Play is supported by a grant from GPD Employees’ Foundation. CFK programs are presented in partnership with Westlake Porter Public Library.

Printed at the expense of Connecting for Kids and its library partners.

Locations

**Akron-Summit County Public Library**
Ellet Branch
2470 E. Market St.
330-784-2019

**Avon Lake Public Library**
32649 Electric Blvd.
440-933-8917

**Cuyahoga County Public Library**
Middleburg Heights Branch
16699 Bagley Rd.
440-234-3600

**Avon Lake Public Library**
North Royalton Branch
5071 Wallings Rd.
440-237-3800

**Parma Branch**
6996 Powers Blvd.
440-885-5362

**Warrensville Heights Branch**
2415 Northfield Rd.
216-464-5280

**Elyria Public Library System**
West River Branch
1194 West River Rd. N.
440-324-2270

**Euclid Public Library**
631 East 222nd St.
216-261-5300

**Lakewood Public Library**
15425 Detroit Ave.
216-226-8275 ext. 140

**Music Therapy & More in Lakewood** is supported by a grant from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River.

**Middleburg Heights and Solon**
CFK programs are presented in partnership with Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Play & Say in Solon is supported by a grant from the Rotary Club of Solon.

**Rocky River Public Library**
1600 Hampton Rd.
440-333-7610

**Westlake Porter Public Library**
27333 Center Ridge Rd.
440-871-2600

**KultureCity® Sensory Inclusive™ certified. Every employee has gone through sensory awareness training.**