

MARCH 2024

Resources, support & community

Connecting for Kids (CFK) provides resources, support and community to families in Northeast Ohio who have concerns about their child. We serve all families, including those children with and without diagnoses.

Designed for your family

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

- Y** Families with young children (0-6 years)
- E** Families with elementary-aged children (7-12 years)
- A** 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
info@connectingforkids.org
connectingforkids.org/register

Connect With Us

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

connectingforkids.org/joinus

 facebook.com/connectingforkids

 [@connectforkids](https://instagram.com/@connectforkids)



Workshops

During workshop sessions, pediatric professionals will guide families in discussion, problem-solving and learning experiences. Free, supervised children's activities are available but adults and children must register separately. connectingforkids.org/workshops

Behavior Chat: Top Five Behavior Concerns **Y**

Kathy Nash, MEd, and CFK staff will discuss the top five behavior questions parents ask and which tools to use to support specific concerns. The content is geared toward caregivers of children ages 18 months - 6 years (with or without developmental concerns). Each attendee will receive a free Behavior Toolkit.

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.
Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library



Continued, next page.

Find Full Program Details & Register Online!

Learn more about our programs and register on our website. To get started, visit connectingforkids.org/register or use a smartphone camera to scan this QR code!



REGISTER

MARCH PROGRAMS

Music Therapy & More **Y**

This program is designed for families and their children, ages 0 - 6 years, who have concerns about development. Join us for a hands-on program designed to teach families how to use music to improve their child's academic, motor, communication and social skills as well as behavior. This program is led by a Board-Certified Music Therapist. connectingforkids.org/music

Euclid Public Library

- Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.

Heights Libraries, Lee Road Branch

- Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.

Lakewood Public Library, Madison Branch

- Saturday, March 16, 9:30 a.m.

Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Saturday, March 16, 11:00 a.m.

North Ridgeville Branch of Lorain Public Library System

- Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.

Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.

Westlake Porter Public Library

- Friday, March 8, 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, March 9, 10:30 a.m.

Music Therapy & More: Elementary Age **E**

These sessions are designed for families and their children ages 7-12 with complex needs or disabilities. Participants engage in singing, listening, instrument play and movement to music in a fun, interactive environment. Families will learn to use music to enhance gross motor skills, develop body awareness, practice social skills and expand their creative abilities. This program is led by a Board-Certified Music Therapist. connectingforkids.org/music

Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.

Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch

Playgroups **Y**

Designed for caregivers and their children. connectingforkids.org/play

Adapted Playgroups

Adapted Playgroup is a safe, welcoming environment for caregivers of children with concerns about development. Your child will practice play and social skills while you can get tips on everything from behavior to social skills from an Intervention Specialist. For caregivers and children ages 18 months- 6 years.

Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch

- Saturday, March 23, 9:30 a.m.

Westlake Porter Public Library

- Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 22, 10:30 a.m.

Inclusive Drop-In Playgroup

Attendees will have a chance to get hands-on support, meet other families and connect to community resources while children play. Led by an Early Childhood Specialist and CFK staff, caregivers will learn strategies for dealing with behavior challenges, communication concerns and sensory issues. Registration is welcome but not required. For caregivers and their children ages 0-6 years.

Lakewood Family Room

- Thursday, March 14, 9 - 11:00 a.m.



Workshops (cont.)

Social Skills for the Neurodivergent Child **E**

Lisa Mortensen, of Spectrum Social Club, will share skill-building techniques for children with ADHD, anxiety and autism. She will also discuss how to distinguish between things families need to adapt to and things they need to accept. Attendees will break into groups to share ideas and practice skills.

Monday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.

Westlake Porter Public Library

How to Communicate Effectively with School **E**

Karla Fitch, MSW, LSW, of Connecting for Kids, will teach families how to create and use a communication binder. She will also demonstrate ways to use the binder throughout the year to communicate your child's needs. All participants will be given supplies to put together their own binders!

Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.

Lakewood Public Library, Main Library



Connecting for Kids

RESOURCE FAIRS



PRE-REGISTER NOW

For more information or to pre-register, visit:

connectingforkids.org/resource-fairs

Or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera.

CFK resource fairs are free, in-person, indoor events with drive-up grab & go options, offering resources for families with concerns about their youth (ages birth-22).

Who should attend?

Everyone concerned about a youth; including concerns about disabilities, academics or mental health.

Why CFK resource fairs?

Find resources and talk with service providers.

What is a grab & go?

Only have a few minutes? No problem! Drive up to the grab & go tent to quickly receive a bag of resources. Pre-registration required.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

- Adapted camps
- Adapted sports & rec
- Alternative schools
- Disability services
- Early intervention
- Educational advocates
- Funding sources
- Job services
- Mental health providers
- Music therapy programs
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Respite providers
- Social skills programs
- Speech-language therapy
- Support groups
- Transitional services
- Tutors and academic programs
- Vision Therapy
- Much more!

Eastern Cuyahoga

Saturday, March 2 from
11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

Tri-C Eastern Campus in
Highland Hills

Lorain County

Tuesday, March 12 from
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

LCCC Spitzer Conference
Center in Elyria

Western Cuyahoga

Wednesday, March 27
from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Don Umerley Civic
Center in Rocky River

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 are encouraged. This storytime is designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storytime experience.

connectingforkids.org/library

Euclid Public Library

- Saturday, March 16, 11:00 a.m.

Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Saturday, March 2, 11:00 a.m.

Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Tuesday, March 12, 11:00 a.m.

Rocky River Public Library

- Saturday, March 9, 9:15 a.m.

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Saturday, March 16, 10:30 a.m.

Westlake Porter Public Library

- Thursday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 16, 11:00 a.m.

I Can Cook!

Learn basic cooking skills with simple recipes for kids with disabilities and their typical peers. If you have an allergy or dietary concern, please contact the Youth Desk at 440-250-5471. Ages 3-7. Each session of I Can Cook! empowers young children with disabilities with important cooking skills. Cooking requires fine motor work, following directions, and is always a sensory experience. Tasting or sampling is not required. Some previous kitchen experience is great, but isn't necessary.

Friday, March 8, 4:30 p.m.

Westlake Porter Public Library

Continued, next page.

Adapted Library (cont.)

GenZen Hangout: For Tweens of All Abilities in Grades 4-6

Play games, tinker, make art, and just hang out at our inclusive monthly meet-up.

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.
Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

Kids in the Kitchen

Children with disabilities will learn some important cooking skills while making 2 or 3 recipes. Tasting is not required. Previous kitchen experience isn't necessary. Ages 8-12. Please call the Youth Services Desk at 440.250.5471 if you have any concerns about allergens or other dietary issues. Typical peers or siblings welcome.

Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.
Westlake Porter Public Library

GenZen Hangout: For Tweens of All Abilities in Grades 4-6

Play games, tinker, make art, and just hang out at our inclusive monthly meet-up.

Saturday, March 23, 3:00 p.m.
Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Library

Sensory Friendly Movie: The Super Mario Bros. Movie

Join us for a sensory-friendly presentation of The Super Mario Bros. Movie for kids! The lights will be up and the sound will be down to accommodate children with unique needs. Children are welcome to talk and explore during the film showing.

Monday, March 18, 10:30 a.m.
Euclid Public Library

P.A.L.S. Big Screen Sensory Friendly Movies: Kung Fu Panda

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! Light refreshments available.

Friday, March 29, 11:00 a.m.
Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

With Our Thanks

Programming is made possible in part by support from local organizations.

Community Foundation of Lorain County

Community West Foundation

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

GPD Employees' Foundation

Healthy Lakewood Foundation

Nordson Corporation Foundation

Rotary Club of North Ridgeville

Rotary Club of Westlake-Bay Village

Sierra and The TJX Foundation

Locations

Avon Lake Public Library

32649 Electric Blvd.
440-933-8128

Euclid Public Library

631 E 222 St.
216-261-5300

Heights Libraries, Lee Road Branch

2345 Lee Road
216-932-3600

Lakewood Family Room at Cove Community Center

12525 Lake Ave.
216-529-5018

Lakewood Public Library, Madison Branch

13229 Madison Ave.
216-228-7428

Lakewood Public Library, Main Library

15425 Detroit Ave.
216-226-8275

Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

16699 Bagley Road
440-234-3600

North Ridgeville Branch of Lorain Public Library System

35700 Bainbridge Road
440-327-8326

Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

2121 Snow Road
216-661-4240

Rocky River Public Library


1600 Hampton Road
440-333-7610

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

34125 Portz Pkwy.
440-248-8777

Westlake Porter Public Library

27333 Center Ridge Road
440-871-2600

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



Connect With Us

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Online

connectingforkids.org/joinus

Call or Text

440-570-5908

Email

info@connectingforkids.org