

## February 2020

### *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:

- 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**  
**(para español 440-907-9130)**  
**info@connectingforkids.org**  
**connectingforkids.org/register**

### *At a glance*

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## FEBRUARY PROGRAMS: ADULTS

### 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](http://connectingforkids.org/speakerseries)

#### *Challenging Behavior Series* *Part 1: Solving Challenging Behavior* **A**

In this two-part series, Katie Greenleaf, MA, LPCC, of Meghan Barlow and Associates, will share techniques to turn your home from a battleground into a more peaceful place. Before participating in this program, you must: 1) Listen to the Podcast "Understanding Your Child's Challenging Behaviors" which can be found on the CFK website: [connectingforkids.org/Challenging-Behaviors17](http://connectingforkids.org/Challenging-Behaviors17) and 2) Complete the Google Form when you register so that Katie knows a little more about your situation and can better address your concerns (anonymously) during her presentation. Attendees of this session will be registered for Part 2 of the Challenging Behavior Series, a Coffee and Chat support group hosted by Katie Greenleaf.

**Tuesday, February 25, 6:30 pm**  
**Westlake Porter Public Library**

#### *How to Apply for Grants for Children with Special Needs* **A**

Would you like to apply for a grant to help fund your child's needs but aren't sure where to begin? How do you find which grants you may qualify for? Join representatives from Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities (CCBDD) and Rec2connect Foundation who will discuss the types of therapies, camps or equipment that are typically covered. They will also walk attendees through the process of applying for financial support. In addition, Amy Clawson of Ohio Family 2 Family will explain how to create your child's medical summary and write a vision statement to supplement your grant applications.

*This program is co-sponsored by CCBDD, Zane's Inc., Rec2Connect Foundation and Ohio Family 2 Family.*

**Saturday, February 29, 1:00 pm**  
**Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**

**Register at [connectingforkids.org/register](http://connectingforkids.org/register)**

## FEBRUARY PROGRAMS: WITH MY CHILD

### Elementary Experiences<sup>SM</sup> **E**

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](http://connectingforkids.org/elementary)

#### **Social Series: Friendship 411**

What does a friend say or do? What is expected of a friend? What are some ways to make new friends? Join Ellen Spear, MA, CCC-SLP, of Lakeshore Speech Therapy, LLC, as she describes the various levels of friendship and helps elementary-aged students recognize the difference between friends and acquaintances. She will also provide strategies to help your child develop and maintain friendships and give tips for how your child can use a "friend file" so others will have positive thoughts about him or her. For ages 7-9 years.

*Saturday, February 1, Sessions begins at 1:00 pm (open to every child) and 2:30 pm (Targeting Gifted/2e families)*  
*Lakewood Public Library*

#### **Less Screaming, More Talking**

Come experience an innovative and fun way to learn how to communicate with each other in a positive manner. Join Anna Jones, LISW-S of Up the Steps, a restorative psychotherapy practice, as she teaches practical exercises to help you and your child identify communication styles, improve listening and manage conflicts when they arise. She will also discuss ways of reacting vs responding to help you obtain the calm, quiet home you desire without all the screaming.

*Saturday, February 22, Sessions begin at 1:00 pm (ages 7-9) and 2:30 pm (ages 10-12)*

*Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library*



### 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](http://connectingforkids.org/staff)

#### **Have Questions?**

**Call/Text: 440-570-5908**  
**(para español 440-907-9130)**  
**[info@connectingforkids.org](mailto:info@connectingforkids.org)**

## UPCOMING RESOURCE FAIRS



Discuss services and explore options for your family member (birth - age 22) at this FREE public event. Whether your child is struggling with behavior problems, anxiety, developmental delays, academic issues or has a formal diagnosis such as ADHD or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), this fair is for you!

*Thursday, March 12, 6:00 – 8:00 pm*  
*Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center, 1005 N. Abbe Rd., Elyria*

- Free shuttle bus, compliments of Ready Set Go...to Kindergarten.
- Free pasta dinner.
- Free Spanish translation available (habrá traductores de español disponibles).

Preregister and attend the Lorain County Resource Fair to be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Visa gift card. For more information or to register, visit [connectingforkids.org/lorain-resource-fair](http://connectingforkids.org/lorain-resource-fair)

### 9th Annual Connecting for Kids Meet and Greet

*Wednesday, April 8*  
*6:00 - 8:00 pm*

*Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River*

For more information or to register, visit [connectingforkids.org/meetandgreet](http://connectingforkids.org/meetandgreet)

### Connecting for Kids Virtual Resource Fair

The Connecting for Kids Virtual Resource Fair (VRF) showcases videos from local providers. These short videos offer a unique way for families to:

- Meet providers
- Learn about services
- Tour offices/therapy centers

New videos will be released regularly. To see the latest or learn more, visit [connectingforkids.org/virtualresourcefair](http://connectingforkids.org/virtualresourcefair)

## Music Therapy & More<sup>SM</sup>

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. [connectingforkids.org/music](http://connectingforkids.org/music)

### **Elyria Public Library System, West River Branch**

Sessions begin at 6:00 pm.  
• Thursday, February 13

### **Euclid Public Library**

Sessions begin at 2:30 pm.  
• Saturday, February 15

### **Lakewood Public Library**

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.  
• Saturday, February 1

### **Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.  
• Saturday, February 22

### **Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.  
• Friday, February 7

### **Westlake Porter Public Library**

Sessions begin at 9:30 am and 10:30 am.  
• Friday, February 14  
• Saturday, February 15

## Teach Me to Play<sup>SM</sup>

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](http://connectingforkids.org/play)

### **Elyria Public Library System, West River Branch**

Sessions begin at 6:00 pm.  
• Thursday, February 6

### **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, February 20  
• Friday, February 21

## 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](http://connectingforkids.org/play-say)

### **Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**

Sessions begin at 10:30 am  
• Friday, February 28





## 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](http://connectingforkids.org/joinus)

### Call or Text

440-570-5908

(para español 440-907-9130)

### Email

[info@connectingforkids.org](mailto:info@connectingforkids.org)



## With Our Thanks

### Elyria

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

### Euclid

CFK programs are presented in partnership with Euclid Public Library.

### Lakewood

CFK programs are supported by a grant from Community West Foundation and presented in partnership with Lakewood Public Library.

### 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.

### 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.

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## Locations

**Avon Branch  
Lorain Public Library System**  
37485 Harvest Dr.

**Avon Lake Public Library**  
32649 Electric Blvd.

**Brook Park Branch  
Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
6155 Engle Rd.

**Eastlake Public Library**   
36706 Lake Shore Blvd.

**Elyria Public Library System  
West River Branch**  
1194 West River Rd. N.

**Euclid Public Library**  
631 East 222nd St.

**Grafton-Midview Public Library**  
983 Main St.

**Lakewood Public Library  
Main Library**  
15425 Detroit Ave.

**Middleburg Heights Branch  
Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
16699 Bagley Rd.

**North Ridgeville Branch  
Lorain Public Library System**  
35700 Bainbridge Rd.


**North Royalton Branch  
Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
5071 Wallings Rd.

**Parma Branch  
Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
6996 Powers Blvd.

**Parma-Snow Branch  
Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
2121 Snow Rd.

**Rocky River Public Library**  
1600 Hampton Rd.

**Solon Branch  
Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
34125 Portz Pkwy.

**Willowick Public Library**   
263 East 305th St.

**Westlake Porter Public Library**   
27333 Center Ridge Rd.

**Willoughby Hills Public Library**   
35400 Chardon Rd.



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