

January 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

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JANUARY 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

How to Meet the Needs of Typical Siblings **A**

Do the needs of your typical children sometimes go unmet? Are you feeling guilty over the amount of time you spend focused on your child who struggles versus the amount you can carve out for a typical sibling? Lisa Ruman, LISW, CHT, of The Child & Family Counseling Center of Westlake, will outline ways to have a conversation with your typically developing child so that he or she can express frustrations and identify at least one need that currently isn't being met. We will then share practical ways to meet sibling needs given limited time and funds.

Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 pm
Westlake Porter Public Library

Coffee and Chat

Join our interactive support group and meet other families facing similar struggles. Free, supervised children's activities are available, but adults and children must register separately.
connectingforkids.org/support

Reaching Out for Support **A**

Do you want to reach out and meet other families on a similar journey but don't know how? Join us for an informal discussion about how to find others like you and the support you need. We also encourage families to attend who already have a strong network and are willing to mentor others.

Saturday, January 25, 2:30 pm
Euclid Public Library

Register at connectingforkids.org/register

JANUARY PROGRAMS: WITH MY CHILD

Elementary ExperiencesSM

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

Organization Station

Are chores a challenge in your house? Does your child start a task and never finish it? We can help! Join therapists from Galvin Therapy Center for an interactive session where children can learn and practice organizational skills. Children will do "chores" at stations set up to represent rooms of a home including the kitchen and bedroom. Each station will feature activities to complete together and strategies that can be used at home.

*Saturday, January 11, Sessions begin at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm
Westlake Porter Public Library*

Looking for more programs to experience with your child?

Learn about adapted programming at a library near you when you check out our partner libraries online. Visit connectingforkids.org/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

Have Questions?

Call/Text: 440-570-5908
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info@connectingforkids.org

Upcoming Resource Fairs



Sixth Annual Lorain County RESOURCE FAIR
Formerly called Lorain County Special Needs Resource Day

CO-PRESENTED BY LEADERSHIP LORAIN COUNTY AND CONNECTING FOR KIDS

Discuss services and explore options for your family member (birth through 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

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

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

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. connectingforkids.org/music

Elyria Public Library System, West River Branch

Sessions begin at 6:00 pm.

- Thursday, January 9

Westlake Porter Public Library

Sessions begin at 9:30 am and 10:30 am.

- Friday, January 10
- Saturday, January 11

Euclid Public Library

Sessions begin at 2:30 am.

- Saturday, January 11

NEW!

Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.

- Saturday, January 18

Teach Me to PlaySM

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, January 16
- Friday, January 17

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

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

Sessions begin at 10:30 am

- Friday, January 24



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.

Euclid

CFK programs are presented in partnership with Euclid 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.

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

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



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[pinterest.com/connectforkids](https://www.pinterest.com/connectforkids)



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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.