

**March 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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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](http://connectingforkids.org/lorain-resource-fair)

## *Platinum Sponsors*



## *Gold Sponsors*

- McGuire Law and Advocacy, LLC

## *Silver Sponsors*

- Autism Learning Partners
- Cleveland Clinic Children's Therapy Services and Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism
- Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center
- Holistic Progression, Music Therapy & Lessons
- Julie Billiard Schools
- Kenneth A. De Luca, Ph.D. & Associates, Inc.
- Lorain County Children and Family First Council
- Lorain County Prosecutor's Office
- Lorain County Sheriff's Office
- Music Therapy Enrichment Center, Inc.
- Ohio Guidestone
- Pathway Caring for Children
- The Arc of Greater Cleveland
- The Mobile OT
- Trumpet Behavioral Health

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

## MARCH 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)

#### Medical Cannabis 101 A

Are you contemplating the use of medical cannabis for your child? Do you know which conditions qualify? Do you know how to find a provider compliant with Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program? Join Dr. Nora McNamara of Compassionate Cleveland as she discusses the risks and benefits of medical cannabis. She will also answer frequently asked questions such as: Is it safe for children? Does it work? Are there potential interaction problems with other medications? What is the best method of ingestion for a child? What steps do I need to take to obtain a medical marijuana card for my child?

**Tuesday, March 31, 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](http://connectingforkids.org/support)

#### How to Stay Calm When Your Kids are Out of Control

A **VIRTUAL**

Have you wanted to attend our Coffee and Chat support groups but are unable to get out of the house? Or, your busy work or kids' activities schedule doesn't allow for a night away? CFK will be hosting a "virtual" Coffee and Chat live on Facebook. Watch from the comfort of your home and even post questions for our facilitators Lisa Ruman, LISW, CHt, and Kristin Swihart, LISW-S, of The Child & Family Counseling Center of Westlake. You will learn six techniques to help you stay calm in the face of adversity. Connecting for Kids staff will also be part of this live event to share resources and answer your questions as well. This event is open to all and will be live on the CFK main Facebook page. Registration is preferred.

**Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 pm, Virtual Coffee and Chat via Facebook Live**

#### Buscando Apoyo: Comunidad Hispana

A **en español**

Reaching Out for Support: Hispanic Community (Program in Spanish)

¿Deseas conocer a otras familias latinas en una situación similar a la tuya? Ven a conocer a Dr. Brittany Myers, psicóloga infantil de MetroHealth, quien discutirá maneras para conseguir recursos para inquietudes tales como la Ansiedad, el Trastorno de Déficit de Atención e Hiperactividad (TDAH), el Trastorno del Espectro Autista y Superdotado, entre otros. Los participantes también tendrán la oportunidad de establecer contactos y encontrar el apoyo necesario dentro de la Comunidad Latina. Este programa será impartido en español.

**jueves, 26 de marzo, 6:00 pm**  
**Elyria Public Library System, West River Branch**

## MARCH 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)

#### Practicing Mindfulness to Calm Anxiety and Increase Focus

Join Terri McNeely, MEd, BS, of The Child & Family Counseling Center of Westlake, in this interactive session as she teaches caregivers and children ways to calm themselves and become more mindful. She will lead attendees through exercises that can be practiced every day to increase attention, focus and to better regulate emotions.

**Saturday, March 14, Session begins 2:30 pm (ages 10-12)**  
**Westlake Porter Public Library**



### 9th Annual CFK 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)

### CFK Virtual Resource Fair (VRF)

The Connecting for Kids VRF showcases videos from local providers. These videos offer a unique way for families to:

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

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)

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

Sessions begin at 2:30 pm.

- Saturday, March 14

### **Lakewood Public Library**

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.

- Saturday, March 7

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

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.

- Saturday, March 21

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

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.

- Friday, March 27

### **Westlake Porter Public Library**

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

- Friday, March 13
- Saturday, March 14

## 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**

Preschool session begins at 6:00 pm.

- Thursday, March 5

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

Preschool session begins at 10:30 am.

- Friday, March 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, March 19
- Friday, March 20

NEW!

## 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)

### **Lakewood Family Room Main**

Session begins at 10:00 am

- Thursday, March 5

NEW!





## 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 grants from The Nordson Corporation Foundation and the Parker Hannifin 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.

### 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.

## Locations

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

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

**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.

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

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

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

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