

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



[facebook.com/  
connectingforkids](https://facebook.com/connectingforkids)



[@connectforkids](https://@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](https://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**

**FREE  
Behavior  
Toolkit!**

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## Find Full Program Details & Register Online!

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



## 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](http://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](http://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](http://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**

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## 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

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

### **Online**

[connectingforkids.org/joinus](https://connectingforkids.org/joinus)

### **Call or Text**

440-570-5908

### **Email**

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