

MAY 2025

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



@connectforkids



Speaker Series

Presentations on childhood topics by pediatric professionals. For in-person programs, free, supervised children's activities are available but adults and children must register separately.

connectingforkids.org/speakerseries

Navigating Well-being in a Digital Age **A**

Dr. Nicole Pucci, Clinical Psychologist, and Dr. Kelly Christian and Dr. Emily Lauster, of the Ethan D. Schafer Center for Learning Differences at Lawrence School, will discuss how to lessen the negative effects of screen time, as well as strategies to promote development, mental health and social interactions.

Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 p.m.

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

Workshop

During workshop sessions, pediatric professionals will guide families in discussion, problem-solving and learning experiences. For in-person programs, free, supervised children's activities are available but adults and children must register separately.

connectingforkids.org/workshops

Sibling Solutions: How to Deal with Conflict, Competition and Differing Needs **E**

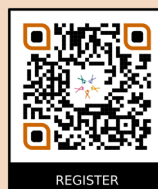
Nikki Rotshtein, of Kavana Parenting, will teach you tools to support all of your children—whether you are dealing with sibling conflict, jealousy or competition. She will also discuss how having a sibling with disabilities impacts others in the family and ways that a new baby changes the family dynamic.

Thursday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.

Lakewood Public Library, Main Library

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!



MAY PROGRAMS



Music Therapy & More Y

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 designed for families and their children, ages 0 - 6 years, who have concerns about development. connectingforkids.org/music

Heights Libraries, Lee Road Branch

- Wednesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.

Lakewood Public Library, Madison Branch

- Saturday, May 10, 9:30 a.m.

Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Monday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.

Playgroup Y

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

Inclusive Drop-In Playgroup

Get hands-on support, meet other families and connect to community resources while children play. Led by an Early Childhood Specialist, 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, May 29, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.



EMBRACE the PACE



An inclusive race for every pace

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AUG 2025

• Independence Liberty Playground
• 5K | One-Mile Kids' Race

• connectingforkids.org/5K

Join Connecting for Kids, along with our partners and sponsors, for an inclusive race for every pace! The inaugural Embrace the Pace 5K, one-mile run/walk/roll and kids' race welcomes participants of all ages and abilities.

5K and One-Mile Registration

\$35 (Includes shirt, finisher medal, draw-string bag, chip-timed bib and age category prizes)

Kids' Race Registration

\$5 (includes non-chip bib and finisher medal) or \$15 (non-chip bib, finisher medal and race t-shirt)

Questions?

Email info@connectingforkids.org or call/text 440-570-5908

REGISTER

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 now



Concerned? ASK US!

Ask Us is a free 30-minute call with a Family Resource Specialist who understands what it's like to be concerned about a child.

Get resources and support for:

- Getting a diagnosis
- New diagnosis
- School (IEPs/504s and more)
- Behavior
- Finding a therapist
- Funding
- Much more!

Time slots are available by phone or Zoom. To view available dates/times, visit connectingforkids.org/AskUs or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.



Reserve now



NEVER MISS A PROGRAM

Don't wait for our program flier to come home in your child's backpack - join Connecting for Kids and you'll get our monthly newsletter with all the latest programs! Learn more online at: connectingforkids.org/joinus

MAY PROGRAMS

Adapted Library Programs

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/library.

Heights Libraries, Coventry Village Branch

Express-a-Story

Join us for child-led learning focused on building our skills in communication and self-expression. Come at 1:00 p.m. to consult with a speech language pathologist on building skills with alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) devices. Join us at 1:30 for a storytime and playtime with a librarian that offers more opportunity for practice. Children of all ages and abilities are welcome. Drop-in program, no registration required. Second Saturdays, January - April.

Saturday, May 3, 1:00 p.m.

Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County 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, May 17, 3:00 p.m.

North Ridgeville Branch of Lorain Public Library System

Sensory Play Time

An open playtime for children of all abilities. Perfect for ages 2-7 with a caring adult. Siblings welcome!

Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m.

Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

P.A.L.S. Big Screen Sensory Friendly Movies: Incredibles 2

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.

Saturday, May 3, 11:00 a.m. (Free Comic Book Day)

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County 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.

Thursday, May 22, 6:30 p.m.

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

Heights Libraries, Noble Neighborhood Branch

- Saturday, May 3, 10:30 a.m.

Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m.

Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Tuesday, May 13, 11:00 a.m.

Rocky River Public Library

- Saturday, May 3, 11:00 a.m.

Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Saturday, May 10, 10:30 a.m.

Summer Camp is Full — Now What?

Tips for Families of Kids with Disabilities, Delays or Behavioral Health Concerns

You found the perfect summer camp, called – and it's full. It's a big problem for many families, but don't lose hope.

1. Check out inclusivesummer.com

The Connecting for Kids (CFK) Inclusive Summer Guide includes a directory with more than 150 programs. You can search by age, region, camp length and more. New programs are added every week – so don't forget to check back.

2. Get Creative

Some camps fill fast – but that doesn't mean you're out of luck. You may be able to use a mix of activities to fill the summer gap. Some examples include:

- Adapted arts or rec programs
- Adapted or inclusive library programs
- Church, mosque or temple-based programming (like vacation bible school)
- City or YMCA recreation programs
- Therapies or therapy groups
- Daycare

If you're looking for ideas the Connecting for Kids (CFK) team is here to help. Call/text 440-570-5908, email info@connectingforkids.org, or choose a date/time that works best for you at connectingforkids.org/askus.

NEED IDEAS FOR FAMILY FUN? ASK US!

Learn About

- ✓ Adapted & inclusive sports and recreation
- ✓ Adapted & inclusive arts programs
- ✓ Seasonal programs like camps and groups
- ✓ Sensory-friendly events

connectingforkids.org/askus

3. Set a Calendar Reminder for Next Year

Now that you know where the perfect camp is, put a reminder on your calendar for next year. Many camp

programs publish their programs around mid-March. If you're not sure, you can always reach out to CFK and we'll find out for you!

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

OberlinKids Community
Collaborative

Rotary Club of Westlake-Bay
Village

Locations

Avon Lake Public Library
32649 Electric Blvd.
440-933-8128

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

Oberlin Public Library
65 South Main Street
440-775-4790

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

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland (UCP)
10011 Euclid Avenue,
Cleveland
(216) 354-2727

Westlake Porter Public Library 
27333 Center Ridge Road
440-871-2600



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