

**NOV/DEC 2023**

## ***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



@connectforkids



## **Learning Disability Provider Showcase **A****

Do you have concerns about your child's reading or math skills? Have you been told your child is at risk for dyslexia? Would you like an easy way to meet tutors, specialists or programs to see if they are a match for your child's needs? If so, attend the Connecting for Kids Learning Disability Provider Showcase. The showcase will provide the chance for you to meet with area providers offering tutoring and learning disability services.

During this free, family event, Connecting for Kids staff will be available to suggest resources and other programs to help your child if you aren't sure where to start. The event will highlight local resources, programs &

services including:

- Academic Programs
- Education Advocates & Attorneys
- Executive Functioning Specialists
- IEP help
- Specialized Schools
- Tutors
- More

In addition, Westlake Porter Public Librarians will offer books that aid in literacy along with children's activities. Pre-register by November 28 and attend to be entered to win a \$100 gift card!

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

**Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**  
**Westlake Porter Public Library**

## **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!



REGISTER

## 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 Y

Do you want strategies to motivate your child toward positive behavior? Join Ochanya McRoberts-Wells, MEd, and CFK staff who will lead a discussion guided by your questions on a variety of behavior topics. Submit your questions before or during the session and learn how to use the tools in our Behavior Toolkit to help your child. Each session will focus on a new behavior tool, but questions on any behavior concern are welcome. The content in this program is geared toward caregivers of children ages 18 months - 6 years (with or without developmental concerns). Each attendee will receive a free Behavior Toolkit. [connectingforkids.org/workshops](https://connectingforkids.org/workshops)

**How Structure Can Prevent Meltdowns**  
*Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.*  
*Virtual*

### Navigating IEPs, 504s & ETRs A

What is the difference between an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and 504 plan? How do you request an evaluation if you suspect your child could use some additional support? What is an Evaluation Team Report (ETR)? Navigating the world of special education may seem overwhelming at first. Join Connecting for Kids staff as they help you understand the process so that you can more effectively work with the school to help your child. Families will have the chance to engage in breakout sessions to talk about specific IEP or 504 concerns.

**Thursday, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m.**  
*Euclid Public Library*

### Co-Regulation is Your Superpower A

Do you find it hard to stay calm when your child is having a meltdown? Do you wonder how big emotions in the home affect you and your child? Do you wish you had a superpower that could keep everyone calm, cool and collected? Join Christine Chambers, MEd, OTR/L, of Abilities First, LLC, as she introduces you to your hidden superpower: co-regulation. Learn what it is and strategies to help you and your child stay calm in challenging moments. Attendees will have the chance to discuss and practice co-regulation tools in breakout groups, including one for dads.

**Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6:30 p.m.**  
*Westlake Porter Public Library*

## Ask Us 1:1

Do you need help navigating resources for your child? Would you like to meet one-on-one with a CFK staff member? Register for a 30-minute time slot during our monthly Ask Us 1:1 and get information on a wide range of concerns from adapted program options and school struggles to mental health and specific diagnoses.

Time slots are available by phone or Zoom to meet your needs. To view available dates/times, visit [connectingforkids.org/AskUs](https://connectingforkids.org/AskUs) or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.

RESERVE NOW



## Speaker Series

Presentations on childhood topics by pediatric professionals.

Free, supervised children's activities are available but adults and children must register separately. [connectingforkids.org/speakerseries](https://connectingforkids.org/speakerseries)

### Potty Training with Complex Needs Y

Are you concerned because your child is not potty trained? Are you frustrated and could use some training tips from a professional? Join Nikki Rotshtein OTR/L, of Galvin Therapy Center, who will discuss the challenges of potty training. This program will focus on methods to support children with sensory processing, anxiety, autism and physical disabilities, but will also be helpful for caregivers of typically developing children. Attendees will have the chance to join breakout groups based on their child's readiness level and developmental concerns.

**Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m.**  
*North Ridgeville Branch of Lorain Public Library System*

## Share & Support

Join our support groups and meet other families facing similar concerns. Free, supervised children's activities are available but adults and children must register separately. [connectingforkids.org/support](https://connectingforkids.org/support)

### You're No Longer Just Parenting For Black American Caregivers A

Where can caregivers find the supports and services they need? Join Salina Miller, AA; Nikki Montgomery, MA, MEd, GPAC; and Patricia Parker, BA, for a book discussion of "We Dare Be Brave." They will encourage participants to explore their role as a caregiver, examine the emotional challenges caregivers face and identify the warning signs of caregiver burnout. Register and a copy of the book will be mailed to you.

**Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6:30 p.m.**  
*Virtual*

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

### Euclid Public Library

Session begins at 6:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Nov 16

### Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch

Session begins at 9:30 a.m.

- Saturday, Nov. 18

### Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

Session begins at 11:00 a.m.

- Saturday, Nov. 18

### North Ridgeville Branch of Lorain Public Library System

Session begins at 6:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Nov. 30

### Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

Session begins at 10:30 a.m.

- Friday, Nov. 17

### Westlake Porter Public Library

Sessions begin at 10:30 a.m.

- Friday, Nov. 10
- Saturday, Nov. 11

## Adapted Playgroup Y

Come play with us! Adapted Playgroup is a safe, welcoming environment for caregivers of children with concerns about development. Your child will enjoy engaging with others while practicing play and social skills. You will have the chance to interact with our experienced Intervention Specialist who can provide tips on everything from behavior to social skills. This program is designed for caregivers and children ages 18 months- 6 years. [connectingforkids.org/play](http://connectingforkids.org/play)

### Westlake Porter Public Library

Thursday sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. and Friday sessions begin at 10:30 a.m.

- Thursday, Nov. 16
- Friday, Nov. 17

## 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. Content is geared toward ages 3 - 7 years, but all ages are welcome. Siblings may also attend but must register separately.

#### Euclid Public Library

- Saturday, Nov. 18, 11:00 a.m.

#### Lakewood Public Library, Main Library

- Saturday, Nov. 25, 11:30 a.m.

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

- Saturday, Nov. 11 11:00 a.m.

#### Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Tuesday, Nov. 14, 11:00 a.m.

#### Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Saturday, Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m.

#### Westlake Porter Public Library

- Saturday, Nov. 4, 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 22, 11:30 a.m.

### Inclusive Playtime

All families with all abilities are welcome to play and connect with other families in our community. Older siblings welcome!

**Wednesday, Nov. 1, 10:30 a.m.**

**Euclid 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.

#### Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m.

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

- Saturday, Nov. 18, 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 30, 3:00 p.m.

### Sensory Science Adapted Storytime

A story time and sensory science learning stations for children with varying learning styles and abilities to learn together in a safe, supportive environment where respect and appreciation for differences is encouraged. Content is geared towards ages 3 to 7, but all ages are welcome. Siblings may also attend but must register separately.

**Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.**

**North Ridgeville Branch of Lorain Public Library System**

### Thankful Turkey Jar Craft

Children with disabilities will make a thankful turkey jar craft and enjoy a story about gratitude. For grades K-2. Typical peers welcome.

**Monday, Nov. 20, 4:00 p.m.**

**Westlake Porter Public Library**

continued, next page.



## Adapted Library Programs (continued)



### Sensory Ornament Decoration

Children with disabilities ages 8-12 will experience fine motor and sensory play while making a salt dough ornament or decoration. Typical peers are welcome. Please call the Youth Services Desk if you have any concerns about allergens or other special concerns, at 440-250-5471.

**Monday, Dec. 4, 4:00 p.m.**

**Westlake Porter Public Library**

### Stretches and Smiles

Let's stretch together and try this fun form of exercise! Learn ways to calm active bodies and minds, leading to smiles all around. It's a perfect way to introduce simple stretches, some yoga poses and some mindfulness to children. Ages 3 and up with disabilities and typical peers.

**Tuesday, Dec. 12, 1:00 p.m.**

**Westlake Porter Public Library**

### Cookie Decorating

Engage your child's senses and encourage messy play while delighting in the wonder of the season. No baking or decorating experience necessary. For children with disabilities ages 3-7. Please call the Youth Services Desk if you have any concerns about allergens or other dietary issues, at 440-250-5471.

**Friday, Dec. 15, 4:00 p.m.**

**Westlake Porter 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

## Locations

### Euclid Public Library

631 E 222 St.  
216-261-5300

### Lakewood Public Library, Main Library

15425 Detroit Ave.  
216-226-8275

### Middleburg Heights Branch Cuyahoga County Public Library

16699 Bagley Rd.  
440-234-3600

### North Ridgeville Branch Lorain Public Library System

35700 Bainbridge Rd.  
440-327-8326

### Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library


2121 Snow Road  
216-661-4240

### Solon Branch Cuyahoga County Public Library

34125 Portz Pkwy.  
440-248-8777

### Westlake Porter Public Library

27333 Center Ridge Rd.  
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](http://connectingforkids.org/joinus)

### Call or Text

440-570-5908

### Email

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