

## Spring 2025

### Resources, support and community for families

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 for 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**

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

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

 [@connectforkids](https://www.instagram.com/connectforkids)

Printed at the expense of  
Connecting for Kids.



## Connecting for Kids



## SPRING RESOURCE FAIRS

Connecting for Kids resource fairs are free, in-person events, with drive-up grab & go options. The fairs offer resources for families with concerns about their youth (ages birth-22). For more information, including locations and sponsors, see pages 2-3.

### Who Should Attend?

Everyone concerned about a youth; including concerns about mental health, academics, disabilities and developmental delays

### Why CFK Resource Fairs?

CFK offers some of the largest resource fairs in Northeast Ohio, where you can find resources and talk with service providers.

### Pre-Register & Win!

Pre-register and attend any of our spring resource fairs and you'll be entered to win a \$100 Amazon gift card. For more information or to pre-register, visit:

**[connectingforkids.org/resource-fairs](http://connectingforkids.org/resource-fairs)**

### WEST

Thursday, Feb. 27  
6-8:00 p.m.  
Rocky River

### LORAIN

Tuesday, March 18  
6-8:00 p.m.  
Elyria

### EAST

Wednesday, April 2  
6-8:00 p.m.  
Highland Hills

# Resources, Support and **MORE!**

What you'll find at our spring resource fairs:

- Adapted camps
- Adapted sports & rec
- Alternative schools
- Behavioral health providers
- Disability services
- Educational advocates
- Funding sources
- Mental health providers
- Music therapy programs
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Social skills programs
- Specialty legal services
- Speech-language therapy
- Support groups
- Transitional services
- Tutors and academic programs
- Much more!

## NEED HELP?

Whether this is your first resource fair or your 14th, Connecting for Kids has the support you need to make the most of your fair visit.

### Fair Tips

Learn to navigate the fair like a pro with our fair tips - or download free question sheets you can use to interview providers.



Get Tips!



Get your free tips by scanning the QR code above or visit [connectingforkids.org/fairtips](http://connectingforkids.org/fairtips)

Need personalized support? We've got that too. Visit [connectingforkids.org/AskUs](http://connectingforkids.org/AskUs) to reserve a free 1:1 call with one of our Family Resource Specialists.

## WESTERN CUYAHOGA

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Don Umerley Civic Center

21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

Presented in partnership with The Lakewood Elks Lodge #1350

### PLATINUM SPONSORS



### GOLD SPONSORS



### SILVER SPONSORS

- Albert Einstein Academy of Ohio
- Beck Center for the Arts
- CareSource
- Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism
- Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center
- Colors+ Counseling
- Disability Rights Ohio
- Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio
- Epicenter ABA Therapy
- Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research
- Kadiant
- Kenneth A. De Luca, Ph.D. & Associates
- Lake Family Chiropractic

- Menlo Park Academy
- Milestones Autism Resources
- Pharming Healthcare, Inc.
- Rocky River Public Library
- Shield HealthCare
- Silver Lining ABA
- Skylight Financial Group
- Starting Point
- Summit Academy Schools - Parma
- The Emily Program
- UCP of Greater Cleveland
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio



### 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.*

# LORAIN COUNTY

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**LCCC Spitzer Conference Center**

1005 Abbe Road North, Elyria

Presented in partnership with Leadership Lorain County and The Rotary Club of North Ridgeville

## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSORS



# EASTERN CUYAHOGA

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Tri-C Eastern Campus Student Services Building**

4250 Richmond Road, Highland Hills

Presented in partnership with The Rotary Club of Cleveland

## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS

Avon Lake Public Library

CareSource

Colors+ Counseling

Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio

Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research  
Kadiant

Kenneth A. De Luca, Ph.D. & Associates  
Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery  
Services Board of Lorain County

Milestones Autism Resources

OhioGuidestone

Pharming Healthcare, Inc.

Shield HealthCare

Silver Lining ABA

Summit Academy Schools - Lorain

The Emily Program

UnitedHealthcare Community  
Plan of Ohio

## SILVER SPONSORS

CareSource

Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center

Cleveland Transformation Alliance

Colors+ Counseling

Disability Rights Ohio

Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio

Epicerter ABA Therapy

Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research

Insight Learning & Wellness Center

In Step With Horses

Kadiant

Pharming Healthcare, Inc.

Richards Learning Systems

Shield HealthCare

Starting Point

The Center for LifeSkills

The Emily Program

UCP of Greater Cleveland

# REGISTER

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



## SHARE & SUPPORT

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

### **Balancing Act: How to Cope with an Uneven Mental Load** **A**

Terri McNeely, LISW, of the Child and Family Counseling Center of Westlake, will discuss the exhaustive mental load that families shoulder. She will provide tips to bring more balance to the home when that burden falls unevenly on caregivers. This interactive support group provides families facing similar concerns the chance to meet.

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

### **Virtual Program for Families of Children with Complex Needs**

Sponsored by United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland (UCP) and led by Connecting for Kids

• Tuesday, Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m.

### **Hop on Pop: Dad's Adapted Play & Connect** **V**

Join Matt Chernitsky, of Pathway for Pops and Connecting for Kids, for a special DSANE0 D.A.D.S. Adapted Playgroup. While your child plays, you will meet other caregivers on similar parenting journeys and interact with our Intervention Specialist, who can provide tips on everything from behavior to development.

**Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**

### **LGBTQ+ Caregiver Connect** **A**

Are you the caregiver of a child who is gender-questioning, expansive or LGBTQ+? Join CFK for a discussion where families can learn, connect and find resources to better support and affirm their child.

**Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual**

### **Caregiver Support Group** **A**

Join other caregivers and CFK staff in this interactive support group as we share joys (roses), struggles (thorns) and find some connection in a casual environment. Meet other families while enjoying coffee and treats.

**Monday, March 3, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Oberlin Public Library**

### **Color, Craft & Connect- Caregiver Support for Complex Needs** **A**

Join CFK staff as we share joys (roses), struggles (thorns) and find some connection while we color and craft. Enjoy coffee and treats as you interact with others in a casual environment.

**Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.**  
**United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland, Iris S. and Bert L. Wolstein Center**



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

### **What's Eating You? Eating Disorders & Mental Health in Children** **E**

Val Ashby, LPCC-S, and Val Nicholson, RDN, of the Emily Program, will explore the relationship between eating disorders, anxiety, depression, ADHD and autism. They will also discuss the recent data which shows an alarming increase in eating disorders among younger children. Learn tools to support your child.

**Thursday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Westlake Porter Public Library**

### **The Ugly Hour** **Y**

Ochanya McRoberts-Wells, MEd, will discuss the ugly hour—that time before bed where chaos reigns and your little angel turns into a bedtime monster. She will provide you with tools to support a smoother bedtime and teach you nighttime rituals to establish predictability for the whole family.

**Thursday, April 10, 6:00 p.m.**

**Hybrid**  
**North Ridgeville Branch of Lorain Public Library System or Virtual**

### **Navigating Well-being in a Digital Age** **E**

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**



## WORKSHOPS

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](http://connectingforkids.org/workshops)

### **Autism & Caregiving, Your Grief and Joy Matter: A Workshop for Black American Caregivers** **A**

Being a parent of a child with autism affects every aspect of a caregiver's life. Often overlooked is the mental and emotional health of the parent. Join Linda Cooper, MA, of Hope Behavioral Health, and Connecting for Kids for this five-part workshop aimed at empowering Black American caregivers and building community for ASD families.

Sessions meet every other Monday from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- Monday, Jan. 27
- Monday, Feb. 10
- Monday, Feb. 24
- Monday, March 10
- Monday, March 24

**Virtual**

### **Behavior Chat** **Y**

Ochanya McRoberts-Wells, MEd, will lead a discussion guided by your questions on a variety of behavior topics. Each session will focus on a new tool from our free Behavior Toolkit but questions on any behavior concern are welcome. Content is geared toward children 18 months - 6 years.

### **Visual Cues to Help Children Manage Impulses**

**Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Rocky River Public Library**

### **Building a Toolbox: Practical Ways to Help Your Child with Coping Skills** **E**

Shavaun Tucker, LISW, will discuss practical ways to help your child build better coping skills at home and in the classroom. She will also address ways to manage intense emotions and decrease the causes of anxiety. Learn the importance of self-care routines like hydration and sleep in a child's day.

**Wednesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Heights Libraries, Lee Road Branch**

### **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**



## PLAYGROUPS Y

Designed for caregivers and their children.  
[connectingforkids.org/play](https://connectingforkids.org/play)

### **Inclusive Drop-In Playgroups**

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**

All sessions from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

- Thursday, Jan. 30
- Thursday, March 27

#### **Oberlin Public Library**

All sessions from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, Feb. 19
- Wednesday, March 19
- Wednesday, April 16

### **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 get tips on everything from behavior to social skills from an Early Childhood Specialist. For caregivers and children ages 18 months - 6 years.

#### **Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch**

Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.

- Saturday, Feb. 22
- Saturday, March 22
- Saturday, April 19

#### **Westlake Porter Public Library**

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

- Thursday, Feb. 20
- Friday, Feb. 21
- Thursday, March 20
- Friday, March 21
- Thursday, April 17
- Friday, April 18

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

#### **Heights Libraries, Lee Road Branch**

Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, Feb. 12
- Wednesday, March 5
- Wednesday, April 9

#### **Lakewood Public Library, Madison Branch**

Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.

- Saturday, Feb. 15
- Saturday, March 15
- Saturday, April 12
- Saturday, May 10
- Saturday, June 14
- Saturday, July 12

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

Sessions begin at 11:00 a.m.

- Saturday, Feb. 15
- Saturday, March 15
- Saturday, April 12

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

Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Feb. 27
- Thursday, March 27
- Thursday, April 24

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

Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

- Monday, Feb. 10
- Monday, March 10
- Monday, April 7
- Monday, May 12

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

Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, March 19
- Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 21

#### **Westlake Porter Public Library**

Sessions begin at 10:30 a.m.

- Friday, Feb. 7
- Saturday, Feb. 8
- Friday, March 7
- Saturday, March 8

## MUSIC THERAPY & MORE: ELEMENTARY E

These sessions are designed for families and children ages 7-12 with complex needs or disabilities. Engage in singing, listening, instrument play and movement to music in an interactive environment. Families learn to use music to enhance gross motor skills, develop body awareness and practice social skills. [connectingforkids.org/music](https://connectingforkids.org/music)

#### **Lakewood Public Library, Main Branch**

Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

- Thursday, Feb. 13
- Thursday, March 13
- Thursday, April 10

# ADAPTED LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

## 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)

### Heights Libraries, Noble Neighborhood Branch

- Saturday, Feb. 1, 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, March 1, 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, May 3, 10:30 a.m.

### Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Saturday, Feb. 8, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 15, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, April 12, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m.

### North Ridgeville Branch of Lorain Public Library System

- Tuesday, Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

### Oberlin Public Library

- Saturday, Feb. 22, 11:00 a.m.

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

- Tuesday, Feb. 11, 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 11, 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 8, 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 13, 11:00 a.m.

### Rocky River Public Library

- Saturday, Feb. 1, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 1, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, April 5, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 3, 11:00 a.m.

### Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library

- Saturday, Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, March 1, 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, May 10, 10:30 a.m.

### Westlake Porter Public Library

- Thursday, Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 24, 6:30 p.m.



## Adapted Programs

For more information, visit [connectingforkids.org/library](http://connectingforkids.org/library).

### **Meet Superb Owls: Live Animal Event!**

Join us for this special afternoon of animal encounters! Small animal and owl friends will be visiting us from the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center. Grades K-4. This program has live animals handled by professional handlers.

**Sunday, Feb. 9, 2:00 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 meet-up.

**Wednesday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.**

**Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**

### **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.

**Saturday, March 8, 1:00 p.m.**

**Heights Libraries, Coventry Village Branch**

### **GenZen Hangout: For Tweens of all Abilities in Grades 4-6**

Play games, tinker, make art, and just hang out at our inclusive meet-up.

**Saturday, March 8, 3:00 p.m.**

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

### **P.A.L.S. Big Screen Sensory Friendly Movies: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory**

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.

**Monday, March 31, 11:00 a.m.**

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

### **Puppet Friends Inclusive Storytime**

This inclusive storytime is followed by making your own puppet friend! It is designed for those children who may not be successful in a typical storytime environment and their peers. Ages 3-7.

**Saturday, April 5, 11:00 a.m.**

**Westlake Porter Public Library**

### **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.**

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



## Looking for the perfect summer camp? Get started with these five tips:

### Make a List

Wading through summer programs can be overwhelming. Making a list of the things you need and want can help you find the right fit. Some common questions include:

- What ages are served?
- How long does it last?
- Can staff meet my child's needs?
- How are costs covered?
- Do kids work on skills or is it recreational?

The Camp Questions guide on our website has more ideas: [connectingforkids.org/Camp-Questions](https://connectingforkids.org/Camp-Questions)

### Learn About Funding

There are lots of different ways to pay for summer programs—from campership funds and extended school year placements to grants and private insurance. Use our Funding guide to explore options: [connectingforkids.org/funding\\_therapy](https://connectingforkids.org/funding_therapy)

### Come to a Resource Fair

Ready to find the perfect summer program? Come to one of our three Northeast Ohio resource fairs. With fairs on the east side, west side and in Lorain County, there's sure to be one near you. [connectingforkids.org/resource-fairs](https://connectingforkids.org/resource-fairs)

### Follow the Flier Connection

Summer programs start to pop up at the end of February and continue to turn up through June. Stay on top of the latest by joining the CFK Flier Connection group on Facebook—where we post all the latest camp fliers! [facebook.com/groups/CFKFliers](https://facebook.com/groups/CFKFliers)

### Ask Us!

If you need more support, we'll stay with you every step of the way. During one of our free Ask Us sessions, you'll get personalized options for your child. Our team can also help with finding funding and other resources too! [connectingforkids.org/AskUs](https://connectingforkids.org/AskUs)

## 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 Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
(216) 791-8363 ex 1451

### Westlake Porter Public Library

27333 Center Ridge Road  
440-871-2600

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

## 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