

Spring/Summer 2018

You're not alone

Connecting for Kids (CFK) provides education and support to families with 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)

Close to home

CFK programs are offered at various locations:

- E** **Elyria Public Library System, West River Branch**, 1194 West River Rd. N.
- L** **Lakewood Public Library**, 15425 Detroit Ave.
- M** **Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**, 15600 Bagley Rd.
- S** **Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**, 34125 Portz Pkwy.
- W** **Westlake Porter Public Library**, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Additional special needs programming and adapted storytimes offered at area library locations (see pages 3-4).



Concerned about your child?

Whatever the reason...
Connecting for Kids can help.

Connecting for Kids Meet and Greet **A**

Thursday, April 19, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Don Umerley Civic Center, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River

This is a free, public event where families can learn about local resources, therapies, after-school programs and summer camps for their child who is struggling (with or without a formal diagnosis). Attendees can visit with representatives from more than 70 organizations (see next page for full participant list) to discuss services and explore program options.

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/meetandgreet

If you preregister and attend the Meet and Greet, you will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Visa gift card!

Desserts provided by Duet Fine Catered and Prepared Foods and coffee donated by Starbucks Coffee Company.

Meet and Greet Event Sponsors:



Speaker Series

Setting Appropriate Limits for your Child **A M**

Friday, April 27, 11:30 am

Join Bruce Thomas, EdD, and Rebecca Boyle, PhD, of Albert Einstein Academy, as they provide strategies for handling behaviors such as whining and talking back as well as ways you can set limits to decrease these behaviors. They will also discuss creative ideas to promote positive friendships, honesty and sibling harmony.

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/speakerseries

Coffee and Chat

Reaching Out for Support **A W** Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 pm

Do you want to reach out and meet other families on a similar journey but don't know how? Join us for an informal discussion about how to find others like you and the support you need. We also encourage families to attend who already have a strong network and are willing to mentor others.

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/support

Register at connectingforkids.org/register

Email: info@connectingforkids.org | Phone: 440-250-5563

Sensory Consult **A W**

Tuesday, May 1

Does your child hate "itchy" clothes? Is your child bothered by noises or have difficulty with busy environments? Are you concerned about your child's frequent meltdowns and difficulty interacting with others? Does your child frequently spin, jump and crash his or her body into things? If so, come to our Sensory Consult where you and your child will meet with a pediatric occupational therapist from Abilities First, LLC. This consult is open to children ages 18 months-12 years. Your child will be encouraged to engage in some activities while you complete a checklist. You will also learn strategies to help him or her at home.

To schedule, visit connectingforkids.org/consult

Hands-On Family Programs (ages 7-12 years)

Elementary ExperiencesSM

Music Exploration **E E**

Saturday, April 7, Sessions begin at 1:00 pm (for children of all abilities) and 2:30 pm (for children with moderate-severe disabilities)

Join a Board-Certified Music Therapist for fun music exploration with age appropriate experiences.

Connecting Through Art **E W**

Saturday, April 14, Sessions begin at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm

Sarah Saunders, MA, LPC, of Meghan Barlow and Associates, will lead participants of all abilities through activities that demonstrate how creativity does not need a specific skill level, but allows everyone to be equal and connects families.

Social Series: Friendship 411 **E M**

Saturday, April 21, Sessions begin at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm

Join Ellen Spear, MA, CCC-SLP, of Lakeshore Speech Therapy, LLC, as she describes the various levels of friendship and helps students recognize the difference between friends and acquaintances.

Social Series: Assessing and Reacting to Problems **E S**

Saturday, May 12, Sessions begin at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm

Ellen Spear, MA, CCC-SLP, of Lakeshore Speech Therapy, LLC., will help families determine how big or little a problem is and know what strategies will work to help deal with that problem.

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/elementary

Meet and Greet Participant List

For more information on the 2018 Meet and Greet, visit connectingforkids.org/meetandgreet

A+ Solutions
Abilities First, LLC **SPONSOR**
Accessing Abilities, LLC
Accurate Speech Inc. **SPONSOR**
Achievement Centers for Children
Albert Einstein Academy
Avon Lake Public Library
Bay Presbyterian Church
Beyond Words: Music & Dance Center **SPONSOR**
Building Blocks Therapy **SPONSOR**
Camp I.D.E.A.S.
Camp Imagine
Camp Nuhop
Catholic Charities Disability Services & Camp Happiness
The Centers for Families and Children
The Child & Family Counseling Center of Westlake
Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism **CO-SPONSOR**
Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation **CO-SPONSOR**
Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center **SPONSOR**

Community Fund Management Foundation **SPONSOR**
Cuyahoga County Public Library
Easter Seals Northern Ohio
Elite Health and Wellness **SPONSOR**
The Emily Program
Empowering Epilepsy
Encouraging Words, LLC
Epilepsy Association
FIT: Friendship In Teams
Fit Mind Cleveland
Galvin Therapy Center
The Gathering Place
GiGi's Playhouse - Cleveland
HELP Foundation, Inc.
Hickman & Lowder Co., L.P.A.
Jacob's Ladder Special Needs Fitness
Jaworski Physical Therapy
Jay Berk Ph.D. & Associates
John Knox Presbyterian Church - Building Blocks Playgroup
Key Ministry
LakeShore Day Camp
Lakeshore Speech Therapy, LLC
Lakewood City Schools Community Recreation & Education Department
Lakewood Public Library
Lawrence School
Livespecial.com
Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Meghan Barlow and Associates **SPONSOR**

Mercy Health - Outpatient Rehabilitation and Therapy
Middleburg Early Education Center
Milestones Autism Resources **SPONSOR**
Murray Ridge School
The Music Settlement
Music Therapy Enrichment Center (MTEC)
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Greater Cleveland
North Coast Education Services **SPONSOR**
North Pointe Ballet
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Family to Family
Partners for Community Connections
Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
Rec2connect
Rec2connect Foundation
RedTreehouse.org
The Shepherd's Well
Skylight Financial Group
Special Stars of the North Coast
Spectrum Resource Center & School **SPONSOR**
Speech Spot
State Support Team - Region 3 **SPONSOR**
STEPS Academy
Summit Academy Schools
Trinity Special Olympics
UCP of Greater Cleveland - LeafBridge Therapy Services
The Vision Development Team
Westlake Porter Public Library
Youth Challenge

Hands-On Family Programs (ages 0-6 years)

Music Therapy & MoreSM

Elyria **Y** **E**

Sessions begin at 6:00 pm.

- Thursday, April 12
- Thursday, May 10

Lakewood **Y** **L**

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.

- Saturday, April 7

Middleburg Heights **Y** **M**

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.

- Saturday, April 21
- Saturday, May 19

Solon **Y** **S**

Sessions begin at 10:30 am.

- Friday, April 6
- Friday, May 4

Westlake **Y** **W**

Friday sessions begin at 9:30 am and 10:30 am. Saturday sessions begin at 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 11:30 am.

- Friday, April 13
- Saturday, April 14
- Friday, May 11
- Saturday, May 12

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/music

Teach Me to PlaySM

Elyria **Y** **E**

Thursday Preschool sessions begin at 6:00 pm, Friday Toddler sessions begin at 11:30 am.

- Thursday, April 5
- Friday, April 6
- Thursday, May 3
- Friday, May 4

Westlake **Y** **W**

Thursday Preschool session begins at 6:30 pm, Friday Preschool sessions begin at 9:30 am and Friday Toddler sessions begin at 11:30 am.

- Friday, April 20
- Thursday, May 17
- Friday, May 18

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/play

Special Needs Library Programs

For more information, visit connectingforkids.org/library

Kids in the Kitchen

Monday, April 2, 3:00 pm and Tuesday, July 10, 3:00 pm

Learn basic cooking skills with fast, simple, no-bake recipes for kids! For students with special needs and their typical peers. If you have an allergy or special diet concern, please contact the Youth Department at 440-250-5471 for a list of ingredients. Ages 8-12

Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Music Enrichment

Thursday, April 19, 7:00 pm and Thursday, June 21, 10:30 am

This fun and engaging music program is designed for children (ages 3-7 years) with special needs and their families and conducted by staff from Music on a Mission. Adults are expected to participate in the program with their child. Siblings may also attend, but must register separately.

Avon Lake Public Library, 32649 Electric Blvd., 440-933-8917

Through My Eyes ArtWalk

April 5, 11:00 am

An opportunity for families with children (birth-17 years) with special needs to share their unique perspective with friends, family and the Westlake community. Westlake Porter Public Library will print, mount and display participant photographs in our Art Gallery. Walks will last no longer than one hour. Please bring a smartphone or tablet. If you do not have access to a device, please contact the library prior to the walk at 440-871-2600.

Clague Road Park, 1500 Clague Rd.

ArtWalk Gallery Reception

Thursday, May 31, 1:00 pm

Come view the results of Westlake Porter Public Library's Art Walk and meet the artists! The ArtWalk is an opportunity for persons with disabilities to explore nature and share their unique perspective of the world. Participants captured pictures of scenery they found beautiful, inspiring, or moving. This free reception is open to all! Photos will be on display in the library during the entire month of May.

Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., 440-871-2600

Sensation Stations

Thursday, June 14, 10:30 am

Engage your child's senses by scooping, pouring and sorting a variety of materials. For children with special needs and their typical peers. Ages 3-6.

Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., 440-871-2600

Sensory-Friendly Movie

Monday, August 13, 6:00 pm

A sensory-friendly environment including more light, less sound and the option to move around the room will help children with special needs and their families enjoy this free movie screening. All ages.

Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., 440-871-2600

Free Programs

All Connecting for Kids programs are free and open to the public. For more information or to register:

440-250-5563
info@connectingforkids.org
connectingforkids.org

Adapted Storytimes

Children with varying learning styles and abilities learn together in a safe, supportive environment where respect and appreciation for differences is encouraged. This storytime, followed by a time for socialization, is designed for children who may not be successful in a typical storytime experience. Content is geared toward ages 3 to 7 years, but all ages are welcome. Siblings may also attend, but must register separately.

Avon Lake Public Library

32649 Electric Blvd., 440-933-8917

- Saturday, May 5, 10:30 am
- Saturday, July 21, 10:30 am

Cuyahoga County Public Library

Middleburg Heights Branch

15600 East Bagley Rd., 440-234-3600
(Moving soon; check for new address)

- Saturday, April 28, 11:00 am
- Saturday, May 12, 11:00 am
- Saturday, July 14, 11:00 am
- Saturday, August 18, 11:00 am

North Royalton Branch

5071 Wallings Rd., 440-237-3800

- Saturday, May 12, 10:00 am
- Saturday, June 16, 10:00 am

Parma Branch

6996 Powers Blvd., 440-885-5362

- Saturday, April 28, 2:00 pm
- Saturday, June 23, 2:00 pm
- Saturday, July 21, 2:00 pm

Solon Branch

34125 Portz Pkwy., 440-248-8777

- Saturday, April 14, 10:30 am
- Saturday, May 12, 10:30 am

Lakewood Public Library

15425 Detroit Ave., 216-226-8275

- Sunday, April 8, 3:30 pm
- Sunday, May 6, 3:30 pm
- Sunday, June 3, 3:30 pm
- Sunday, July 1, 3:30 pm
- Sunday, July 29, 3:30 pm
- Sunday, August 26, 3:30 pm

Rocky River Public Library

1600 Hampton Rd., 440-333-7610

- Saturday, April 7, 10:00 am
- Saturday, May 12, 10:00 am
- Saturday, June 16, 10:00 am
- Saturday, July 21, 10:00 am
- Saturday, August 18, 10:00 am

Westlake Porter Public Library

27333 Center Ridge Rd., 440-871-2600

- Friday, April 6, 10:30 am
- Monday, April 9, 6:30 pm
- Saturday, April 21, 10:30 am
- Friday, May 4, 10:30 am
- Monday, May 14, 6:30 pm
- Saturday, May 19, 10:30 am
- Friday, June 1, 10:30 am
- Monday, June 11, 6:30 pm
- Saturday, June 16, 10:30 am
- Monday, July 9, 6:30 pm
- Saturday, July 14, 10:30 am
- Friday, July 27, 10:30 am
- Saturday, August 11, 10:30 am

With Our Sincere Thanks

Programming is made possible in part by support from local organizations.

Coffee and Chat

Supported by The Child & Family Counseling Center of Westlake.

Elyria

CFK programs are supported by a grant from The Nordson Corporation Foundation.

Lakewood

CFK programs are supported by a grant from Community West Foundation.

Middleburg Heights/Solon

CFK programs are made possible through the generous support of the Callahan Foundation.

Westlake

Music Therapy & More is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. All other programs are presented in partnership with Westlake Porter Public Library.

Printed at the expense of Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Register at connectingforkids.org/register

Email: info@connectingforkids.org | Phone: 440-250-5563