

**May 2022**

### *You're not alone*

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

### *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 Greater Cleveland Area families on a similar path.

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

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

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

 [@connectforkids](https://twitter.com/@connectforkids)



### **Coffee and Chat**

Join our interactive support groups and meet other families facing similar struggles. [connectingforkids.org/support](https://connectingforkids.org/support)

#### ***Roses and Thorns: Connection and Support for Families of Children with Complex Needs*** **A**

Parenting a child with complex needs is both challenging and rewarding in so many ways. Join with us as the 2021-22 school year comes to a close and we will share our roses (joys) and thorns (struggles). This support program, for families of children with complex needs, will be facilitated by Karla Fitch, MTSC, and CFK Family Resource Specialists. Bring your rose and thorn and be part of a supporting community of families with similar concerns. Attendees will be entered to win a \$200 makeover compliments of Melissa at Mia Salon Studios in North Olmsted.

**Thursday, May 5, 8:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual**

#### ***Supporting Your Family's Mental Health for Black American Families*** **A**

Are you looking for a safe space to discuss mental health issues? Would you like to meet families on a similar path? This interactive workshop, led by Anna Jones, LISW-S, of Cleveland State University, and Nikki Montgomery, MA, MEd, GPAC, is designed for parents and caregivers who identify as Black American. We will discuss ways to connect with others and find resources for your child ages 0-12 years. Attendees will also learn how to better support their family's mental health.

**Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual**

**Register at [connectingforkids.org/register](https://connectingforkids.org/register)**

## MAY PROGRAMS: WITH MY CHILD

### Music Therapy & More Y

This program is designed for families and their children, ages 0-6 years, who are struggling in an area of 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)

**Middleburg Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
Session begins at 10:30 a.m.

- Saturday, May 21

**Solon Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library**

Session begins at 10:30 a.m.

- Friday, May 20

**Westlake Porter Public Library**  
Sessions begin at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

- Friday, May 13
- Saturday, May 14



### Teach Me to Play Y

Do you have questions or concerns about your child's development? Do you want ideas about how to encourage your child's learning through play? With fun, new themes each month, Teach Me to Play offers you and your child a host of new activities and experiences each time you attend. Your child will enjoy playing with other children while practicing language and social skills. You will have the chance to interact with our experienced Early Intervention Specialist and Speech-Language Pathologist who can provide strategies for dealing with problem behaviors or tips for increasing your child's communication skills. This program is specifically designed for caregivers and children ages 18 months- 6 years who are struggling in an area of development. Come connect with other families in a supportive and accepting environment. [connectingforkids.org/play](http://connectingforkids.org/play)

**Westlake Porter Public Library**  
Thursday Preschool sessions begin at 6:30 p.m., Friday Preschool sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and Friday Toddler sessions begin at 11:30 a.m.

- Thursday, May 26
- Friday, May 27



### With Our Thanks

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

#### Ask Us 1:1

Supported by a grant from the Community West Foundation.

#### Middleburg Heights and Solon Therapy & More Programs

Presented in partnership with Cuyahoga County Public Library.

#### Westlake Programs

Presented in partnership with Westlake Porter Public Library and the Rotary Club of Westlake-Bay Village. Music Therapy & More is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Teach Me to Play is supported by a grant from GPD Employees' Foundation.

### Locations

**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

**Solon Branch Cuyahoga County Public Library**  
34125 Portz Pkwy.  
440-248-8777

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

\*KultureCity(R) Sensory Inclusive(™) certified. Every employee has gone through sensory awareness training.

## MAY ADAPTED LIBRARY PROGRAMS



### Adapted Library Programs

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

#### **Music is My Jam**

Explore music with shakers, rhythm sticks and more! For children with disabilities with a caregiver; siblings are welcome. This program will encourage gross and fine motor movements while playing with instruments and moving to music. Songs are a wonderful way to learn about language. Playing musical instruments stimulates the brain to make new connections and strengthens existing ones. This program is led by a librarian, not a therapist and is not a substitute for music or other therapy. If you have questions, please contact the Youth Services Department at 440-250-5471. Ages 2-7.

**Monday, May 9, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Westlake Porter Public Library**

#### **Mama and Me Tea**

Have fun with pretend play and pouring and scooping stations. It's tea for two - mom and you! This program is intended for children of all abilities, with an emphasis on pretend and sensory play. Siblings, and other loved ones and grownups welcome. Ages 2-7.

**Thursday, May 12, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Westlake Porter Public Library**

#### **Every-BODY Dance Now!**

Dance is for everybody and every-body! Enjoy dancing to some popular music at this inclusive program. This program will encourage gross motor movements. This program is led by a librarian, not a therapist and is not a substitute for music or other therapy. If you have questions, please contact the Youth Services Department at 440-250-5471. Ages 8-12

**Wednesday, May 18, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Westlake Porter Public Library**

#### **Kids in the Kitchen**

Learn basic cooking with simple recipes for kids with disabilities and their typical peers. In this session kids will learn measurement and some important cooking skills. Tasting or sampling is not required. Some previous kitchen experience is great, but it isn't necessary. If you have an allergy or dietary concern, please contact the Youth Services Department at 440-250-5471. Ages 8-12.

**Saturday, May 28, 2:15 p.m.**  
**Westlake Porter Public Library**

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

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

- Saturday, May 14, 11:00 a.m.

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

(Hybrid - in-person and virtual options available)

- Saturday, May 14, 10:30 a.m.

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

- Saturday, May 14, 10:30 a.m.

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

- Friday, May 20, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 28, 11:00 a.m.

## Not sure where to start? Ask Us!

### **Ask Us 1:1** **A**

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 summer program options and school struggles to mental health and specific diagnoses. Time slots are available by phone, Zoom or Facebook Messenger to meet your needs. To view available dates/times, visit [connectingforkids.org/support](https://connectingforkids.org/support).