

TODAY'S family

March 2026

Cuyahoga

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Parties at
Cuts N Curls!
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With support from
Cuyahoga DD

Snow Days: Then & Now

Humor essay

The benefits of outdoor play

Rain, snow and all

Womankind Prenatal and Maternal Care Center

Walking with women
through pregnancy
and beyond



PLUS

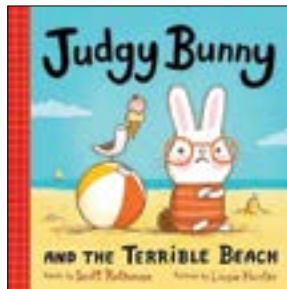
Book Club

Fun Events

Mommy Chronicles

Girl Scout Cookies

Today's Family BOOK CLUB



Judgy Bunny and the Terrible Beach

Scott Rothman (author)
Linzie Hunter (illustrator)

For this judgy bunny, nothing's worse than a day at the beach. The sun? Too bright. That view of the blue sky and gleaming sand? Awful. Sand castles? Ugh. Ice cream? Yucky.

Yep. Everything is TERRIBLE. It has to be, right? There's no way she could EVER have a good time. Not with the inexplicably friendly bunny who's offered to fly kites with her, or the ice cream cone that possibly isn't a flavor she detests, or boogie boarding, which she actually... isn't bad at?! Okay. MAYBE it's fun. But she'll be the judge of that. Ages 4–8. On sale March 24, 2026

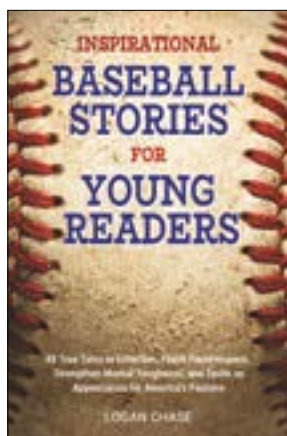


Leo's Lobo

Melissa Cristina Márquez (author)
Maria Gabriela Gama (illustrator)

Leo is thrilled when he and his family enter a shelter so he can adopt a new pet, but after searching for a while, Leo doesn't feel the connection he had hoped for and leaves feeling disappointed. On the way home, he and his family see a busy marketplace and

find another shelter hidden inside: one for magical creatures! There Leo connects with an alebrije, their bond forming before they can even leave the shelter. But he quickly learns just how much responsibility comes with raising a pet. Ages K–3.



Inspirational Baseball Stories for Young Readers

Logan Chase (author)

This inspiring collection explores the powerful stories behind baseball's greatest legends and most pivotal moments. From early trailblazers of the 1800s to today's standout stars, young readers will discover how determination, resilience, and courage shaped the game—and the people who played it. The book highlights legendary teams, unforgettable milestones, and the struggles athletes faced, including discrimination and adversity,

as they broke barriers and changed history. Along the way, readers learn valuable lessons about sportsmanship, mental toughness, and character. More than just a sports book, it shows how baseball's heroes continue to inspire new generations on and off the field. Ages 9+.

Do you know someone who deserves the SPOTLIGHT?

We're always looking to share inspiring, heartwarming stories. If you know someone whose story would inspire or uplift Today's Family readers, please send us an email and tell us about them!

SCAN TO EMAIL US!



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Womankind Prenatal and Maternal Care Center

Walking with women through pregnancy and beyond

For nearly 50 years, Womankind Prenatal and Maternal Care Center has quietly and steadily walked alongside women during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. Founded in 1975, this Northeast Ohio nonprofit provides free prenatal care to women without health insurance, along with personal support and essential resources—always in a compassionate, nonjudgmental environment.

At the heart of Womankind's mission is a simple but powerful belief: every woman deserves respectful care, every family deserves support, and every baby deserves a healthy start. Clients are welcomed into a safe, inclusive space where dignity, kindness, and collaboration guide every interaction. Medical care is paired with emotional support and practical assistance, ensuring women are not navigating pregnancy—or early parenthood—alone.

Womankind was founded by Michele Rogers, a nurse and mother who saw firsthand the gaps faced by pregnant women without insurance, medical care, or social support. While working in pregnancy counseling, Rogers realized that encouragement alone wasn't enough—women needed access to prenatal care and real resources. With the help of her family and a small group of supporters, she set out to create a place where medical care and social services could exist under one roof. Her vision helped shape Womankind into what it is today: a trusted partner for women and families across the region.

Over the years, Womankind has expanded its services to meet the evolving needs of the community. In addition to prenatal care, the organization assists clients with applications for insurance, WIC, SNAP, housing, and employment resources. Families can also receive diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, and baby equipment for children from newborn through toddlerhood. Partnerships with hospitals, physicians, and community agencies allow Womankind to provide high-quality

care while focusing on the individual needs of each client.

The impact of this work is best seen through the lives it touches.

Julie first came to Womankind in 2012 as a 17-year-old expecting her first child. With limited resources, she turned to Womankind for help and found far more than medical care. Staff supported her throughout her pregnancy, provided maternity clothing and baby supplies, and encouraged her to continue her education. During that time, Julie earned her GED and graduated from Ohio Media School—famously covering her baby bump with her diploma.

Years later, Julie returned while pregnant with her third child, facing homelessness, no medical insurance, and serious health complications. Once again, Womankind surrounded her with care. Doctors and nurses closely monitored her pregnancy, staff helped keep her older children engaged during appointments, and the team worked together to ensure a safe delivery. On Mother's Day 2021, Julie welcomed her daughter. Today, while working two jobs, Julie continues to rely on Womankind for diapers and necessities—and credits the organization with helping her through what once felt impossible.

Another powerful example of Womankind's impact is Erica's story—one that reminds us that life's greatest gifts sometimes arrive unexpectedly. At 42, Erica felt settled in life, with a career she loved and a nine-year-old son. When she found herself unexpectedly pregnant, uncertainty set in. After visiting an ultrasound mobile unit, she was encouraged to seek care at Womankind and was reassured she would be supported every step of the way.

From her first visit, Erica felt genuinely cared for. She was especially touched by the warmth of volunteers who greeted her by name and helped keep her older son company during appointments. Any fears about how he would adjust quickly faded, replaced by excitement as he proudly shared the news that he was going to be a big brother. On February



Photo credit: Adobe Stock / By Syda Productions

20, 2024, Erica welcomed her son, a healthy baby. Now proudly sharing her story, Erica hopes to encourage other women—especially those over 40—to see unexpected journeys as opportunities for joy. “Womankind takes great care of you,” she says. “Every mom should know that.”

Today, Womankind continues to grow Michele Rogers' original vision—meeting women where they are, surrounding them with care, and helping families build a strong foundation for the future. With the

support of dedicated volunteers, community partners, and generous donors, Womankind remains a place where women are seen, supported, and reminded they are never alone. One healthy family at a time, Womankind is helping turn uncertainty into hope.

For more information on receiving support, donating, or volunteering please visit womankind-cleveland.org or call 216-662-5700.

~Article by Dan Miller

A one-stop resource for families

Local fair brings together mental health, academic, and disability support under one roof

The Eastern Cuyahoga County Resource Fair will take place on Tuesday, March 31, from 6–8 p.m. at Cuyahoga Community College's Eastern Campus Student Services Building, located at 4250 Richmond Road in Highland Hills. Designed for families of children and young adults ages 0–22, the fair connects those experiencing anxiety, depression, behavioral challenges, academic struggles, developmental delays, or disabilities with valuable local resources.

One of the largest resource fairs in Northeast Ohio, the event brings together more than 70 providers, including county agencies, community organizations, and specialty-trained professionals. A December 2025 study by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio found that 75 of Ohio's 88 counties—including Cuyahoga—face shortages of mental health professionals, making access to care especially challenging for many families.

Resource fairs offer a convenient “one-stop shop,” allowing families to meet providers face-to-face, discuss

insurance and services, and explore program options in one location. This personal interaction helps parents determine which supports may be the best fit for their child, saving time and reducing stress.

Families will find assistance for mental health concerns, academic issues, and disabilities or developmental delays, including access to therapists, tutors, educational advocates, adapted recreation programs, and transition services.

Connecting for Kids will staff an information table at the entrance to help families navigate available services. Limited-time visitors may also use the drive-up “grab-and-go” option.

Families who preregister and attend will be entered to win a \$100 Amazon gift card. The first 100 families to visit the Connecting for Kids table will receive a free stuffed animal.

Register at connectingforkids.org/resource-fairs, call/text 440-570-5908 or email info@connectingforkids.org.

A school bus and a bobcat

Mommy CHRONICLES

By Stacy Turner

Picture, if you will, a small, quiet girl with glasses, wearing an ugly blue plaid school jumper and knee socks, her hair pulled back in a long ponytail. Of the 6–8 kids at the bus stop, only her two older sisters were dressed like her. All the other kids wore regular clothes and attended public school. When the bus arrived, the pecking order ensured that the older kids rode in the back of the bus, with eighth graders holding court in the very back row. Kids in other grade levels spaced themselves in descending grade order, with the youngest kids nearest the driver. As a second grader, my seat was closer to the front, under the watchful eye of our bus driver, a silent man who seemed to keep order with just a purposeful glance in the rearview mirror.

The din of boisterous kids grew

louder the further back you traveled. If it began getting out of hand, the bus driver would threaten to hand out demerits, effectively kicking troublemakers off the bus for a few days. That was before kids were regularly driven to school, so it would be an inconvenience for busy parents. The bigger kids in the back were caught up in their own conversations. This is where my sisters sat, joining in and trying to blend in.

So every school day, I'd make my way to my seat four rows behind the driver. And every day, the annoying older boy in the seat behind mine would poke and prod, and eventually grab my hair and give it a good yank. When I'd turn around and tell him to stop, he'd laugh, mimic me, and laugh some more. This went on every morning, without fail. I stopped wearing two pigtails, as he'd grab them with both hands, smacking my head against the back of the seat with more force than one would expect.

As a middle child, I was used to fighting my own battles, but this kid was relentless. When I finally told my mom what was happening, she



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told me I should just ignore it, and he'd lose interest. She said he was probably doing it for attention and that he probably liked me. She told my sisters to watch out for me. I wondered why I was expected to just put up with having some jerk pull my hair until he grew tired of the game.

The next day after school, right after I took my seat, Mr. Grabby Hands gave my hair another big yank. When my head hit the back of the seat, I snapped. I jumped out of my seat and whipped around—52 pounds of pure anger—flailing fists of fury at whatever parts of him I could reach. He was completely caught off guard, too shocked to even cover his face, getting hit by a small, angry girl in glasses, knee socks, and a plaid jumper. My frenzy wasn't over until the bus driver, who unbeknownst to me had stopped the bus, forcibly pulled me away. With angry tears streaming down my face and fists swinging in the air, I said through clenched teeth, "I told you to stop pulling my hair!" My little fists caused more embarrassment than physical injury, but that outburst had been a long time in the making.

Without a word, the driver moved me to the seat directly behind him. The rest of the ride home was quiet, except for the big kids in the back, who were far enough away to speak in hushed tones. As I got off the bus, the driver gave me the usual nod, but no demerit. I assumed my mom would be getting a call, so I walked slowly home from the bus stop, certain I'd be in enough trouble to merit the use of my middle name.

"Stacy Lynn, you're in big trouble. Wait 'til your father hears about this!"

But no call ever came—not then.

Not ever. My sisters didn't tell, as they would have gotten in trouble for not looking out for me. In hindsight, I bet the bus driver was a girl dad, because he didn't seem to take issue with my actions.

The next morning, the ride to school was equally subdued. It wasn't until after school that day when the neighbor boys, who were my sisters' age, began chanting with raised fists as we walked toward our houses, "Bobcat Lynn! Bobcat Lynn!" Apparently, they delighted in sharing the story of how a fierce little girl seemingly jumped out of nowhere, like an angry little bobcat, and beat up a kid much bigger than herself. Before long, the excitement died down, and normal order returned to the neighborhood.

If that whole exchange had happened today, I wonder how it would have been handled. Would the kid have been stopped sooner? Would I have? And would we both have been held accountable? While some believe that violence is never justified, it was my last resort when other options failed. It's important to note that my violent streak ended there. Maybe it was because once I proved I wasn't an easy target, I didn't get picked on anymore.

Back in those days, kids were encouraged to handle things on their own on playgrounds and buses, and in many ways, it helped make us resilient. As parents today, our roles have become very different from what was expected back then. The world seems bigger now, and threats loom larger. And there's no denying that today is full of more dire things than hair-pulling and fistfights.

Interestingly, bobcats were an endangered species when I was young. Today, the species has recovered—so maybe there's hope for us, too.

Curiosity starts small.



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Snow days: then and now

Were we tougher... or just colder?

If you are between the ages of 50 and 70, chances are you share a common memory: trudging to school through snow, ice, and temperatures that today would trigger three emergency alerts and a press conference. And yet... we went.

Today, snow is predicted, and by 8 p.m. the night before, schools are already closed. Sometimes for a whole week. Sometimes because it might get cold. Possibly. Eventually. Which raises an important question: Were we tougher back then, or were we just mildly frozen?

When we were kids in the '80s and '90s "school cancellation" was an extremely rare and magical event. It usually required at least a foot of snow, winds strong enough to relocate barns, and possibly a blizzard named after a president. Even then, there was no guarantee. We woke up early, turned on the TV, and stared intensely at the scrolling school list. If our district didn't appear, we sighed, layered up, and headed out anyway—often in boots that leaked, coats that were "water-resistant" in theory, and gloves that mysteriously disappeared every January.

Waiting for the bus was its own extreme sport. We stood in snowbanks, stamped our feet, blew on our hands, and pretended not to notice our eyelashes freezing. Somehow, no adults seemed

concerned. Today, if a child is exposed to single-digit wind chills for more than 90 seconds, three agencies are notified. Back then, our parents just said, "You'll be fine. The bus is coming." And usually, it was.

Despite what we sometimes like to think, modern kids are not weaker. They are just living in a different world. School transportation now covers larger areas, meaning longer waits in more remote spots. Safety standards are higher, and districts must consider frostbite risk, road conditions, power outages, and liability concerns. If there's real danger, administrators would rather cancel than take the risk—which, honestly, makes sense, even if it hurts our "we walked uphill both ways" pride.

Another big change is forecasting. When we were kids, weather reports were basically: "Snow. Maybe. Good luck." Now, administrators can see storms coming days in advance. They know when roads will ice and when wind chills will drop dangerously low. So they cancel early. It's practical, even if it's deeply disappointing to parents who already made coffee.

No, most of us did not lose fingers at the bus stop. But we were definitely colder than we admit. We just didn't have social media to document it. If Instagram had existed in 1982, it would have been



full of posts like, "Day 47 of winter. Can't feel my toes. Send help."

Yes, schools close more often now. Yes, it sometimes feels excessive. And yes, we survived worse. But we also didn't have seatbelts in every car, helmets for every sport, or sunscreen in every backpack. Progress often looks soft—until you realize it's mostly about keeping kids safe.

Still, we're allowed to miss the thrill of waiting for our school name to scroll by. And we're definitely allowed to mutter, "Back in my day..." Because some traditions should never disappear.

~Article by Dan Miller

March is DD
Awareness Month

CuyahogaDD.org

Life on
MY terms

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CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Board of Developmental Disabilities

Proudly serving more than 15,000 county residents from birth through adulthood, Cuyahoga DD is primarily supported by a property-tax levy last approved by voters in 2005.

Why children need outdoor play — rain, snow, and all

It's no secret that outdoor play is good for kids—but the benefits are deeper and broader than many families realize. Whether it's sunshine, snow flurries, or a light drizzle, giving children regular time outside can boost their physical, mental, emotional, and social development in powerful ways.

More movement, more health

One of the clearest advantages of outdoor play is the physical activity it naturally encourages. Kids who play outside tend to run, jump, climb, and explore in ways that indoor play simply doesn't offer. According to health experts, outdoor play fosters higher levels of physical activity, which supports cardiovascular health, muscle development, coordination, and balance. It also helps maintain a healthy weight—an important factor in preventing chronic conditions later in life.

Being in the sun, even briefly, helps the body produce vitamin D, which is essential for strong bones, a healthy immune system, and good mood regulation. Unless conditions are dangerous, getting children outside helps fill a vital nutritional gap many kids face today.

Brain and behavior benefits

Outdoor environments offer sensory experiences that indoor settings simply can't replicate. The sounds, textures, and changing terrain of nature stimulate children's brains in ways that improve focus, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Studies show that unstructured outdoor play supports cognitive development and can improve attention spans.

Time outdoors has also been linked with reduced stress, anxiety, and symptoms of attention-deficit challenges. The open air and natural surroundings act as a sort of reset button for young minds, helping kids return from play calmer and more attentive than they were before.

Social skills and resilience

Playing with other children outdoors encourages cooperation, communication, and empathy. Without rigid rules or screens to dictate interaction, kids learn to negotiate, share, and resolve conflicts on their own. These experiences build important social skills that follow them into school and beyond.

Outdoor play also teaches resilience. Weather changes, terrain challenges, and open-ended scenarios—especially in cooler or snowy conditions—help children adapt, persevere, and solve real problems. Overcoming a slippery slope or figuring out how to build a snow fort stretches physical and emotional confidence in ways perfectly safe indoor play never can.



Why cold, rainy, or snowy days still count

Many parents hesitate to let children play outside when the weather isn't perfect—but the evidence suggests that appropriate outdoor play in rain or snow can be just as beneficial as sunny days. Fresh air and natural light still boost mood and immune function, and moving to stay warm in cool weather helps build strength and cardiovascular fitness. Cold-weather play also teaches adaptability and persistence—essential life skills—while offering new sensory experiences, from crunching snow to spotting frost on leaves.

Contrary to a common misconception, being outdoors does not make kids catch colds. In fact, spending excessive time indoors—where viruses spread more easily—can increase the risk of illness. Getting outside, properly dressed for the weather, exposes children to fresh air and natural environments that support resilience rather than fragility.

Practical tips for year-round outdoor play

To make the most of outdoor play in all seasons:

- Dress children in weather-appropriate layers and waterproof gear in snow or drizzle.
- Keep play sessions age-appropriate and flexible—even 20–30 minutes is beneficial.
- Make it fun: scavenger hunts, snow-sculpting, puddle-jumping, and nature observation all make memories.
- Join in! Play with kids when you can—it strengthens bonds and models healthy habits.

In our screen-saturated world, outdoor play gives children something irreplaceable: space to explore, move, imagine, connect, and grow. Rain or snow shouldn't be a barrier—with a little planning, the outdoors becomes a classroom, a playground, and a workshop for lifelong well-being.

~Article by Dan Miller



Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Makes a big deal about small species during Spring Discovery Days, March 13 – April 12

Have you noticed the bold split coloring of a Boesemani rainbowfish or watched a red cleaner shrimp wave its white antennae to invite passing fish in for a cleaning? Did you know cuckoo catfish rely on a remarkable egg-swapping strategy to raise their young, or that Northern clingfish use a suction-cup-like disc to hold fast in rushing water?

Greater Cleveland Aquarium highlights these and other diminutive animals during Spring Discovery Days, March 13 – April 12, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. Animal encounters, small species shoutouts, a “Spot a Spotted” challenge, interactive Discovery Carts, a fill-in booklet and short videos are all part of this celebration of nature's hidden influencers and are included with regular Aquarium admission.

While standing beneath sandtiger sharks gliding through 230,000 gallons of saltwater is a defining Aquarium moment, Curator Ray Popik hopes Spring Discovery Days encourages guests to linger on some of the Aquarium's more understated standouts. Details like a clownfish's specialized mucus coating, the bristlenose pleco's suction-cup mouth, the bark-like texture of Vietnamese mossy frogs or the spade-shaped snout of an Eastern spiny softshell turtle reveal how small features help animals navigate a big world.

“Our unique design makes those details easier to see,” says Popik. Set on the ground floor of a historic brick powerhouse, the Aquarium's retrofit habitats feature floor-to-ceiling, overhead and 180- to 360-degree views that bring guests closer to the action.

Visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com or call (216) 862-8803 for more information.





A NEW TODAY'S FAMILY ADVICE COLUMN!

LIVING WELL

with Rebecca Fellenbaum

Heartfelt advice to help you enjoy this time in your life.

Scan the QR code to learn more or write to Rebecca!



Second-guessing everything

Dear Rebecca: Lately, I've been second-guessing myself. I question how to handle everything with my kids.

Between advice online and hearing what other people are doing, I'm wondering if I'm getting it wrong. How can I feel more confident about my choices when there doesn't seem to be one right way?

— Melanie, Mentor

Dear Melanie: I resonate with outside advice leaving you feeling less than (and I realize the irony of an advice column - ha!). But hopefully this reframe will help. The work is to learn to listen to YOUR inner voice.

First, I want you to take inventory. When did you start second-guessing? What triggered it? Does second-guessing appear in other areas of your life or just in parenting? I want you to get to know that inner voice or physical feeling that causes you to second-guess. If you can objectively look at the second-guessing from your healthy adult mind, you can then work with it.

Now let's look at the moment of second-guessing. What happens right before you second-guess? What feelings or thoughts or physical sensations do you have when you think you're "getting it wrong"? Can you choose to let those thoughts go?

Next, you can unpack what feeling more confident in your choices would be like. Imagine having confidence in your parenting choices. What are you thinking? Who are you surrounding yourself with? What does confidence feel like in your body?

These exercises involve playing with your thoughts and mindset. As author Byron Katie teaches, our thoughts create our suffering. The next step, then, is to change your thoughts.

I recommend starting by patting yourself on the back for all of the little successes you achieve throughout the day. Start telling yourself,

"great job" when you finish packing lunches, help with homework, or tuck your kid in at night. If you're looking for the ways you're getting it wrong, you will see more of that. If you look for the ways you're already thoughtful and confident, you will see more of that.

Finally, when I was going through this, I took a hiatus from parenting books, podcasts, and social media accounts. If it feels like that would help, I recommend tweaking your environment so you're getting helpful, reinforcing information, at least for now.

You've asked this question and are here reading the answer. That's a great parent right there!

Waking up exhausted

Dear Rebecca: I'm a mom of four young kids, and mornings are a huge struggle. One of my kids needs constant reminders to do things I think he's old enough to handle, like getting dressed or putting his shoes on, and I can't tend to him while also getting his younger siblings ready.

I start the day frustrated, and I don't want to keep nagging or making threats just to get out the door. How can I set our mornings up for more ease?

— Katie, Solon

Dear Katie: Mornings are hard! Especially with young kids. The reality is the current dynamic isn't working. That awareness alone opens up lots of options to explore how to improve it.

Right now, you're waking up already bracing for a struggle. That anticipation can put your nervous system on high alert before you've even gotten out of bed. Our kids co-regulate with us, meaning they often respond to our internal state more than our words. When you're tense, rushed, or frustrated, they feel it. Shifting your energy can start to change the tone of the entire morning. That could look like: taking a minute before you get out of bed to set your intention for a calm morn-

ing, taking a deep breath before you start the morning routine, and placing your hand on your heart and telling yourself, "I'm safe" and "I'm okay." You can even practice these with your kids.

Next, let's look at how to set both of you up for success. You could problem-solve together. Without promising anything, ask him what he needs in the morning. Is he craving a few minutes of your undivided attention? A quieter transition into the day? When I went through something similar with my son, letting him eat breakfast by himself in a different room helped him start the day better.

It's also worth questioning the belief that he should be able to be more independent in the morning.

Kids can have the skills and still need closeness or support, especially during transitions. If it helps, you can add "for now" to your thoughts about this and tell yourself, "For now, my son needs more hands-on support in the morning." This can help the mental spiral of thinking you're always going to have to do everything for him.

Finally, try viewing this dynamic as the problem, not your child. Imagine linking arms with your son and facing the morning as a team. I'll be here cheering the two of you on!

Rebecca Fellenbaum is a certified life coach, writer, and Cleveland area mom who helps parents enjoy this time in their lives. You can find her at rebeccafellenbaum.com.



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Celebrate your child's birthday in style at Cuts N Curls

Where parties are the ultimate glam + craft experience

If you're looking for a birthday party that's fun, unique, and completely stress-free for parents, Cuts N Curls has reimagined what kids' celebrations can be. Known for creating unforgettable experiences for families, their parties combine creativity, glam, and hands-on fun — all wrapped into one exciting celebration.

Where glam meets creativity

At Cuts N Curls, every party includes both glam and crafting — because today's best party favors aren't things kids forget in a drawer. They're experiences they remember.

Each guest leaves with something they created themselves, from accessories and keepsakes to wearable glam looks that last long after the cake is gone. It's interactive, confidence-boosting, and seriously fun.

Stress-free celebrations for parents

Hosting at home can be overwhelming — setup, cleanup, entertainment, and making sure everyone

has fun. Cuts N Curls eliminates that stress completely.

Every party includes dedicated party coordinators who handle the details while parents relax, take photos, and actually enjoy the celebration. And for families who want something extra special, there's even a private party option where you can reserve the entire salon.

Six signature party experiences

Cuts N Curls currently offers six themed party packages designed for different ages, interests, and personalities — but all centered around creativity, confidence, and fun.

Princess Party (Ages 3–7)

A magical experience where kids dress up as princesses, design their own hair bows, enjoy glittery updos, mini manicures, makeup, and tattoos — all topped off with a red carpet fashion show.

Perfect for younger guests who love sparkle, imagination, and dress-up fun.



Royal Treatment Party (Ages 6–10)

A step up in glam and creativity. Guests design a purse complete with take-home makeup essentials, enjoy themed dress-up options (princess, spa, Hawaiian, or rockstar), plus hair styling, makeup, nails, and a fashion show finale.

Mermaid Party (Ages 4–10)

One of the most popular packages — and for good reason. Each guest chooses a reusable ponytail hair extension styled into their hair, then crafts a glittery mirror keepsake.

It's glamorous, memorable, and the take-home hair pieces can be reused for years.

Hollywood Gala Party (Ages 7+)

A red-carpet worthy experience featuring DIY bath bomb creation, mermaid hair braiding with glitter, makeup, manicures, face gems, and glitter tattoos.

It's perfect for kids who love beauty, creativity, and a little celebrity flair.

Patch Party (Ages 7+)

Fashion meets creativity. Kids design their own accessory using colorful patches — belt bags, makeup pouches, backpacks, and more.

Each guest walks away with a personalized piece they'll actually use.

Splatter Paint Party (Ages 6+)

A one-of-a-kind creative adventure in the salon's splatter room. Guests create their own paint canvases, mix custom colors, glam up with hair styling and makeup, and enjoy a party full of laughter, color, and unforgettable memories.

More than a party — it's an experience

Every Cuts N Curls celebration blends creativity, self-expression, and confidence building. Kids leave feeling special, celebrated, and proud of what they've created — and parents leave without the usual party stress.

Whether your child loves princess glam, mermaid sparkle, fashion design, or hands-on art, there's a party package designed to make their big day truly unforgettable.

Ready to celebrate?

Skip the mess, skip the stress, and give your child a party they — and their friends — will talk about long after the candles are blown out.

Cuts N Curls: Where parties become memories, creativity becomes keepsakes, and every child shines.

Cuts N Curls is located at 6025 Kruse Drive in Solon. Call 440-542-1750 or visit www.cutncurls.net for info.

GIRLS BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Get Glammed. Get Crafty. Get Celebrating!

All Cuts N Curls birthday parties include:

- ◆ Glam + hair styling
- ◆ Hands-on crafts (the new party favors!)

Every guest leaves with an experience that lasts long after the cake is gone.

Skip the mess at home — our party coordinators handle it all while you relax.

Party Packages:
Patch Party | Mermaid Party | Hollywood Gala
Princess Party | Royal Treatment | Paint Splatter

6025 Kruse Drive, Solon
440-542-1750
www.cutncurls.net

HOURS: Tue-Fri 10 am–7 pm, Sat 9 am–6 pm, Sun 10 am–5 pm



Girl Scout Cookie season welcomes new cookie

Each cookie season, Girl Scouts develop important life skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. All proceeds from cookie sales stay local to power Northeast Ohio Girl Scouts' amazing experiences year-round.

Exploremores™, a rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie, will join the legendary lineup for the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season. Filled with delicious flavors of chocolate, marshmallow and toasted almond-flavored crème, Exploremores reflect the spirit of exploration at the heart of every Girl Scout. In addition to the exciting new cookie, the 2026 cookie lineup will include fan favorites such as Thin Mints®, Samoas®, Tagalongs®, and more.

In 2025, more than 12,000 Girl Scouts participated in the Girl Scout Cookie Program in Northeast Ohio, with over two million boxes sold.

How to purchase Girl Scout Cookies this year

- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she's selling cookies.
- Enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.gsneo.org/findcookies to purchase cookies online from a local troop for direct shipment.
- From March 6–29, enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.gsneo.org/find cookies to find a local cookie booth occurring in your community.



"First time at Tennis Camp?"

From the sidelines to the spotlight

How one high school senior is gaining confidence through cheer and community

Many high school students participate in extracurricular activities to build resumes or simply have fun. For some, those activities become a source of confidence, belonging, and personal growth. Becky Sever, a senior at Lakewood High School who receives services from the Cuyahoga Board of Developmental Disabilities (Cuyahoga DD), has found all of that and more as a member of the school's Sparkle cheer squad.

Becky began cheerleading during her sophomore year after a friend encouraged her to try out. Her inspiration came from the Disney movie *Zombies*, which features a cheerleader as its main character. "I was like, I really want to be like that," Becky recalls. Although she had always dreamed of joining a cheer team, she never imagined it could become a reality—until an opening appeared on the Sparkle squad, an inclusive program designed to meet students' individual needs. "I didn't think that could happen to me," she says. "But then it did!"

Watching from the sidelines are Becky's biggest supporters: her mother and father, Carole and Jim Sever. "It's interesting that she gravitated toward cheer because fast, choreographed movement has been challenging," Carole explains. Despite those challenges, Becky has embraced the experience. "She didn't shy away from it," Carole says. "Something might make her anxious, but when given her own timeline, she accomplishes it."

Becky now performs choreographed routines at football and basketball games, supported by teammates who have become close friends. "The cheerleaders are so kind and supportive," Carole says. "It's amazing to see Becky be part of a football game. It fills my heart with joy."

Outside of cheer, Becky stays busy exploring her many interests. She works at the Friendship Café, participates in sports through Empower Sports, and takes classes at the Beck Center. She has played basketball and pickleball and hopes to try kickball next. Her current activities include a theater class called Scene Makers, traditional art classes, and weekly line dancing.

Like many teens, Becky enjoys listening to Taylor Swift and watching anime. As graduation approaches, she is excited—but understandably nervous—about what comes next. To help with that transition,



Becky cheers on her school on Senior Night on February 13, 2026.

she works with Hayley Giesige, support administrator for youth and transition at Cuyahoga DD.

"The move from high school to adulthood can be especially challenging," Giesige explains. "Sometimes, young people with disabilities don't realize they have options, and that can be scary. But there are opportunities like working, volunteering, or attending adult programs."

Cuyahoga DD provides families with guidance and resources to ease this transition. Becky hopes to pursue employment or further education after graduation and eventually live independently. "There are things for people to do that give them meaning," Giesige says.

Cuyahoga DD uses a person-centered approach, focusing on each person's unique goals, needs, and preferences, and putting the correct supports in place.

With her determination, wide range of interests, and strong support system, Becky is well prepared for what lies ahead. From cheering on the sidelines to building independence, she continues to shine and live life on her terms.

For more information about services for people with developmental disabilities, please visit CuyahogaDD.org or call 216-241-8230.

~Article and photo by Sophia Filipiak

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gsneo.org/findcookies



10 tips for choosing a summer day camp

Choosing the perfect summer day camp for your child can feel overwhelming with so many options available. A well-chosen camp provides children with a safe environment to learn, grow, and have fun, while also giving parents peace of mind. Here are some essential tips to help you navigate this decision and find the best fit for your family.

1. Identify your goals and priorities

Before diving into camp brochures or websites, take time to identify what you and your child hope to gain from the experience. Are you looking for a camp that focuses on academics, sports, arts, or outdoor adventures? Does your child want to make new friends or improve a specific skill? Clarifying these priorities will help narrow down your options and ensure you choose a camp that aligns with your expectations.

2. Consider your child's interests and personality

Each child is unique, and their preferences and personality should play a significant role in selecting a camp. For example, an introverted child might thrive in a smaller, quieter setting, while an extroverted child may enjoy a bustling camp with diverse group activities. Engaging your child in the decision-making process can also help them feel excited and invested in the experience.

3. Research camp options thoroughly

Begin your search by gathering recommendations from friends, family, and online reviews. Many camps have websites or social media pages where you can find detailed information about their programs, schedules, and staff. Look for camps accredited by organizations like the Ameri-

can Camp Association (ACA), which ensures they meet high safety and quality standards.

4. Assess safety and supervision

Safety is paramount when choosing a day camp. Check the camper-to-staff ratio and ensure it aligns with industry standards. Ask about staff qualifications, including background checks, certifications in first aid and CPR, and relevant training. Inquire about the camp's protocols for handling emergencies, illnesses, and injuries.

5. Evaluate the schedule and activities

Review the daily schedule and activity options to ensure they align with your child's interests and energy levels. A good camp will offer a balance of structured activities and free time, catering to various age groups and skill levels. If your child has special interests, such as coding, dance, or swimming, look for camps with specialized programs in those areas.

6. Consider the location and hours

Logistics are an essential factor in choosing a summer day camp. Consider the camp's proximity to your home or workplace and whether the hours fit your family's schedule. Some camps offer extended care options, which can be a lifesaver for working parents.

7. Visit the camp in person

If possible, arrange a visit to the camp before enrolling your child. A tour allows you to see the facilities, meet the staff, and observe the environment. Pay attention to cleanliness, the condition of equipment, and whether the atmosphere feels

welcoming and inclusive. This firsthand experience can provide valuable insights that you won't get from brochures or online descriptions.

8. Review costs and budget

Day camp fees can vary widely, so it's essential to understand the costs upfront. Ask about what the tuition covers and whether there are additional fees for meals, field trips, or supplies. Some camps offer discounts for early registration or multiple children, as well as financial aid for families in need.

9. Seek feedback from other parents

Talking to other parents who have experience with the camp can provide honest insights. Ask about their child's experience, the camp's strengths and weaknesses, and whether they would recommend it. Online parenting forums and local community groups can also be valuable resources for reviews and recommendations.

10. Trust your instincts

Finally, trust your gut feeling. If something about a camp doesn't feel right, keep looking. The right camp should give you confidence in its ability to provide a safe, enriching, and enjoyable experience for your child.

Choosing a summer day camp is an important decision that requires careful consideration. By identifying your goals, understanding your child's needs, and thoroughly researching your options, you can find a camp that offers a rewarding and memorable summer experience. With the right preparation, summer day camp can become a highlight of your child's year, fostering growth, learning, and lifelong memories.

~Article by Justin Daniels



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Beck Center FOR THE arts



Beck Center for the Arts

17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood
(216) 521-2540
www.beckcenter.org

Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood is more than a nonprofit organization that combines professional theater with arts education. They create arts experiences through music, dance, theater, and visual arts all summer for ages 5–19 and you can enroll today. Throughout the year they offer classes and lessons for all ages, skill levels, and abilities.

Families bring their kids to experience all the art forms. Year-round each child can immerse themselves in an art form that excites them, while growing new skills, and making new friends.

With a talented staff of award-winning instructors, they produce theater and arts education.

In addition, Beck Center's professional theater productions offer high quality shows with tickets starting at just \$15, and discounts for students and seniors.

Bellwether Farm

4655 State Route 60
Wakeman, OH
(440) 839-0088
www.bellwetherfarm.com

Looking for a screen-free, adventure-filled summer experience where your child can explore, learn, and build lifelong friendships?

Bellwether Farm Camp is a week-long, overnight experience where children grow in confidence, creativity, and connection. Set on 137 acres of forest, farm, meadows, and water, their camp blends outdoor adventure with meaningful community, offering kids space to explore, reflect, and simply be themselves.

Each session welcomes about 40 campers, ensuring a close-knit environment where every child feels seen, supported, and safe. Days are filled with hands-on experiences like farming, cooking, canoeing, archery, hiking, and nature-based art. Evenings bring the whole camp together for home-grown traditions, like talent shows,

night hikes, and songs under the stars.

Campers are grouped by cabin—eight near-peers and two trained counselors who provide steady care and gentle guidance. Activities are designed to engage all personalities and energy levels, from enthusiastic extroverts to thoughtful introverts.

Benedictine High School

2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Cleveland
(216) 421-2080
www.cbhs.edu

The athletic and academic camps at Benedictine High School offer students a dynamic opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive in a supportive environment. Participants build skills through expert instruction, whether sharpening sports techniques or exploring favorite subjects beyond the classroom. Camps emphasize teamwork, critical thinking, confidence, and communication—qualities that benefit students in school and everyday life. Attendees experi-

ence engaging, hands-on activities, make new friends with shared interests, and gain familiarity with a high school setting, helping ease future transitions.

With access to excellent facilities, dedicated educators and coaches, and programs designed to challenge and inspire, students develop independence, discipline, and curiosity. Most importantly, these camps blend education and fun, creating memorable experiences that spark motivation and encourage future success both academically and athletically.

They also provide early exposure to advanced resources and guidance that help young learners discover passions, set goals, and envision paths for continued growth and achievement in the years ahead.



5-DAY FILM CHALLENGE

June 7–12
Create a short film from start to finish
\$1,200 Day Program
\$1,600 Residential Program

FILMMAKERS INTENSIVE (2 WEEKS)

June 14–26
Directing, cinematography, editing and storytelling
\$2,400 Day Program
\$3,200 Residential Program

ACTING AND DIRECTING

July 13–17
Develop characters, story and screenplay
\$1,200 Day Program

ANIMATION

July 13–17
Animation from concept to screen
\$1,200 Day Program



Create. Collaborate.
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CSU School of Film & Media Arts
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY



Camp Fitch YMCA

<https://campfitchymca.org>

Camp Fitch YMCA is a great camp on a great lake, with over 100 years of transforming young lives. Located on 425 scenic acres along the shores of Lake Erie, their programs serve kids ages 6–17, helping them grow into confident, independent learners while connecting with nature.

Guided by carefully selected, caring staff, campers build friendships, achieve new skills, and experience a strong sense of belonging (FAB). These moments foster resilience, self-confidence, and independence. Camper surveys consistently show that friendships, counselor connections, and engaging activities are top reasons families return.

Their traditional camp offers classic experiences like rock climbing, archery, canoeing, crafts, and mountain biking, plus exclusive access to Lake Erie's beach and additional waterfronts. Specialized programs, including adventure trips, computer camp,

diabetic camp, farm, and equestrian experiences, ensure something for everyone.

Overnight sessions run weekly from June 14 – August 1. Register today and give your child the opportunity of a lifetime!

Camp Invention

(800) 968-4332

invent.org/save/summer-camp

The all-new 2026 Camp Invention program, Spark, is coming to curious kids in the Lake, Geauga and Cuyahoga county community this summer! Inspire innovative thinking with fun-filled STEM experiences designed to spark creativity and a love for learning. Rising K–6 campers will collaborate with friends to tackle hands-on, open-ended challenges. They'll team up with robotic capybaras, ride the waves of entrepreneurship, uncover the power of protecting their ideas and build their own DIY space rocket! Each experience is designed to spark confidence, build persistence and create unforgettable →



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CAMP FITCH YMCA



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"My son attended two summer camps and each week he was thrilled to go! He wished they were longer. We look forward to next year!" - Jen

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of north east ohio



Camp Invention cont'd

summer memories. Visit invent.org/save/summer-camp to secure your spot! Use promo code MYC-AMP25 to save \$25! Interest-free payment plans are available to make camp affordable for all families.

Cleveland City Dance

13108 Shaker Square, Cleveland
(216) 295-2222
www.clevelandcitydance.com

Summer is more than a break from routine—it's a chance for your child to grow in ways that last far beyond the season. At Cleveland City Dance, summer is designed to feel simple, easy, and convenient, while delivering powerful confidence-building, meaningful growing skills, and authentic friendships.

From first-time dancers to dedicated performers, each student is welcomed into a nurturing and caring environment where they are known by name, encouraged daily, and supported at every level. Small class sizes allow for personalized attention, so your child feels successful, capable, and proud of their progress.

You'll notice the difference quickly with stronger technique, brighter posture, deeper focus, and confidence that shows up at home, at school, and in everyday life. Summer training blends fun and structure, imagination and discipline, so learning feels joyful and motivating. Along the way, dancers form friendships that create a true sense of community for both children and parents.

With flexible scheduling, age-appropriate programs, and inspiring performance opportunities, summer becomes a season of growth, connection, and celebration. This is where your child belongs—learning, thriving, and shining.



Cleveland State University Odyssey Program

1375 Euclid Avenue, 6th floor
Cleveland
(216) 687-6080
csufilmodyyssey.com

The Odyssey Program at Cleveland State University's School of Film & Media Arts offers a variety of immersive summer camps for high school students (aged 13–18) interested in filmmaking.

Through interactive workshops, film screenings, focused activities, and visits from special guest speakers, Odyssey participants learn storytelling, screenwriting, acting, directing, cinematography, editing and more as they create their own original films and projects in a fun and collaborative environment.

With access to the film school's professional soundstages, Mac editing labs, vast inventory of film production equipment, and expert instructors aided by CSU film student camp counselors, students hone their skills during these activity-packed experiences. Day camp and residential options are available.

Cleveland State University Recreation Summer Camp

CSU Recreation Center
(216) 802-3211
csurec.com

Looking for an unforgettable summer experience for your child? CSU Rec Summer Camp offers 10 uniquely-themed weeks filled with adventure, creativity, and fun! Designed for children ages 5–14, their camp provides a welcoming environment where kids can explore new activities and make lifelong memories.

Each week brings a fresh theme, keeping campers engaged with exciting activities like group games, arts and crafts, outdoor play, open swim, and special guest visits. Their experienced staff fosters creativity, teamwork, and personal growth in a safe and supportive setting.

Whether your child loves sports, art, or simply making new friends, CSU Rec Summer Camp has something for everyone.

Give your child a summer of discovery and excitement—enroll today and let the adventure begin!



GYMNASTICS

for kids & adults!

Now in our 23rd year of helping gymnasts to reach their goals!

Six-Week Sessions

You choose the day & time that your gymnast will attend their weekly lesson.

- 45-min class = \$ 130
- 1-hour class, 1x per week = \$145 per session
- 1.25-hour class, 1x per week = \$165 per session

Spring Session 1: March 9 – April 25 (6 weeks)

Closed for spring break: Wed., Apr. 1 – Tue., Apr. 7, 2026

All off days are factored into the calendar session.

Spring Session 2: April 27 – May 23 (4 weeks)

Private Lessons

- Individual private lessons
- Semi-private lessons
- Small group lessons

30-, 45-, or 60-minute lessons
Saturday & Sunday afternoons

Email your requested day & time to:

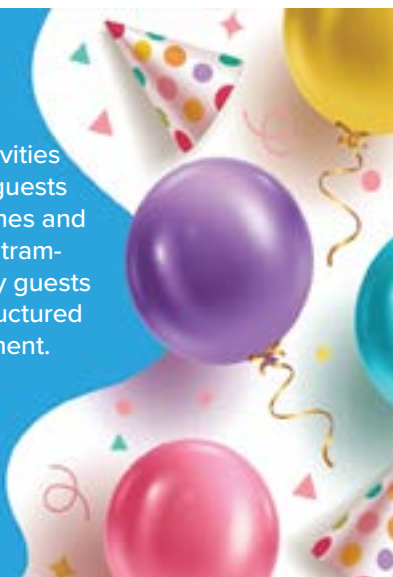
jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com



Birthday Parties

Our coaches will tailor the party activities to the age of the birthday child. All guests are sure to enjoy our gymnastic games and equipment, including our 50 feet of trampoline and in-ground foam pit! Party guests will enjoy organized and loosely-structured instruction on the gymnastic equipment.

An hour of gym time and a half-hour of celebration time
\$195 for 10 children; \$20 for each additional child. JSG provides white paper plates, forks, tablecloths, napkins, and clean-up.



TWISTER PROGRAM: Ages 20 months–6 years old

FLIPS FOR GIRLS: 7–16 years old

GYM SKILLS FOR BOYS: 5–16 years old

ADULT GYMNASTIC CLASS: 18 years +

Specializing in beginners • Thursdays 6:45–7:45 p.m.

Call for Details!

SUMMER CAMP

June 8 – Aug 14, 2026

9:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.



- For ages 4–14, boys and girls, and all levels of gymnastics experience, from recreational to competitive gymnastics.
- Gymnastic camp at Jump Start is a great way to explore and experience gymnastics for the first time, learn new skills, or build a solid competitive base for the next season.
- Our philosophy at JSG is that gymnastics is for everyone, an excellent basis for physical fitness, and benefits coordination for every sport and children's health.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

WEEKLY or DAILY ENROLLMENT

\$300 per 5-day week or \$60 per day



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- For all ages
- Daily from 3–5 p.m.
- \$10 per day
- Preregistration required



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23700 Mercantile Road, Beachwood

(216) 896-0295

Website: jsgymnastics.com

Email: jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com



The Little Gym's summer camps are full of fun, creative missions where kids will exercise their muscles, and imaginations! Plus, flexible scheduling allows you to sign up for several weeks, a single week or even just a day at a time!

NOW ENROLLING SUMMER CAMPS & CLASSES! CALL TODAY!

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20707 Chagrin Blvd
216-752-9049
www.tlgshakerheightsoh.com

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Open House: Saturday, May 9, 2026

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Call or visit our website for more information!

216-295-2222

ClevelandCityDance.com



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Strongsville • Westlake
(440) 349-9111

www.creativeplayrooms.com

Summer's coming, which means longer days, fun in the sun and great friends! Join the "Voyagers" at Creative Playrooms Montessori and Child Care Centers for the best summer ever—full of adventure, imagination and engagement to keep campers ages 5 through 12 busy and active.

- Themed activities and programs
- Explorations around famous people, places and things

They believe in encouraging children to explore more deeply through doing, asking questions, and having a great time. Join them this summer as they heat up the fun factor. Save your space today!

Fairmount Early Childhood Center

24601 Fairmount Blvd.

Beachwood

(216) 464-2600

<https://fairmount.beachwood-schools.org/summer-camp>

Fairmount Early Childhood Center in Beachwood is offering a summer camp for children ages 3–5 years old. Children will have seven weeks of fun in the sun with weekly themes, learning experiences and several field trips. Camp begins on June 15, 2026 and ends on July 31, 2026.

Registration is now open online for Beachwood residents with children turning 3 by June 15, through beginning KG in the fall. Registration for nonresidents will begin on March 9.

For more information email Jennifer Kobylski, camp director, at jkobylski@beachwoodschoools.org.

Falcon Camp

Carrollton, OH

(330) 627-4269

www.falconcamp.com

Falcon Camp is recognized throughout the Midwest as Ohio's premier summer camp. This award-winning program offers a beautiful lakefront setting, talented

staff and wide variety of activities. Boys and girls ages 6–16 choose their own schedule within a general framework, and daily activities are gender separate with planned coed events.

Horseback riding, sailing, swimming, riflery, crafts, tennis, drama, archery and much more to choose from with instruction from beginner to advanced levels.

Falcon has a strong reputation for making sure a camper's first overnight experience is very positive. The noncompetitive environment is inviting to new campers while the awards system challenges more experienced campers. The 1:4 staff/camper ratio allows individual instruction and attention. Most of all it's great fun!

Falcon has a special intro program for campers ages 6–10. American Camp Association accredited since 1959, many references available. Falcon is an outstanding opportunity for fun and learning.

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio

(800) 852-4474

gsneo.org/summercamp

Summer is almost here—and adventure is calling! It's the perfect time to start planning your girl's next big experience. The best news? All girls are welcome—no Girl Scout experience required!

At Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO), camp is more than just a summer activity—it's a place where campers shine, make friends, and feel confident being themselves. From overnight camps, day camps, family camps, travel, to educational and STEM camps, there's truly something for EVERY camper.

Whether exploring space and innovation with Cosmic Explorers, building confidence outdoors with Dare to Do It, or trying camp for the very first time at Very Fairy Extraordinary Day Camp, campers will find programs designed to meet them where they are and help them to grow.

Whichever camp theme she chooses, fun is sure to follow!





Hawken Summer Programs

Gates Mills and Lyndhurst
(440) 423-2940

summerprograms@hawken.edu
summer.hawken.edu

Hawken Summer Programs Camp offerings include a variety of exciting activities led by experienced professionals for boys and girls ages 3–18. While your child is enrolled, you'll rest assured knowing he or she is in a safe, nurturing environment. Camp offerings include Hawkings, Boys, Girls, and Co-Ed Day Camps, Boys Sports Camp, and Girls Lifetime Adventure Camp.

Passport Camps offer week-long, full and half-day opportunities to learn, create, and explore. Hawken Athletics Camps offer skill-driven instruction and provide young athletes the opportunity to hone their skills, improve team play, and learn from the best. Hawken Summer Studies Program, open to public and private school students, is a six-week program for credit and enrichment for students entering grades 9-12.

Camps run at varying intervals between June and August.

Jump Start! Gymnastics

23700 Mercantile Rd., Beachwood
(216) 896-0295

www.jsgymnastics.com

Get ready for a summer full of flips, fun, fitness, and friends!

Jump Start Gymnastics offers nine weeks of summer camps from June 8 – August 14, 2026, for boys and girls entering kindergarten through 14 years old.

Jump Start Summer Camp is a great way to explore and experience gymnastics for new and

experienced gymnasts wanting to grow their skill base. JSG believes gymnastics benefits everyone, setting a foundation for physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle, and teaches coordination and movements that apply to every sport. In addition to traditional gymnastic instruction, games, and open gym, weekly themes round out each camper's experience for a whole summer of fun.

JSG offers enrollment for selected days or the entire week. Open gym follows each camp from 3–5 p.m. for an additional \$10.

Register at jsgymnastics.com.

The Little Gym of Shaker Heights

20707 Chagrin Boulevard
Shaker Heights
(216) 752-9049

www.tlgshakerheightsoh.com

Have you ever been transported to an island or explored the moon? If not, keep reading and let the adventures begin!

The Little Gym offers a summer full of fun and excitement with a variety of themes including Maui's Mystical Island, TLG Crazy Carnival and Race to Outer Space. Their specially developed curriculum combines physical fitness, imagination and creativity giving your child the opportunity to learn and grow all while having serious fun!

Half-day and full-day camps are available for kids ages 3 – 9 years old. They offer flexibility to match your schedule that's difficult to find anywhere else. Choose the days and weeks that fit your needs. Camps run Monday through Friday. Sign your children up for one day, multiple days, several weeks or the whole summer!



Summer ART Camps

June 15 – August 14

Weekly and Day Camps for Ages 4-13

valleyartcenter.org/camps



155 Bell St
Chagrin Falls, OH
440-247-7507



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Give your child a summer of discovery and excitement

CSU Rec Summer Camp offers 10 uniquely themed weeks filled with adventure, creativity, and fun! Designed for children ages 5–14, our camp provides a welcoming environment where kids can explore new activities and make lifelong memories.

Whether your child loves sports, art, or simply making new friends, CSU Rec Summer Camp has something for everyone!

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Mike Moran Basketball Camps

(Held at Lost Nation Sports Park
in Willoughby)
(216) 276-5387

www.morancamps.com

Session #1: June 15-19

Session #2: June 22-26

The Mike Moran Basketball Camps are the oldest running basketball camps in northern Ohio, with over 40 years of operation. All the instructors are successful college and high school head coaches.

Because it is always well attended, participants will be working with other players of their same age group and ability level. The Moran Camp has always stressed the teaching and drilling of fundamentals. It is truly a camp designed for young players who want to improve their skills and be able to play competitive basketball. The camp runs all day, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.–3:15 p.m. Over the years it has been acclaimed by many newspapers and organizations as the top basketball

camp in the area!

The Mike Moran Camps are very popular and fill up quickly. Take advantage of the early registration discount. Visit their new website, morancamps.com, for easy registration. Call for a free brochure!

Ruffing Montessori School: Summer Ruffing It

3380 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights
(216) 321-7571

www.ruffingmontessori.net

Summer Ruffing It! is a six-week day camp in which campers collaborate with skilled educators who create a joyful, high-quality experience within small, student-centered groups. Programming includes art, robotics, drama, dance, cooking, technology, and more! Educational field trips and hands-on opportunities round out the exciting events offered.



Shaker Rocks Rock Climbing Camp

3377 Warrensville Center Road
Shaker Heights
(216) 848-0460

www.shakerrockscimbing.com

Summers are for fun, adventure, and climbing! Shaker Rocks offers weekly rock climbing camps for kids in grades 1–8 who have energy to burn. Campers enjoy fun-filled days packed with top rope climbing, bouldering, slacklining, team-building games, and much more.

Problem-solving, encouragement, and cooperation are at the core of rock climbing, so your camper comes away with feelings of camaraderie and a hunger for overcoming new challenges. Sign up for multiple weeks to watch your climber's confidence soar! Open to all skill levels.

Camp details:

- Monday–Friday: Starting June 8, 15, 22, 26; July 6, 13, 20, 27; and Aug 3 & 10.
- Half day: 9 a.m.–noon, members \$209/nonmembers \$239.

- Full day: 9 a.m.–3 p.m., members \$385/nonmembers \$415.
- Extended day: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., members \$465/nonmembers \$495.

Learn more and register at www.shakerrockscimbing.com.

Snapology of Cleveland

23645 Mercantile Road, Suite H
Beachwood

(216) 990-8988 (call or text)

www.snapology.com/ohio-cleveland

Snapology of Cleveland offers exciting day camps at their Discovery Center in Beachwood and other partner locations! Registration is open for Summer Camp 2026.

Your kids will love their fun and educational summer offerings! Campers will enjoy robotics, STEAM, and building with LEGO® bricks while making new friends and having tons of fun!

Day camps are:

Half day: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. or

Full day: 8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Builds are different each week so enroll for one week, multiple weeks, or the entire summer!

HAWKEN SUMMER PROGRAMS 2026

For boys and girls ages 3–18

Hawken Summer Programs provide some of the best summer enrichment opportunities in Greater Cleveland. Campers can choose from a broad menu of programs that are specifically designed to be age-appropriate, fun, and worthwhile.

*Day Camps (Girls, Boys, & Coed options) • One-week Passport Camps
Summer Studies for Grades 9–12 • Athletics Camps (coming March 2026)*

To register and for full camp/course descriptions visit summer.hawken.edu
or contact us at 440-423-2940 or summerprograms@hawken.edu.

Imagine summer, think Hawken!

summer.hawken.edu

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University School Summer Camps

www.us.edu/summer
Junior kindergarten–grade 8
20701 Brantley Road
Shaker Heights
Grades 9–12
2785 SOM Center Road
Hunting Valley

University School is proud to be celebrating 100 years of summer adventure! Programs are offered at both their Shaker Heights and Hunting Valley campuses.

With many week-long options, boys and girls entering pre-school to grade 12 can create their one-of-a-kind summer! Take this opportunity for them to try something new, or dive deeper into something they already love. Your camper will turn curiosity into adventure and fellow campers into friends.

Explorer Programs, like Aviation Challenge or Boating Camp, are a great way for campers to try something new or take what they know even further. Campers will sharpen skills, stretch their imaginations, and discover just how far curiosity can take them.

Athletic camps, including football, basketball, and wrestling, for

all ages are run by accomplished US varsity coaches, and academic courses are taught by their inspiring faculty members. Learn more about all of their summer programs at www.us.edu/summer.

Valley Art Center

155 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls
(440) 247-7507
www.valleyartcenter.org

Summer fun is happening at Valley Art Center, June 15–August 14! Nothing compares to spending an entire week immersed in creative projects at a Valley Art Center art camp. Your child will thrive in an environment where all skill levels are welcome and every camper will learn at just the right pace.

VAC's dedicated and enthusiastic instructors guide young artists to bring ideas to life through painting, mixed media, ceramics, painting, jewelry and more. Camps are available in sessions of five consecutive half-days or full-day camps for ages 4–13.

Whatever camp your child chooses, you can trust that your young artist will explore and learn while meeting new friends and engaging in creative play.

ELEVATE YOUR GAME

THIS SUMMER

Benedictine High School Summer Camps are now open for registration!

SCAN TO REGISTER

Scan the QR or visit the website below to register.

cbhs.edu/camps



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(entering preschool through kindergarten)
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June 15 – July 31, 2026

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www.beachwoodschoools.org/fairmount.aspx



Is your child ready for summer camp?

Questions every parent should ask

While summer may still feel far away, many popular camps begin filling up as early as February. For families hoping to secure a spot, now is the perfect time to think not only about where to send children—but whether they are truly ready for the camp experience.

For many kids, summer camp is a wonderful opportunity to build independence, confidence, and new friendships. For others, especially first-timers, being away from home can feel overwhelming. Taking time to assess readiness can help ensure camp is a positive and memorable experience for everyone.

Start with age and maturity

Age alone doesn't determine readiness, but it can be a helpful guide. Many experts suggest that children under age seven may have a harder time adjusting to overnight camp. Younger campers often do better starting with day camps, which allow them to experience camp activities while still returning home each evening. This can be a great stepping stone toward longer stays in the future.

Consider your child's interest level

Is camp something your child is excited about—or something you're more enthusiastic about than they are? Children who regularly talk about camp, ask questions, and show interest in activities tend to adjust more easily. If heavy persuasion is required, it may be worth waiting another year.

Reflect on past overnight experiences

Think about how your child has handled time away from home in the past. Have they stayed overnight with grandparents, cousins, or friends? Were those experiences smooth or stressful? Positive past separations often indicate a child is better prepared for the independence camp requires.

Talk about expectations

Before camp begins, make sure your child understands what camp will be like. Will there be cabins? Group meals? Outdoor activities? Limited phone access? Learning about daily routines and rules helps reduce anxiety and builds confidence.



Looking at photos, videos, or schedules together can make the experience feel more familiar.

Evaluate emotional readiness

Beyond age and experience, emotional maturity matters. Is your child able to communicate needs, handle minor disappointments, and solve small problems independently? These skills play an important role in adjusting to life at camp.

When in doubt, start small

If you're unsure, consider shorter sessions or specialty camps that last just a few days. These options allow children to build independence gradually without feeling overwhelmed.

With thoughtful planning and honest conversations, parents can help set their children up for a successful camp experience. When a child is truly ready, summer camp can become one of the most rewarding—and confidence-building—memories of childhood.



SUMMER at UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

University School Summer Programs ignite curiosity and create unforgettable experiences for Jr. K–12 students.

Register today! www.us.edu/summer

DAY CAMPS

EXPLORER PROGRAMS

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UNIVERSITY
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LOCATED IN SHAKER HEIGHTS
& HUNTING VALLEY





10 things every camper learns (Whether they expect to or not)

1. You can make a best friend in about ten minutes—sometimes while waiting in line for lunch.
2. Bugs look scarier than they really are. (Mostly.)
3. Life without Wi-Fi is not only possible—it can actually be fun.
4. Singing loudly in public becomes completely normal.
5. Flashlights are essential life tools after dark.
6. You're braver than you think, especially when trying something new.
7. Sharing snacks is the fastest way to make allies.
8. Teamwork matters—whether you're playing games or cleaning up cabins.
9. Being away from home helps you appreciate it even more.
10. The best memories usually happen when you're not expecting them.

Summer camp isn't just about activities and schedules. It's about



learning independence, building confidence, and discovering strengths kids didn't even know they had. Somewhere between crafts, campfires, and late-night laughs, campers grow in ways that last long after summer ends.

And years later, when they're grown, they'll still remember that one friend, that one song, and that one amazing summer.



Mike Moran Basketball Camps

2026 Boys/Girls Camp

June 15–19 | June 22–26

9:00 am–3:15 pm each session

Lost Nation Sports Park, Willoughby

- **Eligibility:** Open to boys and girls ages 6–14
- **Camp fee:** \$205 (Save \$20 if you register before May 1)
- **Each camper receives a camp T-shirt.**

Registration

Online: MoranCamps.com

Phone: (216) 276-5387

Early registration discounts/group rates available.
Brochures mailed on request.

CAMP STAFF

MIKE MORAN: Inducted into Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020; former head coach at John Carroll University w/ 459 career wins; guided JCU to 14 OAC titles, 12 trips to the NCAA Tournament & one Final Four appearance; former VASJ head coach where his teams won two state championships.

PETE MORAN: Head coach at John Carroll University.

PAT MORAN: Assistant coach at John Carroll University.

MATT MORAN: Assistant coach at John Carroll University.

MARK CHICONE: Former head coach of both Lake Catholic boys team and Mentor High School girls.

TONY REDDING: Former head coach of girls at St. Martin de Porres.

RYAN SCHNEIDER: Former head coach of boys at St. Martin de Porres.

JOHN GIBBONS: Legendary coach.

LUKE CHICONE: 1st Team All Ohio from Mentor High School Graduate, All American Collegiate Guard & Player of the Year in the Ohio Athletic Conference.



SHAKER ROCKS
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2026 Weekly Summer Camps
For children entering grades 1-8

Info & Registration:
ShakerRocksClimbing.com
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