

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS: September - December 2026

Open to all families waiting for or receiving services at the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent.

CTC CONNECTS CAFE Caregiver-led Conversations Sept. 17th Oct. 1st Oct. 15th Oct. 29th Nov. 12th Nov. 26th Dec. 3rd Dec. 17th 10- 11:30am CK Public Library 120 Queen St., Chatham	• An opportunity for parents and caregivers to connect with each other in a conversational format to discuss topics of mutual interest, share successes and challenges, and seek and provide support to one another. • On September 17th, October 15th, November 12th, and December 17th we will be in the CK Public Library boardroom for conversation and an optional light craft activity. • On October 1st, October 29th, November 26th and December 3rd we will be in the CK Public Library cafe for conversation and some light refreshments. • This caregiver group is free and hosted by the Family Engagement Coordinator with conversation led by caregivers. • We encourage caregivers to register one week in advance of all chosen session dates.
THE EXCHANGE: Safe & Secure Book Club Sept. 14th Oct. 19th Nov. 9th Dec. 14th 6:00- 7:30pm 1099 Park Ave West, Chatham	• Focusing on a chapter a month from the Safe and Secure book, caregivers will begin thinking about what life looks like into the future for their family member with a disability. ◦ September 14th: Step 5- Achieving financial security ◦ October 19th: Step 6- Advocating with empathy ◦ November 9th: Step 7- Securing Your Plan ◦ December 14th will be a holiday celebration for caregivers. • Share ideas and experiences with caregivers in this supportive space hosted by The Family Support Network's The Exchange in partnership with Community Living CK and the CTC-CK. • Free copy of the book provided! • Register at theexchangeck@gmail.com.
ROADMAP TO POSITIVE ADVOCACY WITH ED MAHONY 4 part series Sept. 16th Nov. 18th Jan. 20th Mar. 17th 6:00- 7:30pm Virtually	• CTC-CK and Pathways caregivers are invited to join our virtual series with special guest Ed Mahony, Education Advocate, Consultant, & Resource Teacher, as he helps to explain the education system in Ontario. • For the Fall 2026 sessions, we will be covering the topics: ◦ Navigating IEPs & Setting Meaningful Goals - This session will help families better understand the IEP process, the importance of parent involvement, how to read and understand their child's IEP, and ways to advocate for meaningful and effective goals. ◦ Understanding the IPRC Process - We'll discuss what an IPRC is, the different placement categories, information families should know before attending a meeting, and how to advocate if they experience resistance or challenges with the process.

THE POWER OF MOTIVATION Wednesday, September 30th 10:00- 11:30am 6:00- 6:30pm TVCC - 220 Riverview Drive, Chatham	• In partnership with TVCC Autism and Behavioural Services and the CTC-CK's Family Support Services team, Foundational Family Services is excited to offer in-person workshops in Chatham. • This presentation teaches you how to use your child's motivation to enhance their learning and engagement in daily activities. • To register for this program visit tvcc.on.ca/education-programs
REAL TALK & ROAST COFFEE Men's Group Wednesday, October 14th 7:00- 8:00pm CTC-CK 355 Lark St., Chatham	• An introduction to a men's caregiver support group. • Meet with Shawn Coolen, Registered Psychotherapist, to learn more about him and his approach to leading a support group for caregivers navigating disability, diagnosis, developmental delays and neurodiversity. • This opportunity is all about finding space for men to talk, listen, and support one another through that caregiving journey. • Open to all men caregivers of the CTC-CK looking for community.
PARENT PERSPECTIVE: Internet Safety for Kids Presentation Thursday, October 22nd 6:00- 7:30pm CTC-CK 355 Lark St., Chatham	• The CTC-CK welcomes Andrew Elliot, foster parent and TekSavvy employee, as he shares some tips on internet safety. • We will cover some recommended ground rules for your home, how to lock down the Wifi and tablets, learn about the risks of YouTube and Roblox and learn about some cool tech toys and programs that are safe for all kids. • Bring your tablet or phone for some on site support! • This presentation is a parent's perspective and open to caregivers.
FAMILY SKATE Tuesday, October 27th 6:00- 7:00pm Thames Campus Arena, 999 Grand Ave West, Chatham	• We're inviting all past and present families that have received or are receiving services at the CTC-CK to attend a free evening of skating at the Thames Campus Arena in Chatham. • Connect with peers, get active, and have fun! • Helmets are mandatory for all children and youth (0 -18 years) who will be on the ice. • Wheelchairs and strollers are welcome (please ensure clean wheels). • On ice support must be provided by a carer if required.
SENSORY-FRIENDLY STORYTIME Saturday, November 7th 9:15- 10:30am CK Public Library 120 Queen St., Chatham	• Families are invited to a special sensory-friendly storytime at the Chatham-Kent Public Library, Chatham Branch, in partnership with the CTC-CK. • We will read stories, sing songs, and explore a variety of sensory-friendly activity stations. • Families of all ages are welcome.

BRAVE SMILES Wednesday, November 18th 3:00- 6:00pm Location TBD	• In partnership with Chatham-Kent Public Health, the CTC-CK is offering free dental appointments and taking a kid-friendly approach to dental care. • Brave Smiles is focused on a child-led visit where kids can ask questions at their own pace, explore and learn about dental tools, and learn to understand proper oral hygiene in a fun, hands on way. • Each child and caregiver will receive one-on-one time with a registered dental hygienist. Siblings welcome!
CHAT AND CREATE Thursday, November 19th 10:00- 11:30am 6:00- 7:30pm TVCC, 220 Riverview Drive, Chatham	• In partnership with TVCC Autism and Behavioural Services and the CTC-CK's Family Support Services team, Foundational Family Services is excited to offer in-person workshops in Chatham. • Connect with other parents and caregivers while creating some helpful visual supports for your child or youth. • To register for this program visit tvcc.on.ca/education-programs
CAREGIVER'S NIGHT OUT: Pampered for the Holidays Thursday, December 3rd 6:00- 8:00pm Location TBD	• Parents and caregivers of the CTC-CK are invited to an evening to celebrate the holiday season. • Take some well-deserved time for you. Enjoy creative stations, moments to relax and recharge, and opportunities to connect with others who truly understand the journey of caregiving. • More details coming soon!
SIBSHOP Wednesday, December 9th 4:00- 6:00pm Location TBD	• Sibshops are fun, action-packed workshops for children who have a sibling with special needs and/or a disability. • It is a chance to have fun and connect with peers who "get it" through expressive recreational activities. • This is open to children ages 7- 12 years old (siblings of clients only). • A light dinner will be included.

Stay tuned as we finalize some details for Caregiver's Night Out dates!

Contact us to learn more or to register.

Rachel Guerin,
Family Engagement Coordinator
Phone: 519-354-0520 ext. 292
Email: rguerin@ctc-ck.com



Scan the QR code to access the CTC-CK Connects Facebook Group for parents and primary caregivers that have children receiving services at the CTC-CK.



Open to all families waiting for or receiving services at the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent.