

December 2024

# Early Learners **EVENTS** **GUIDE**

## Ridgecrest Branch Library



**KERN**  
COUNTY  
LIBRARY



# Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted.

## Regular Programs



= 12 Days of Books program

Little Learners: Explore (twice a month)

**Ages 1.5-5** TUE. DECEMBER 3 & 17 | 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Explore while building fine motor skills, which can help with learning to write. 12/3: Play Doh (with Play Doh tools), 12/17: Scrap Paper (tearing and gluing)

Little Learners: STEAM Time (monthly) 

**Ages 2-5** WED. DECEMBER 4 | 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Explore a variety of STEAM topics. For December, they will make coffee filter chromatography (can be messy on clothes) and a craft once it dries.

Beyond the Book (twice a month; 3 in December) 

**Ages 4+** TUE. DECEMBER 3, WED. DECEMBER 11, | 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.  
FRI. DECEMBER 20

Listen to picture books and work on fun activities related to the books. 12/3 Theme: bears | 12/11 Theme: penguins | 12/20 Theme: snow

Ridgecrest Lions Club Cub Club Project (monthly)

**Ages 3+** FRI. DECEMBER 13 | 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Join us as Ridgecrest Lions Club Cub Club members (and their adults) collaborate to create decorative, winter-themed table centerpieces, which will be delivered to a local place where seniors gather.

Book Bingo (monthly)

**Ages 3+** FRI. DECEMBER 13 | 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.

Join the bingo fun and win free books to grow your home library.



## Winter Recess Carryout Activity Bags

Stop by for Carryout Activity Bags, as supply lasts, starting Sat 12/14. We have limited quantities of bags for kids (with activities for multiple ages), teens/adults, and family bags with collaborative projects. First come, first served with no holds/reservations.



## Staff In-Service Day

The Kern County Library will be closed on Friday, December 6, 2024, for our annual In-Staff Service Day and will reopen Saturday, December 7th, 2024. This gives our team the chance to collaborate, learn, and plan for even better services and programs!



## Happy Holi-reads!

Chill out with a good book this winter recess and collect your reads before we are CLOSED for winter recess. Kern County Library branches will observe Winter Recess from Tuesday, December 24, 2024, to Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Our eLibrary is open 24/7! Get your reads ANYtime when you get them online; all you need is your FREE Kern County Library card!

Sign up today!

Receive a lanyard at sign up and pins for each 100 books read or listened to.

You don't have to use library books!

If your child wants to hear *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* 15 times, it counts as 15 books!

<https://kernlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

Older children can help (and practice reading aloud) by reading to younger participants.



## Ridgecrest Branch Library Amazon Wish List

Scan the QR code to see what is on our Amazon Wish List for upcoming programs or branch needs. Items are shipped to Bakersfield and delivered to our branch in our weekly shipments. We appreciate those who have already purchased items for us!





# 5

## Early Literacy Practices



Help your child build a foundation for academic and lifelong success with these early literacy practices:

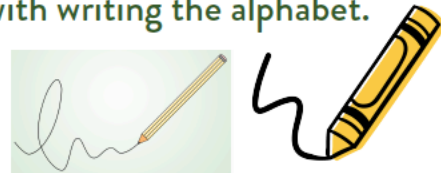
### READ

Point out words you see to your child anywhere and everywhere, not just when reading books.



### WRITE

Encourage your child to scribble lines, curves, and shapes to help with writing the alphabet.



### TALK

Ask your child questions and talk about related experiences they have had to help build background knowledge.



### SING

Sing songs (even if you are not great), which can help your child hear syllables more clearly and with memorization.



### PLAY

Pretend play can increase your child's vocabulary and reinforce connections between words and real objects or experiences.



Think of ways to incorporate early literacy practices into your child's day!

## Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

### Playtime (monthly): Stuffed Animal Dance Party

**Ages 1.5+** THU. DECEMBER 12 | 11:15 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

Join us with a stuffed animal from home and have a fun at our dance party featuring kid-friendly music and some snacks.

### Build & Chat (twice a month)

**Ages 2 yrs-5th grade** WED. DECEMBER 4, 18 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Kids in 5th grade and younger can free build with some of our building sets in our CHILDREN'S ROOM, while middle/high school students have Art Exploration in our Community Room (Wed 12/4) and STEAM Time in the Community Room (Wed 12/18).

### Kern Mobile Health Clinic (monthly)

**All Ages** WED. DECEMBER 18 | 10:30 A.M.-2 P.M.

The Kern Mobile Health Clinic will be in the dirt lot, offering child and adult immunizations, tuberculosis testing, family planning services including birth control, sexual health services, health screenings, free Narcan with training, and child health exams for 12-18 year olds. No sick visits available. For an appointment, call 661-321-3000 (NOT required; walk-ins accepted).

### Unplugged Game Time (monthly)


**Ages 3+** TUE. DECEMBER 17 | 3:30-5:30 P.M.

Stop by to play games for 3 year olds to adults! We have classics like Candyland, Jenga, Monopoly, and chess plus Simply Fun games and others like Exploding Kittens, Sushi Go, Clue, Spot It, and Skip-Bo. You can bring a game from home!

NOTE: In December, we are combining Unplugged Game Time with Pokemon Trading Card Game (for ages 6+).



# Special Programs

 = 12 Days of Books Program

## Winter Stories + Catch Up Crafts

**Ages 3+** THU. DECEMBER 5 | 3:30-5:30 P.M.

If you have missed one of our craft sessions, stop by to listen to winter stories and work on some of our previous craft projects, as supply lasts. You can also request something that you might have missed and see if we still have the supplies available.

## Life Size Candyland

**Ages 1.5+** SAT. DECEMBER 14 | 11:15 A.M.-3:45 P.M.

Stop by to play a game of Life Size Candyland in our Children's Room! Families will receive a set of cards and baggies for holding their candy. They will use the cards to move across the "board" and can collect a piece of candy at each of the Candyland stops until they reach the end. Older kids may choose a donated Easy Reader book when reaching the Candy Castle instead of candy or a small prize.

## Afternoon Family Storytime

**Ages 3-9** WED. DECEMBER 18 | 4-4:30 P.M.

Join us for a mid-week, afternoon family storytime as part of our "12 Days of Books" series featuring some fun books!

## Kids Crafternoon: Winter + Christmas Craft and Giveaway Sponsored by Ridgecrest Toys for Tots Foundation

**Ages 3+** THU. DECEMBER 19 | 2:30-4:30 P.M. (SSUSD MINIMUM DAY)

Stop by to work on a few winter-themed and/or Christmas crafts featuring a Christmas giveaway. Christmas themed crafts and giveaways are sponsored by Ridgecrest Toys for Tots Foundation, and will be available as supply lasts.

Do you prefer:  or   
winter summer?

For more event information, visit our website - [kclevents.org](http://kclevents.org)  
Library workshops, performances, and events are FREE and open to the public. We're adding more programs all the time!  
At times, programs may be rescheduled or canceled without advance notice.

# Storytimes (Children's Room)

\* Event happens before we open to the general public

## Baby Bounce Then Play

**Ages: 6 Months-3 Years**

FRI. DECEMBER 20 | 9:30\* - 11:30 A.M.  
Enjoy interactive rhymes, songs, bounces and board books for your babies in this very short LAPSIT story time. Older siblings can bring a stuffed animal "baby". Baby Play happens after.

## Preschool Storytime

**Ages: 2- 5 Years**

EVERY THURSDAY | 10:30 - 11:05 A.M.  
12/5: Winter | 12/12: Bears | 12/19: Holidays  
Enjoy stories, action rhymes, and a shaker egg song to continue building early childhood skills.

## Toddler Time

**Ages: 15 Months-4 Years**

TUE. DECEMBER 10, 17 | 9:30\* - 9:50 A.M.  
12/10: Bears | 12/17: Holidays  
Enjoy short stories, movement songs, and action rhymes that build early childhood skills. Stay & Play happens after.

## Family Storytime

**Ages: 2- 8 Years**

SAT. DECEMBER 14 | 10:30 - 11 A.M.  
12/14: Reader's Choice  
Children of all ages can enjoy stories, a song, and action rhymes to continue building early childhood skills.

# Freeplay Fun (Children's Room)

\* Event happens before we open to the general public

## Baby Play

**Ages: 6 Months-3 Years**

FRI. DECEMBER 13 | 9:30\* - 11:30 A.M.  
Freeplay time for our littlest ones to socialize with their caregivers (and each other) by exploring a variety of baby-friendly items. Caregivers can also socialize with each other.

## Stay & Play

**Ages: 12 Months-7 Years**

TUE. DECEMBER 3 | 9:30\* - 11:30 A.M.  
TUE. DECEMBER 10, 17 | 9:50\* - 11:30 A.M.  
EVERY WEDNESDAY | 9:30\* - 11:30 A.M.  
EVERY SATURDAY | 9:30\* - 10:30 A.M.  
Freeplay time for kids to build social skills and interact with caregivers, while caregivers can also socialize with each other.



## find us!

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131 E Las Flores Ave  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

[www.kernlibrary.org](http://www.kernlibrary.org)

## contact us!

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email  
[info@kernlibrary.org](mailto:info@kernlibrary.org)

phone  
760.384.5870

## hours

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Tuesday - Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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newsletters!



## Find us on social!

