

July 2026

Early Learners

EVENTS GUIDE

Ridgecrest Branch Library

find us!

131 E Las Flores Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

www.kernlibrary.org

contact us!

email
info@kernlibrary.org

phone
760.384.5870

hours

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.

newsletter

Subscribe to our newsletter(s)

Stay updated on the branch,
programs, and/or receive
book recommendations!



Find us on social!



KERN
COUNTY
LIBRARY



Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted.



LUNCH
at the
LIBRARY

Little Seedlings

Ages 3+

WEDNESDAYS | 10:30-11:30 A.M.



Join us to learn about and plant a different seed every week and then watch it grow at home. Seeds used in Little Seedlings will be added to our Seed Library. IN CHILDREN'S RM

Garden "Tea" Party

Ages 3+

WED. JULY 1 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Join us for a garden "tea" party, featuring painting your own pot plus a flower craft and "tea" (juice and butterfly pea tea) with snacks while you wait for your pot to dry before planting a seed in it. We will have a variety of seeds to choose from to plant.

Creative Time: Collage, Draw, Color

Ages 3+

WED. JULY 1 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.
TUE. JULY 21 | 2:30-5:00 P.M.

Express your creativity by making a collage with our supplies, drawing (we will have some kid-friendly "how to draw" tutorials available), or coloring (we will have coloring pages for all ages).

Farm Animal Puppets

Ages 3+

THU. JULY 2 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Stop by to create farm animal puppets using paper bags to have a farm themed puppet show. We have new animal choices this month and a limited supply of animals left from the June session available.

Thank you to these sponsors:



finisher books, performance



FRIENDS OF THE RIDGECREST
BRANCH LIBRARY
program supplies, performances



PIZZA FACTORY RIDGECREST
free mini 1 topping pizza for ALL
child and teen finishers



ROADRUNNER RIDGE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
funds for bonus finisher gift cards



LUNCH
at the
LIBRARY

program supplies, performances



RIDGE WRITERS
program supplies,
performance



SIERRA LANES
BOWLING CENTER
bonus finisher prize (party
for 5)

CONVEYING AWARENESS
WITH JESSICA DAVID
bonus finisher gift cards



Sign up today!

Ask library staff or go online
kernlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365

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

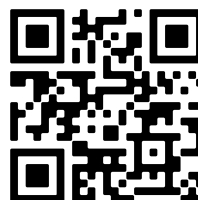


You don't have to use library books!

If your child wants to hear *Pete the Cat* 15 times, it counts as 15 books!

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

Books read during library programs counts too! (We usually read 3 books at Preschool Storytime, 2 books at Toddler Time and Family Storytime, 1 book at Baby Bounce, and 1-3 books at Beyond the Book.)



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 first and then delivered to our branch in our weekly shipments. We truly appreciate those generous donors who have already purchased items for us!

Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

BYO Lunch & Last Minute Listen to Books

Ages 3+ THU. JULY 30 | 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Bring your own lunch to eat while you listen to stories. This may be your last chance to hear stories at the library that you can also add to your Summer Reading Challenge log.

Live Action Animal Crossing

Ages 3+ FRI. JULY 31 | 11:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Stop by to do some live action tasks inspired by the game Animal Crossing (including fishing and digging for fossils) to earn bells (coins) to "spend" in the store. This session features a new activity to replace the house decorating. Complete all of the activities on your passport to enter a prize drawing.

PERFORMANCE: Awesome Sauce with Wunderland Kitchen

All Ages FRI. JULY 31 | 3:00-4:00 P.M.

Join food ethnographers June Jo and Philip for a book with a food-tasting experience like no other! Create your own Awesome Sauce—spicy, sweet, mild, or bold—and explore how flavors carry stories across families, cultures, and generations. Along the way, learn how Korean meals encourage creativity and choice right at the table. Kids will take home their own Awesome Sauce and, hopefully, a newfound love for vegetables. Supplies are limited, so plan to arrive early! Sponsored by Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library.

Summer Reading Finale Cool Down

Ages 3+ FRI. JULY 31 | 4:30-5:30 P.M.

Stop by to help us celebrate the end of another Summer Reading Challenge with a cool treat! Today (before we close at 6 pm) is your last chance to turn in bonus finisher entries to enter the prize drawings.

Events for Early Learners

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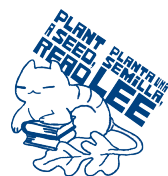
Summer Reading Challenge



Be a
finisher



Read OR listen
10 books OR for 10 hours



Be a
bonus
finisher



Continue reading
OR listening to enter into
prize drawings

Ask library staff OR go to Beanstack to sign up or add the challenge
kernlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365 (There is a mobile app too!)



LUNCH FREE for 18 yrs
and under
Adult lunch \$5 (exact
change please)

Tuesdays through Fridays 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
6/2-7/10 except 6/19, 7/3

Books to Build Home Libraries, daily activities, prize drawings.
Indoor and outdoor seating. Lunches **MUST** be eaten on site.

Lunch Visitors

7/1: Boy Scouts Troop 848
7/2: Oasis Family Resource Center
7/7: RidgeWriters
7/8: Children's Burn Foundation
7/9: Pierce Academy of the Arts
7/10: Princesses from Sierra Academy
of Dance

Guest Readers/Leaders are Readers

7/8: Amanda Erwin, Women's Center
High Desert, Inc.
7/10: Princesses from Sierra Academy
of Dance



Kids eating lunch can choose FREE Books to Build Home Libraries (as supply lasts) and enter the weekly attendance drawing to win a prize bag **EVERY TIME** they attend. They can fill out a survey for a little prize and enter the survey drawing.

Events for Early Learners

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All Kern County Library branches will be closed for Independence Day on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4, 2026. We will resume for standard operating hours on Tuesday, July 7, 2026. Our eLibrary is open 24/7! Get your books ANYtime online; all you need is your FREE Kern Library card!

Crafternoon: Fruits & Vegetables

Ages 3+ WED. JULY 8 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Stop by to create some fruits and vegetables that would not taste very good if you tried to eat them, using tissue paper squares and more.

Eat the Rainbow

Ages 3+ WED. JULY 8 | 3:30-4:30 P.M. Part 1
THU. JULY 30 | 1:00-2:30 P.M. Part 2

Join us to learn about the edible rainbow, featuring some fruits and vegetables in a variety of different colors for you to taste! We will offer different colorful items in each session.

Farm to Fable: Birds

Ages 3+ THU. JULY 9 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Join us to listen to some books featuring birds before participating in some bird related crafts and activities! The books listened to can be added to your Summer Reading Challenge log.



You **DO NOT** need to use library books for the Summer Reading Challenge? You can use books from your home library!

Events for Early Learners

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Snack Ranking

Ages 3+ THU. JULY 23 | 2:00-3:00 P.M.

Stop by and taste test different snacks and then afterwards, rank the snacks to show which one you enjoyed the most! Will YOUR favorite snack be the favorite snacks of others? Some snacks will contain gluten and/or dairy. Snacks will be available as supply lasts.

Doctors Visits with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

Ages 3+ THU. JULY 23 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Learn some helpful information about going to the doctor with Sandra from Ridgecrest Regional Hospital Community Outreach. NOTE: There will NOT be a doctor present for check ups or to give any medical related information.

Crafternoon: Butterfly Life Cycle

Ages 3+ FRI. JULY 24 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Work on some fun and educational crafts that will teach about the life cycle of a butterfly.

PERFORMANCE: Magic Napoleon

Ages 3+ TUE. JULY 28 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.

The wonderful Magic Napoleon returns this summer, bringing his amazing 90-minute show filled with magic, bubble potions, and balloon twisting fun! IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM. Sponsored by Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library.

For more event information, visit our website - 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.

Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Unplugged Game Time

Ages 3+ TUE. JULY 21 | 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

We have classics like Candyland, Jenga, Monopoly, and chess plus a variety of others games like Sushi Go, Clue, Spot It, and Skip-Bo. You can also bring a game from home.

Homeschool Hangout

Ages 3+ TUE. JULY 21 | 12:30-2:00 P.M.

Current or prospective homeschool families (using ANY program or curriculum) can network with other homeschool families, learn about homeschool options, and/or discuss learning. There are activities for kids while the caregivers can chat with each other.

VISITOR: Screens Away, Time to Play + Cardboard Creations

Ages 3+ WED. JULY 22 | 1:30-2:30 P.M.

Kern County author Kailan Carr will read "Screens Away, Time to Play!" and then kids will get to create cardboard masterpieces using kid-safe tools and materials to bring imaginations to life. IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM. Sponsored by Ridgecrest Branch Library Donations.

Wind Tube Exploration

Ages 3+ WED. JULY 22 | 3:00-5:00 P.M.
SAT: JULY 25 | 12:00-1:00 P.M.
WED. JULY 29 | 12:30-2:30 P.M.

Learners of all ages can experiment with floating a variety of common everyday objects in a vertically moving air column to explore flight, cause and effect, wind resistance, and aerodynamics.

Events for Early Learners

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Catch Up Crafts

Ages 3+ THU. JULY 9 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.
FRI. JULY 17 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.
SAT. JULY 25 | 10:00-11:00 A.M.
THU. JULY 30 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Stop by and work on a craft that you may have previously missed! We offer a lot of different crafts, so we will take out a few options to choose from. Feel free to ask about a specific craft you were not able to work on, because sometimes we may still have the supplies for that craft available.

Book Bingo (monthly)

Ages 3+ FRI. JULY 10 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Bingo winners choose a book to build a home library or a small prize. We have a variety of levels of book choices, from board books for little ones to books for adults. We use magnetic chips, which can be a choking hazard.

PERFORMANCE: Omnipresent Puppet Theater

All Ages SAT. JULY 11 | 10:30-11:15 A.M.

Don with Omnipresent Puppet Theater will bring the "Jack and the Beanstalk" puppet show to the library! Join us for an entertaining morning featuring the classic story of a young boy that trades his cow for some "magic" beans that will end up changing his family's lives! Presented with Omnipresent's trademark humor and fun for all ages! IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM. Sponsored by RidgeWriters.

Edible Parts of a Plant

Ages 3+ TUE. JULY 14 | 12:00-1:00 P.M.

Stop by for some education and a snack! Learn about the parts of a plant by using a variety of edible items to demonstrate the different parts.

Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

DIY Snack Mix

Ages 3+ TUE. JULY 14 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Stop by to create a customized snack mix by choosing from a variety of salty and sweet snack items. There will be NO NUTS but items will contain gluten and/or dairy.

Quick STEM Challenge: Fairy Tale

Ages 3+ TUE. JULY 14 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Stop by to try to complete some fairy tale based STEM challenges featuring a shortened version of the story and a related activity. We will have a few different story sets available. IN THE MAKERSPACE.

Mini Live Action Animal Crossing

Ages 3+ WED. JULY 15 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Stop by to do an Animal Crossing inspired craft (paint a 3D fossil) and do a couple of live action tasks inspired by the Animal Crossing game available in the bigger version from early June. The full version with the passport will be available again towards the end of July.

Stories and a Snack

Ages 3+	WED. JULY 15	3:30-4:30 P.M. Fairy Bread
	WED. JULY 22	12:00-1:00 P.M. Fruit "Pizza"
	TUE. JULY 28	1:30-3:00 P.M. Baguette (and Butter)
	WED. JULY 29	3:30-4:30 P.M. Pizza

Listen to some stories that are related to the featured snack item while making the listed snack or something related. Don't forget to add the books read at these programs to Summer Reading Challenge logs, especially if logging books!

Storytimes (Children's Room)

Baby Bounce

Ages: 6 Months-3 Years

FRI. JULY 10 & 24 | 10:00-10:20 A.M.

Interactive LAPSIT with action rhymes, songs, and board books. Older siblings can bring a baby doll or stuffed animal to use as a "baby". Baby Play follows.



Toddler Time

Ages: 15 Months-4 Years

TUE. JULY 7 & 21 | 10:00-10:20 A.M.

Enjoy short stories, movement songs, and action rhymes to build early literacy skills. Stay & Play follows. Add the books to your reading log!

Family Storytime

Ages: 2- 8 Years

EVERY THURSDAY | 10:30-11:00 A.M.

Enjoy stories, action rhymes, and a shaker egg song to continue building early literacy skills. Stay & Play follows. Add the books to your reading log.

Freeplay Fun (Children's Room)

* Event happens before we open to the general public

Baby Play

Ages: 6 Months-3 Years

FRI. JULY 10 & 24 | 10:20-11:30 A.M.
FRI. JULY 17 & 31 | 10:00-11:30 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. Items for older siblings available upon request.



Stay & Play

Ages: 12 Months-7 Years

TUE. JULY 7 & 21 | 10:20-11:30 A.M.
TUE. JULY 14 & 28 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.
EVERY THURSDAY | 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
SAT JULY 18 & 25 | 9:30*-10:30 A.M.

Freeplay time for kids to build their social skills by interacting with other kids or their caregivers. This is also an opportunity for the caregivers to socialize with each other.



Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Clothing/Fabric Repair

Ages 3+ FRI. JULY 17 | 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

All ages can bring any CLEAN clothing, fabric, or stuffed animals for evaluation and possible repair by a volunteer. If there are teens or adults who want to learn how to do some basic sewing repair, let us know so we can set up a class in the future. IN THE MAKERSPACE

VISITOR: Golden Meadow Goats

All Ages FRI. JULY 17 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Join us for a delightful visit from Golden Meadow Goats! Get up close and personal with these friendly, adorable goats in a fun and interactive experience for all ages. IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM. Sponsored by Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library.

Kids Games

Ages 3+ SAT. JULY 18 | 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Stop by for some Saturday fun to play fun games for kids without small pieces, like Giant Connect 4, magnetic fishing, and bigger than usual Jenga. IN THE CHILDRENS ROOM



Check Out Our Seed Library! If you are looking to start or add to a home garden, come and see what we have to offer. The seed envelopes are FREE!



Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Edible Earth Layers

Ages 3+ WED. JULY 16 | 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Stop by for some education and a snack by learning about and then building the layers of the Earth using edible items.

Farm to Fable: Cow

Ages 3+ WED. JULY 16 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Join us to listen to some books about cows before participating in some related activities like getting to "milk" a pretend cow and doing a craft! The books listened to can be added to your Summer Reading Challenge log.

Ready Set Back 2 School Backpack Giveaway with Kern County Child Support Services

TK-12th Gr FRI. JULY 17 | 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Kids going into Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade can receive a free backpack with school supplies and resources. Child must be present to receive a backpack. Limit one per child, as supplies last.

Game Festival

Ages 3+ FRI. JULY 17 | 10:30-11:30 A.M.
TUE. JULY 28 | 11:00A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Stop by to play some of our quicker games. Earn a ticket for playing and earn more tickets for winning games. The tickets can be traded for a variety of items like snacks or other prizes. Feel free to bring your own games to play.



**RIDGECREST
BRANCH
LIBRARY**

**Sunday
CLOSED
Monday
CLOSED**

**Tuesday-
Thursday
10 am to 7 pm**

**Friday
10 am to 6 pm**

**Saturday
10 am to 4 pm**

**JULY
2026**

tuesday

7.
10:30-10:20am Toddler Time
10:20-11:30am Stay & Play

14.
10:00-11:30am Stay & Play
12:00-1:00pm Edible Parts of a Plant
1:30-3:00pm DIY Snack Mix
3:30-4:30pm Quick STEM Challenge: Fairy Tale

21.
10:00-10:20am Toddler Time
10:20-11:30am Stay & Play
11:00am-12:00pm Unplugged Game Time
12:30-2:00pm Homeschool Hangout
2:30-5:00pm Creative Time

28.
10:00-11:30am Stay & Play
11:00am-1:00pm Game Festival
1:30-3:00pm Stories and a Snack: Baguette
3:30-5:00pm Magic Napoleon

wednesday

1.
10:30-11:30am Little Seedlings
1:30-3:00pm Garden "Tea" Party
3:30-4:30pm Creative Time: Collage, Draw, Color

8.
10:30-11:30am Little Seedlings
1:30-3:00pm Crafternoon: Fruits & Vegetables
3:30-4:30pm Eat the Rainbow

15.
10:30-11:30am Little Seedlings
1:30-3:00pm Mini Live Action Animal Crossing
3:30-4:30pm Stories and a Snack: Fairy Bread

22.
10:30-11:30am Little Seedlings
12:00-1:00pm Stories and a Snack: Fruit "Pizza"
1:30-2:30pm Screens Away, Time to Play w/Cardboard Creations
3:00-5:00pm Wind Tube Exploration

29.
10:30-11:30am Little Seedlings
12:30-2:30pm Wind Tube Exploration
3:30-4:30pm Stories and a Snack: Pizza

thursday

2.
10:30-11:00am Family Storytime
11:00am-12:00pm Stay & Play
1:30-3:00pm Farm Animal Puppets

9.
10:30-11:00am Family Storytime
11:00am-12:00pm Stay & Play
1:30-3:00pm Farm to Fable: Bird
3:30-4:30pm Catch Up Crafts

16.
10:30-11:00am Family Storytime
11:00am-12:00pm Stay & Play
1:30-3:30pm Edible Earth Layers
3:30-4:30pm Farm to Fable: Cow

23.
10:30-11:00am Family Storytime
11:00am-12:00pm Stay & Play
2:00-3:00pm Snack Ranking
3:30-4:30pm Doctor's Visits with Sandra from RRH

30.
10:30-11:00am Family Storytime
11:00am-12:00pm Stay & Play
11:30am-12:30pm BYO Lunch + Last Minute Listen to Books
1:00-2:30pm Eat the Rainbow
3:30-5:00pm Catch Up Crafts

friday



10.
10:00-10:20am Baby Bounce
10:20-11:30am Baby Play
3:30-4:30pm Book Bingo

17.
10:00-11:30am Baby Play
10:00am-12:00pm Ready Set Back 2 School Backpack Giveaway
10:30-11:30am Game Festival
1:30-3:00pm Catch Up Crafts
3:30-5:00pm Golden Meadow Goats

24.
10:00-10:20am Baby Bounce
10:20-11:30am Baby Play
1:30-3:00pm Crafternoon: Butterfly Life Cycle

31.
10:00-11:30am Baby Play
11:30am-2:00pm Live Action Animal Crossing
3:00-4:00pm Awesome Sauce with Wonderland Kitchen
4:30-5:30pm Summer Reading Finale Cool Down

saturday



11.
10:30-11:15am Omnipresent Puppet Theater

18.
9:30-10:30am Stay & Play*
11:00am-1:00pm Kids Games

25.
9:30-10:30am Stay & Play*
10:00-11:00am Catch Up Crafts
12:00-1:00pm Wind Tube Exploration

* before we open to public; staff will let you in

SUGGESTED AGES

Performance or Visitor

6 mos-3 yrs

1-7 yrs

1.5-4 yrs

2-8 yrs

3+ yrs

4+ yrs



TUE to FRI until 7/10
Served 11:30 am-12:30 pm

131 E Las Flores Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555

760.384.5870

Free for 2-18 yr olds; Adult \$5 (exact change)