

September 2026

EVENTS Early Learners 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

Unplugged Game Time (monthly)

Ages 3+ THU., SEP. 3 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Stop by to play any of our games for ages 3 and up. We have a variety of games from the classics (Jenga, Candyland, Chutes & Ladders, and chess) to newer games (Shark Bite, Kollide, and Uzzle). You can also bring a game from home.

Catch Up Crafts (monthly)

Ages 3+ SAT., SEP. 5 | 2:00-3:30 P.M.
WED., SEP. 23 | 3:30-5:30 P.M.

Stop by to work on a craft that you may have missed! We usually offer a few choices, but feel free to ask about a specific craft that you are interested in, in case we still have supplies available for that craft.

Stories and a Snack: Garden

Ages 4+ WED., SEP. 9 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Listen to some stories related to gardens or things found in gardens and then make a yummy, themed snack (which will not be gluten free or dairy free).

Crafternoon: Patriotic

Ages 3+ FRI., SEP. 11 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Stop by to work on some patriotic themed crafts. We will have a few different options to choose from.

Family Bingo (monthly)

Ages 3+ SAT., SEP. 12 | 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Bingo winners can choose a book to build a home library, a seed packet, or a small prize. We have book choices for babies through adults. NOTE: We use magnetic bingo chips which can be a potential choking hazard.



Happy Labor Day!

In observance of Labor Day, all Kern County Library branches will be closed Monday, September 7, and will return to regular hours on Tuesday, September 8.

While we're closed, you can still enjoy the library from home! Access our eLibrary anytime with your FREE Kern County Library card to browse eBooks, audiobooks, movies, music, and more.



Did You Know?

90% of a child's brain develops before they are 5 years old. This sets the foundation for health, learning, and social development. Reading to your child is an excellent way to help build neural connections during this time of rapid development.

- * Sign up your baby, toddler, preschooler, or even kindergartener! Ask staff at the Circulation Desk or go to kernlibrary.beanstack.org/reader365 to sign up. (Beanstack has a mobile app too!)
- * Get a lanyard at sign up and pins for every 100 books listened to or read.
- * You do not need to use library books AND the same book 10 times counts as 10 books!

Does 1,000 books seem overwhelming?!? It doesn't have to be!

- * 5 books a week for 4 years = 1,040 books
- * 1 book a day for 3 years = 1,095 books
- * 10 books a week for 2 years = 1,040 books
- * 3 books a day for 1 non-leap year = 1,095 books



Older children can help (and practice reading out loud and fluency) by reading to participants. Listening also counts, so books read during library programs (Toddler Time and Preschool Storytime) count!



Ridgecrest Branch Library Amazon Wish List

Scan the QR code to see our upcoming programs or branch needs. Items are shipped to Bakersfield then delivered to our branch in our weekly shipments. We truly appreciate the generous donors who have already purchased items for us!

Events for Early Learners

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted.

Homeschool Hangout (monthly)

Ages 3+ TUE., SEP. 15 | 12:30-2:00 P.M.

Families using any curriculum to homeschool can network with other homeschool families and discuss learning or related topics. Basic activities will be offered for kids to socialize while caregivers chat.

Pirate Paaaaaarty

Ages 3+ FRI., SEP. 18 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.

For International Talk Like a Pirate Day, follow the pirate treasure map in our Children's Room to collect pirate coins then trade them in for pirate booty (or keep the coins instead)! We will also have some pirate-themed games and crafts available.

Fall Leaves with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

Ages 3+ THU., SEP. 24 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Come in and learn about leaves, enjoy some books about fall leaves, and do a fall craft (marble leaf painting) with Sandra from Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.

Book Bingo (monthly)

Ages 3+ FRI., SEP. 25 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Bingo winners can choose a book to build a home library, a small prize, or 3 seed packets from our mobile Seed Library (a portion of the seeds available in our Seed Library). We have book choices for babies through adults. NOTE: We use magnetic bingo chips which can be a potential choking hazard.



Read (or Listen) Your Way to the Desert Empire Fair in October!

Ages 4-18 can participate through 4 pm on Sat 10/17/26.

Ages 4-5 can read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours for 1 entry to win an unlimited ride wristband.

Ages 6-18 can read or listen to 5 books or for 5 hours to get 1 free entry to the fair. (Ages 5 and under get free fair entry.)

Each additional 5 books or 5 hours is 1 entry to win an unlimited ride wristband. (All ages first entry at 10 books or 10 hours.)

Enter on Beanstack or bring in a paper list of books or hours.

Storytimes (Children's Room)

Baby Bounce

Ages 6 mos- 3 yrs

FRI., SEP. 11 & 25 | 10:00-10:20 A.M.

Interactive LAPSIT with rhymes, songs, and board books. Siblings can bring a stuffed animal "baby". Baby Play follows.

Preschool Storytime

Ages 3-5 yrs

THURSDAYS | 10:30-11:00 A.M.

Enjoy stories, action rhymes, and a shaker egg song to continue building early literacy skills. Stay & Play follows.

Toddler Time

Ages 1.5-4 yrs

TUE., SEP. 8 & 22 | 10:00-10:20 A.M.

Enjoy short stories, movement songs, and action rhymes that build early literacy skills. Stay & Play follows.

Family Storytime

Ages 2-8 yrs

SAT., SEP. 26 | 10:30-11:00 A.M.

Children of all ages can enjoy some stories and fun action rhymes to continue building early literacy skills.

Freeplay Fun (Children's Room)

*starts before we open to the public (library staff will let you in)

Baby Play

Ages 6 mos-3 yrs

FRI., SEP. 4 & 18 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.

FRI., SEP. 11 & 25 | 10:20-11:30 A.M.

Babies build social skills and discover baby-friendly items while caregivers socialize with each other.

Stay & Play

Ages 1-7 yrs

TUE., SEP. 1, 15, 29 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.

TUE., SEP. 8 & 22 | 10:20-11:30 A.M.

THURSDAYS | 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

SATURDAYS | 9:30*-10:30 A.M.

Kids build social skills through play while caregivers can socialize with each other.

Little Learners (Community Room)

Little Learners: Explore

Ages 1.5-5 yrs

TUE., SEP. 1 & 15 | 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Little learners focus on activities to build and strengthen fine motor skills, which can be helpful when learning to write.

Little Learners: STEAM Time

Ages 1.5-5 yrs

WED., SEP. 9 | 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Little learners will explore basic activities monthly that are related to science, technology, engineering, art, or math.

Early Learners (0-5 yrs)



SEPTEMBER 2026

RIDGECREST BRANCH LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday
CLOSED
Monday
CLOSED

Tuesday-Thursday

10 am to 7 pm

Friday

10 am to 6 pm

Saturday

10 am to 4 pm

131 E Las Flores Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760.384.5870

tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners Explore	2.	3. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 3:30-5:00 pm Unplugged Game Time	4. 10:00-11:30 am Baby Play	5. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 2:00-3:30 pm Catch Up Crafts
8. 10:00-10:20 am Toddler Time 10:20-11:30 am Stay & Play	9. 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners STEAM Time 3:30-4:30 pm Stories and a Snack: Garden	10. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play	11. 10:00-10:20 am Baby Bounce 10:20-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm Crafternoon: Patriotic	12. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Family Bingo
15. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners Explore 12:30-2:00 pm Homeschool Hangout	16.	17. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play	18. 10:00-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm Pirate Paaaaarty	19. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play
22. 10:00-10:20 am Toddler Time 10:20-11:30 am Stay & Play	23. 3:30-4:30 pm Catch Up Crafts	24. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 3:30-4:30 pm Fall Leaves with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital	25. 10:00-10:20 am Baby Bounce 10:20-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm Book Bingo	26. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:00 am Family Storytime
29. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play	30.	SUGGESTED AGES: 6 mos-3 yrs 2-8 yrs 1-7 yrs 3-5 yrs 1.5-4 yrs 3+ yrs 1.5-5 yrs 4+ yrs		