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!

December 2026

Early Learners and Kids EVENTS GUIDE

Ridgecrest Branch Library



KERN COUNTY LIBRARY

Events for Early Learners & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Pokémon Learn & Play with Fistful of Cards (monthly)

Ages 6+ TUE., DEC. 1 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Bring your 60-card deck or use a loaner deck. A volunteer from Fistful of Cards will be available to teach people how to play. Trade Pokémon cards at your risk, as we will not monitor trading.

Layer by Layer Painting: Flowers

Ages 10+ TUE., DEC. 1 | 5:30-6:30 P.M.

Our friend Will returns with another GUIDED (but not a step-by-step follow-along) layer-by-layer painting project. This painting will be flower themed. Please be on time so that you can stay with the group, complete your painting, and get cleaned up before the library closes.

Homeschool Hangout (monthly)

Ages 3+ WED., DEC. 2 | 2:00-3:30 P.M.
TUE., DEC. 15 | 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 and resources. There will be basic activities for kids to do to socialize while the caregivers can chat with each other.

Reading Dragons Party

Ages 6+ WED., DEC. 2 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Sign up for our fall/winter Reading Dragons challenge! We have a NEW set of cards that are different from the summer cards. We will have dragon themed games, crafts, and goodie bags available for participants (as supply lasts).

Expressive Art with River Sage Revival

Ages 3+ WEDNESDAYS | 5:00-6:00 P.M.

Join a facilitator from River Sage Revival for an art related session. December will focus on drawing and there will be no formal instruction, just time to draw and chat. Please note the NEW TIME moving forward.

Did You Know?

1000 BOOKS before KINDERGARTEN

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 & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Catch Up Crafts

Ages 3+ TUE., DEC. 22 | 12:00-3:00 P.M.

Stop by to work on a variety of previous crafts that you may have missed that we have extra supplies for (as supply lasts). Feel free to request a specific previous craft that you missed, in case we have leftover supplies available for it too!

Unplugged Game Time with Warm Drinks

Ages 3+ WED., DEC. 23 | 1:00-4:30 P.M.

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

BRANCH CLOSURE NOTICE



We will be CLOSED for the winter break from Thursday, December 24 through Monday, January 4, 2027.

We will reopen for our regular hours on Tuesday, January 5, 2027.



Reading Dragons is back with 8 more family cards to collect this fall and winter (different cards from the summer). This time, ages 6+ can read or listen to hours OR books to participate. Sign up at the Circulation Desk and get started today!

Events for Early Learners & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Digital Library Available 24/7

Your library card gives you FREE access to these platforms. More info at kerncountylibrary.org/elibrary/

***Palace Project:** app for shared digital library; includes Kern's Libby and access to Palace Project specific titles. Overdrive or CloudLibrary titles on Palace can be downloaded in respective app. Libby allows transfer (read with) to ereader, but MUST use Adobe Digital Editions to open and transfer.

***Libby:** eBooks and eAudiobooks; may have to wait for your turn

***Kanopy:** films, documentaries, Great Courses, TV shows plus kids books and shows; NO wait, REQUIRES internet (no download)

***CloudLibrary:** eBooks; may have to wait for your turn

***OpenLibrary:** eBook, eAudiobooks; NO wait

What falls in winter but never gets hurt?

Snow

Why was the snowman looking through a bag of carrots?

He was picking his nose!



Events for Early Learners & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Family Bingo

Ages 3+ SAT., DEC. 5 | 12:00-1:00 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. We have 3 rounds of regular bingo on the same card, followed by blackout. NOTE: We use magnetic bingo chips which can be a potential choking hazard.

Quick STEM Challenge: Silent Bell (in the Makerspace)

Ages 4+ TUE., DEC. 8 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

The Quick STEM Challenge for the month is the Silent Bell Challenge. We will offer a variety of materials to choose from to see if you will be able to silence a jingle bell.

Beyond the Book

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

Today we are celebrating SNOW! We will feature stories about snow before doing a snow-themed craft. NOTE: Stories and a Snack alternates every other month with Beyond the Book. Beyond the Book features stories and a themed activity like a craft or game while Stories and a Snack features stories with a themed snack.



BRANCH CLOSURE NOTICE:

We will be CLOSED on Friday, December 4 for our annual Staff In-Service Day in Bakersfield.

We will reopen with our regular hours on Saturday, December 5.

Events for Early Learners & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Posadas Piñata Making

Ages 6+ TUE., DEC. 15 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Using classic paper-and-paste construction, participants will design and build their own custom winter-themed piñata, connecting global history with festive, hands-on creativity. Due to drying time needed, participants will return on Fri 12/18 to decorate their piñata (or can take it home to use their own supplies to decorate).

ChompSaw Academy

Ages 6+ WED., DEC. 16 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.
TUE., DEC 22 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Learn how to use the kid friendly ChompSaw cardboard cutting tool. We will go over basic or advanced skills, depending on the level of the attendees and will also include a cardboard based project. This month's project is making gingerbread people.

Ornament Making with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

Ages 3+ THU., DEC. 17 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Join us to create holiday ornaments with Sandra from Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.

Posadas Piñata Decorating

Ages 6+ FRI., DEC. 18 | 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Using crepe paper and tissue paper, participants will express their creativity by designing and decorating their personal piñata made on Tue 12/15. We will have a limited quantity of extra piñata available for FAMILIES to decorate together, if they did not attend the 12/15 program to make their own, as supply lasts.

Puzzle Exchange

Ages 6+ SAT., DEC. 19 | 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Do you like working on puzzles, but you've already done all the ones you have? Bring your completed puzzles to exchange with other puzzlers for some new-to-you puzzles. Please make sure puzzles are complete OR note that on the box. From 12:30 pm, anyone will be able to choose a puzzle.

Events for Early Learners & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted.

Cub Club Service Project: Winter Centerpiece Making

Ages 3+ | THU., DEC. 10 | 4:00-5:00 P.M.

Join the Ridgecrest Lions Club's Cub Club members in making a service project for our local community. This month's project is making winter centerpieces (paper chains and/or no-sew sock snowmen) for the local Senior Center.

Book Bingo

Ages 3+ | FRI., DEC. 11 | 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. We have 3 rounds of regular bingo on the same card, followed by blackout. NOTE: We use magnetic bingo chips which can be a potential choking hazard.

LEGO Challenge

Ages 6+ | SAT., DEC. 12 | 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
WED., DEC. 23 | 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

LEGO enthusiasts are invited to stop by to try to complete the LEGO Challenge for the day or you can also build anything you want instead.
12/12: Winter 12/23: Bridge

ChompSaw Appointments



Did you know that we offer ChompSaw appointments? Sign up for an appointment to explore and create with the ChompSaw in our Community Room!
Limited appointments available. One (1) appointment per family per day. User must provide cardboard. Users age 10 and under must have adult supervision.

Storytimes (Children's Room)

Baby Bounce

Ages 6 mos- 3 yrs

FRI., DEC. 18 | 10:00-10:20 A.M.

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

Toddler Time

Ages 1.5-4 yrs

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

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

Family Storytime

Ages 2-8 yrs

SAT., DEC. 5 | 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., DEC. 11 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.
FRI., DEC. 18 | 10:20-11:30 A.M.

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

Stay & Play

Ages 1-7 yrs

TUE., DEC. 1 & 15 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.
TUE., DEC. 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., DEC. 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., DEC. 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) Kids (6-12 yrs)

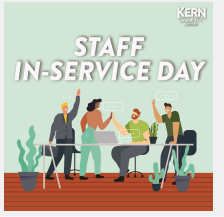
DECEMBER 2026

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

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

tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners Explore: Pom Poms & Tweezers 3:30-4:30 pm Pokémon Learn & Play with Fistful of Cards 5:30-6:30 pm Layer by Layer Painting: Flowers	2. 2:00-3:30 pm Homeschool Hangout 3:30-4:30 pm Reading Dragons Party 5:00-6:00 Expressive Art with River Sage Revival	3. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play	4. 	5. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:00 am Family Storytime (2-8 yrs) 12:00-1:00 pm Family Bingo
8. 10:00-10:20 am Toddler Time (1.5-4 yrs) 10:20-11:30 am Stay & Play 3:30-4:30 pm Quick STEM Challenge: Silent Bell (in the Makerspace)	9. 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners: STEAM Time 3:30-4:30 pm Beyond the Book: Snow 5:00-6:00 Expressive Art with River Sage Revival	10. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 4:00-5:00 pm Cub Club Service Project: Winter Centerpiece	11. 10:00-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm Book Bingo	12. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 11:30 am-1:00 pm LEGO Challenge: Winter
15. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners Explore: Torn Paper Snowflakes 12:30-2:00 pm Homeschool Hangout 3:30-4:30 pm Posadas Piñata Making	16. 3:30-4:30 pm ChompSaw Academy 5:00-6:00 Expressive Art with River Sage Revival	17. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 3:30-4:30 pm Ornament Making with RRH	18. 10:00-10:20 am Baby Bounce 10:20-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-5:00 pm Posadas Piñata Decorating	19. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 11:30am-1:00 pm Puzzle Exchange
22. 10:00-10:20 am Toddler Time (1.5-4 yrs) 10:20-11:30 am Stay & Play 12:00-3:00 pm Catch Up Crafts 3:30-4:30 ChompSaw Academy	23. 10:30 am-12:30 pm LEGO Challenge: Bridge 1:00-4:30 pm Unplugged Game Time with Warm Drinks 5:00-6:00 Expressive Art with River Sage Revival	24. 	25. 	26. 
29. 	30. 	31. 		

SUGGESTED AGES:

Storytime (ages)	6 mos-3 yrs
1-7 yrs	1.5-5 yrs
3+ yrs	4+ yrs
6+ yrs	8+ yrs