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!

November 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

= One Book Project Program: A countywide reading and discussion project that fosters empathy, promotes awareness, and strengthens the fabric of our community.

= in celebration of DiNovember, attend this program to get a dinosaur themed item (as supply lasts). NOTE: Program may not be dinosaur-themed.

Pokemon Learn & Play with Fistful of Cards (monthly)

Ages 6+ TUE., NOV. 3 | 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 Pokemon cards at your risk, as we will not monitor trading.

Homeschool Hangout (monthly)

Ages 3+ WED., NOV. 4 | 2:00-3:30 P.M.
TUE., NOV. 17 | 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., NOV. 4 | 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 | 5:30-6:30 P.M.

Join a facilitator from River Sage Revival for an art related session. November will focus on drawing and there will be no formal instruction, just time to draw and chat.

ChompSaw Academy

Ages 6+ FRI., NOV. 6 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.
TUE., NOV. 24 | 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.

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 & Kids

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Crafternoon: Fall and Dinosaurs

Ages 3+ TUE., NOV. 24 | 12:00-3:00 P.M.

During this Thanksgiving week, when the kids are out of school, stop by to work on a variety of crafts. Choose from some fall crafts and some dinosaur themed crafts for DiNovember.

Unplugged Game Time

Ages 3+ WED., NOV. 25 | 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

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

Catch Up Crafts

Ages 3+ WED., NOV. 25 | 12:30-2:30 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!



All Kern County Library branches will be CLOSED from Thursday, November 26 through Saturday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving and will re-open for regular operating hours on Tuesday, December 1.



Reading Dragons is back with 8 more family cards to collect this fall and winter (different cards from the summer). Ages 6+ can read or listen to books OR hours this time 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 is a scarecrow's favorite fruit?

Strawberries

What is a tree's least favorite month?

Sep-timber

Events for Early Learners & Kids

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Family Bingo

Ages 3+ SAT., NOV. 7 | 10:30-11:30 A.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.

Chess Learn & Play

Ages 8+ SAT., NOV. 7 | 12:00-2:00 P.M.

Stop by if you want to play chess or learn how to play chess. We will have a volunteer available to play or teach along with additional chess boards set up for others to play while they wait.

Quick STEM Challenge (in the Makerspace)



Ages 6+ TUE., NOV. 10 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

The Quick STEM Challenge for the month is to create a freestanding dinosaur skeleton using marshmallows and toothpicks in our Makerspace area. Will you be able to construct a dinosaur that stands by itself?



All Kern County Library branches will be CLOSED on Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day and will re-open for regular operating hours on Thursday, November 12.

Cub Club Service Project: Thanksgiving Cards for Seniors

Ages 3+ THU., NOV. 12 | 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 Thanksgiving cards and pictures for local senior assisted living facilities.

Events for Early Learners & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted

Harvest Foods with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital

Ages 3+ TUE., NOV. 17 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Join us to learn a little bit about farming and harvest foods with Sandra from Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. There will also be a little food tasting of some fruits and vegetables.

Layer by Layer Painting: Outer Space

Ages 10+ TUE., NOV. 17 | 5:30-6:30 P.M.

Our friend Will returns with another GUIDED layer by layer painting project. This painting will be outer space themed and we have lowered the minimum participating age. **Please be on time** so that you can stay with the group and complete your painting and get cleaned up before the library closes.

Stories and a Snack: Turkey Cupcake

Ages 4+ WED., NOV. 18 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

In this session, kids will listen to a related story before decorating a cupcake to look like a turkey. NOTE: Stories and a Snack alternates every other month with Beyond the Book, featuring stories and related activities.

Learn About Feelings



Ages 3+ THU., NOV. 19 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.

Children will learn about feelings with a story for kids and through doing some related socio emotional activities to help kids explore their feelings.

LEGO Challenge



Ages 6+ FRI., NOV. 20 | 3:30-4:30 P.M.
WED., NOV. 25 | 3:00-5:00 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.
11/20: Food; 11/25: Vehicle

Events for Early Learners & Kids

All events happen in the Community Room unless noted.

Book Bingo

Ages 3+ FRI., NOV. 13 | 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.

Conversation Detectives: Hear the Clues, State Your Views

Ages 6+ SAT., NOV. 14 | 12:00-1:30 P.M.

Kids, teens, and adults work together as Conversation Detectives. Instead of fingerprints and footprints, they search for conversational “clues” by listening carefully, asking good questions, noticing details, and discovering things about others through the art of conversation with Ridgecrest Possibilitarians Toastmasters group.

Lotus Flower Lantern Making with Meditation

Ages 8+ SAT., NOV. 14 | 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Learn about the significance of the lotus flower and make a lotus flower lantern. Experience a guided mindfulness meditation, do personal reflection, and explore the concept of Searching for the MindLight with Oneness Meditation Temple.



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., NOV. 13 | 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., NOV. 10 & 24 | 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., NOV. 14 | 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., NOV. 6 & 20 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.
FRI., NOV. 13 | 10:20-11:30 A.M.

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

Stay & Play

Ages 1-7 yrs

TUE., NOV. 3 & 17 | 10:00-11:30 A.M.
TUE., NOV. 10 & 24 | 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., NOV. 3 & 17 | 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., NOV. 18 | 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)

NOVEMBER 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

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

131 E Las Flores Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760.384.5870

tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
3. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners Explore: Water Transfer 3:30-4:30 pm Pokemon Learn & Play with Fistful of Cards	4. 2:00-3:30 pm Homeschool Hangout 3:30-4:30 pm Reading Dragons Party 5:30-6:30 Expressive Art with River Sage Revival	5. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play	6. 10:00-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm ChompSaw Academy	7. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Family Bingo 12:00-2:00 pm Chess Learn & Play
10. 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 (makerspace)	11. 	12. 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 Project: Thanksgiving Cards	13. 10:00-10:20 am Baby Bounce 10:20-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm Book Bingo	14. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:00 am Family Storytime (2-8 yrs) 3:30-4:30 pm Conversation Detectives 2:00-4:00 pm Lotus Flower Lantern Making
17. 10:00-11:30 am Stay & Play 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners Explore: Pipe Cleaners & Straws 12:30-2:00 pm Homeschool Hangout 3:30-4:30 pm Harvest Foods with Ridgecrest Regional Hospital 5:30-6:30 Layer by Layer Painting: Outer Space	18. 10:30-11:30 am Little Learners STEAM Time 3:30-4:30 pm Stories and a Snack: Turkey Cupcake 5:30-6:30 Expressive Art with River Sage Revival	19. 10:30-11:00 am Preschool Storytime (3-5 yrs) 11:00 am-12:00 pm Stay & Play 3:30-4:30 pm Learn About Feelings	20. 10:00-11:30 am Baby Play 3:30-4:30 pm LEGO Challenge: Food	21. 9:30*-10:30 am Stay & Play
24. 10:00-10:20 am Toddler Time (1.5-4 yrs) 10:20-11:30 am Stay & Play 12:30-3:00 pm Crafternoon: Fall & Dinosaurs 3:30-4:30 ChompSaw Academy	25. 10:00 am-12:00 pm Unplugged Game Time 12:30-2:30 pm Catch Up Crafts 3:00-5:00 pm LEGO Challenge: Vehicle 5:30-6:30 Expressive Art with River Sage Revival	26. 	27. 	28. 

SUGGESTED AGES: Storytime (ages)

6 mos-3 yrs | 1-7 yrs | 1.5-5 yrs | 3+ yrs | 4+ yrs | 6+ yrs | 8+ yrs | 10+ yrs