

The Winners of the 2012 Calgary's Child Magazine's Parents' Choice Awards



Who has the best ice cream? Which theatre company is the most fun? Where can you find the best kids' clothes? We asked... and you answered... these and more than 50 other family-friendly questions. Developed to recognize quality family retailers and service providers in our community, this year's Parents' Choice Awards is our 16th annual. Ballots were distributed in the November-December-2011 issue of Calgary's Child Magazine and more than 150,000 readers were invited to vote for their family favorites in over 50 categories. The response was phenomenal. Thank you to everyone who voted and sent us such wonderful feedback.

ACTIVITIES

Best Tourist/Family Attraction

1st Calgary Zoo
Honourable Mention Calaway Park
Honourable Mention Heritage Park Historical Village

Best Calgary Sports Team

1st Calgary Flames
Honourable Mention Calgary Hitmen
Honourable Mention Calgary Stampeders

Best Festival

1st Calgary International Children's Festival
Honourable Mention 4th Street Lilac Festival
Honourable Mention Calgary Stampede

Best Halloween Event

1st Calgary Zoo (Boo at the Zoo)
Honourable Mention Heritage Park Historical Village (Ghouls Night Out)
Honourable Mention Butterfield Acres Farm (Harvest Pumpkin Hunts)

Best Christmas Event

1st Calgary Zoo (Zoolights)
Honourable Mention Heritage Park Historical Village (Once Upon a Christmas)
Honourable Mention Airdrie Festival of Lights

Best Preschooler Programs

1st The City of Calgary Recreation
Honourable Mention Gymboree Play & Music
Honourable Mention Brilliant Beginnings

Best Programs for School Age Children

1st The City of Calgary Recreation
Honourable Mention YMCA
Honourable Mention WinSport Canada (COP)

Best Teen Programs

1st The City of Calgary Recreation
Honourable Mention YMCA
Honourable Mention WinSport Canada (COP)

Best Children's Day Camp

1st The City of Calgary Recreation
Honourable Mention YMCA
Honourable Mention WinSport Canada (COP)

Best Children's Residential Camp

1st YMCA – Camp Chief Hector
Honourable Mention Camp Chestermere
Honourable Mention Kamp Kiwanis

Best Family Ski Area in Alberta

1st WinSport Canada (COP)
Honourable Mention Nakiska
Honourable Mention Lake Louise

Best Swimming Pool

1st Southland Leisure Centre
Honourable Mention Village Square Leisure Centre
Honourable Mention Cardel Place

Best Family Fitness Facility

1st Cardel Place
Honourable Mention Southland Leisure Centre
Honourable Mention Westside Recreation Centre

Best Live Theatre Company

1st StoryBook Theatre
Honourable Mention Loose Moose Theatre Company
Honourable Mention Stage West for Kids

Best Movie Theatre

1st Scotiabank Theatre Chinook Cineplex
Honourable Mention Canyon Meadows Cinemas
Honourable Mention SilverCity CrossIron Mills Cinemas

Best Museum

1st Glenbow Museum
Honourable Mention TELUS Spark The New Science Centre
Honourable Mention Royal Tyrrell Museum

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Best Place to Have a Children's Party

1st Shakers Fun Centre
Honourable Mention Stir Crazy Family Fun Centre
Honourable Mention Coffee & S'cream

Best Entertainment for a Children's Party

1st Mad Science
Honourable Mention Terrrrific Face Painting
Honourable Mention Calgary Reptile Parties

Best Birthday Cakes

1st Calgary Co-op
Honourable Mention Dairy Queen
Honourable Mention Cakeworks

Best Party Supply Store

1st Dollarama
Honourable Mention Canuck Amusements & Merchandising Ltd.
Honourable Mention Dollar Store

2012 Parents' Choice Award Winners – cont'd next page

Calgary's Child
We Are Family

FOOD & GROCERY

Best Grocery Store

1st The Real Canadian Superstore
Honourable Mention Safeway
Honourable Mention Calgary Co-op

Best Ice Cream Store

1st Marble Slab Creamery
Honourable Mention Dairy Queen
Honourable Mention My Favorite Ice Cream Shoppe

Best Natural Foods Store

1st Community Natural Foods
Honourable Mention Planet Organic Market
Honourable Mention Amaranth Whole Foods Market

Best Fast Food

1st McDonald's
Honourable Mention Wendy's Restaurants of Canada
Honourable Mention SUBWAY

Best Drive-Thru

1st Peters' Drive-In
Honourable Mention McDonald's
Honourable Mention Tim Hortons

Best Pizza

1st Boston Pizza
Honourable Mention Panago Pizza
Honourable Mention Pizza Hut

Best Children's Menu

1st Boston Pizza
Honourable Mention Montana's Cookhouse
Honourable Mention Denny's

Best Restaurant for Parent's Night Out

1st The Keg Steakhouse & Bar
Honourable Mention Redwater Rustic Grille
Honourable Mention Joey Tomato's

TRAVEL

Best Travel Agency

1st Alberta Motor Association (AMA) Travel
Honourable Mention Calgary Co-op Travel
Honourable Mention Flight Centre

Best Hotel/Motel

1st Douglas Fir Resort and Chalets
Honourable Mention Sheraton Suites Eau Claire
Honourable Mention Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

HEALTH SERVICES

Best Pharmacy

1st Shoppers Drug Mart
Honourable Mention Safeway
Honourable Mention The Real Canadian Superstore

SUPPORT & EDUCATION

Best Preschool

1st Edelweiss Preparatory School
Honourable Mention Kinderhouse Preschool
Honourable Mention Campus Pre-school

Best Tutor

1st Sylvan Learning Centres
Honourable Mention Kumon
Honourable Mention Oxford Learning

Best Playgroup

1st Gymboree Play & Music
Honourable Mention Brilliant Beginnings
Honourable Mention PACT

Best Parent Support Group

1st PACT
Honourable Mention Parent Link Centre
Honourable Mention Alberta Health Services Perinatal Education

Best Child Care Facility

1st Kids & Company
Honourable Mention Joso's Play and Learn Centre
Honourable Mention YMCA

Best Blog

1st Dinner With Julie
Honourable Mention No Clear Winner
Honourable Mention No Clear Winner

SHOPPING

Best Children's Clothing Store

1st The Children's Place
Honourable Mention Old Navy
Honourable Mention GAP

Best Place for Maternity Wear

1st Thyme Maternity
Honourable Mention Motherhood Maternity
Honourable Mention Posh Mommy

Best Place for Baby Supplies

1st Walmart
Honourable Mention Babies "R" Us
Honourable Mention The Real Canadian Superstore

Best Second Hand Clothing Store

1st Once Upon a Child – South
1st Once Upon a Child – North
Honourable Mention HuckleBerry Kids
Honourable Mention Value Village

Best Local Family Gear

1st bo bébé
Honourable Mention Kacz' Kids
Honourable Mention E-Children

Best Children's Furniture Store

1st IKEA
Honourable Mention E-Children
Honourable Mention Kacz' Kids

Best Children's Bookstore

1st Chapters/Indigo
Honourable Mention Monkeyshines Children's Books
Honourable Mention Fair's Fair

Best Place for Children's Haircuts

1st Beaners Fun Cuts for Kids
Honourable Mention Melonhead Children's Hair Care
Honourable Mention First Choice Haircutters

Best Shopping Mall for Families

1st Market Mall
Honourable Mention CrossIron Mills
Honourable Mention Southcentre Mall

Best Place to Buy School Supplies

1st Walmart
Honourable Mention Staples
Honourable Mention The Real Canadian Superstore

Best Family Photographer

1st Sears Photography
Honourable Mention kidsphoto Canada
Honourable Mention Walmart

Best Pet Shop

1st Petland
Honourable Mention PetSmart
Honourable Mention Pisces Pet Emporium

Best Shoe Store

1st Payless ShoeSource
Honourable Mention The Shoe Company
Honourable Mention Browns Shoes

Best Sporting Goods Store

1st SportChek
Honourable Mention Mountain Equipment Co-op
Honourable Mention Bass Pro Shops

Best Toy Store

1st Toys "R" Us
Honourable Mention Gracie & Gruff Fine Toys
Honourable Mention Castle Toys

Best Children's Gift Store

1st Toys "R" Us
Honourable Mention Gracie & Gruff Fine Toys
Honourable Mention Chapters/Indigo

**BEST PLACE TO TAKE YOUR KIDS
ON A CRUMMY DAY**

1st Shakers Fun Centre
Honourable Mention Stir Crazy Family Fun Centre
Honourable Mention (Tie) Coffee & S'cream
Honourable Mention (Tie) TELUS Spark The New Science Centre

PUBLISHER'S AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Publisher's Award of Distinction Calgary Public Library
Publisher's Award of Distinction.. Hull Child and Family Services