

2018 Golden Teddy Awards — Shopping + Services

This year's winners and finalists



Shopping + Services



All you need

Every year, ParentMap readers vote on their favorite Seattle-area resources, camps, classes, shops, grub, play spots, groups and professionals in ParentMap's annual [Golden Teddy Awards](#). Read on for the winners and finalists in the Shopping + Services category.

From safety equipment to toys and clothes, kids need a lot of stuff. Thankfully, these reader-sourced recommendations for the best stores and services take the pain out of shopping. Read on for the places that offer quality customer service and great selection to help parents find what they need when they need it. — Gemma Alexander

Shopping + Services categories include:

- Cool Kids' Clothing Shop
- Essential Baby or Maternity Shop
- Awesome Book or Toy Shop
- Super Kids' Salon
- Fabulous Furniture Shop for Kids
- Favorite Family Photographer



Cool Kids' Clothing Shop

Winner: Kids on 45th

When it comes to kids' clothes, readers tell us that consignment is the way to go. This year's winner, [Kids on 45th](#), adds a new twist on secondhand attire. Yes, you can browse the store in Wallingford (you guessed it, on 45th) and you can shop online. But you can also subscribe for seasonal wardrobe updates through a customizable subscription box for each kid. You choose the types of items you'd like in each shipment and update your child's sizes each quarter. It's like Christmas morning four times a year.

Finalists

Bellevue readers love [Hopscotch Consignment Boutique](#), which sells seasonal, stylish children's clothes for ages newborn-10. As one happy shopper said, "Love love love this place!! ... This is definitely my go to consignment store in the Eastside." You can preview and even buy some of the best items online, but visit the Bellevue Plaza store to see the full inventory.

There's no disputing the consensus among readers that the thrice-yearly [Jack & Jill Consignment Sale](#) is "the best sale of its kind" in the area. The sale, held at the Lynnwood Convention Center, features stylish baby and kids' clothing, gear, furnishings and more. The next event is Sept. 28-30.

[Rhea Lana's Consignment Event](#) is a locally owned and operated franchise that's the highlight of many a savvy shopper's year. Sign up for its e-news to be notified when the next event near you is scheduled.

Issaquah's consignment store [Small Threads for Kids](#) emphasizes quality and timeless style in the seasonally appropriate children's clothing it sells. Loyal customers praise the bargain prices and the cheerful, we're-all-family-here atmosphere. "You can find some really nice, high-end clothes and other quality items there for kids without spending a fortune," says one shopper, explaining why consigners choose store credit over cash payments.



Essential Baby or Maternity Shop

Winner: Village Maternity

Since 1983, [Village Maternity](#) has been independently owned and operated in Seattle, with a second generation joining the well-loved University District shop in 2012. Village Maternity's carefully curated selection helps mothers-to-be look and feel their best in clothing that is as fashion-forward as maternity wear gets. Jellycat stuffed animals and clothes that are as soft and comfy as they are cute delight babies. The shop doesn't neglect practicalities, though; staff are trained to help customers find the best-fitting nursing bras, and the store carries a wide selection of pump parts.

Finalists

Tacoma's [Channing Baby & Co.](#) is the newest addition to the region's high-end baby boutiques. The owners of this fresh, tightly curated shop are parents of toddlers themselves, and they refuse to compromise on either form or function. Everything in their parent-friendly shop is as stylish as it is practical.

Also a finalist for Cool Kids' Clothing Shop, [Hopscotch Consignment Boutique](#) in Bellevue is a favorite for maternity wear and baby supplies. Shoppers love the stylish, current-season maternity clothes and baby gear, which includes strollers, high chairs, backpacks, swings, pack-and-plays, baby seats and toys. Select items are available online, but the store in Bellevue Plaza has a much wider selection.

Another Cool Kids' Clothing finalist that also hits the mark in this category is the thrice-yearly [Jack & Jill Consignment](#) Sale at the Lynnwood Convention Center. It doesn't sell maternity wear, but its baby clothes, toys, diaper bags, feeding supplies, strollers, car seats and other baby gear are too good to pass up. The next event is Sept. 28-30.

South Sound families love [Rhea Lana's Consignment Event](#), voting it a finalist for both kids' clothes and maternity and baby gear. It takes a little planning to attend, so sign up for its e-news to be notified when an event near you is scheduled.



Awesome Book or Toy Shop

Winner: Top Ten Toys

You won't find the latest name-brand, must-have toy of the season at [Top Ten Toys](#). Something else you won't find? Toy guns. Commercialism and violence are replaced by old-fashioned delights, such as puppets and train sets, at this longtime favorite and multiyear Golden Teddy winner. Kids and parents love the store's broad selection of thoughtfully curated toys and books that promote learning and creativity. This local establishment also offers playtimes and story times, a free create-your-own-gift-wrap area, toddler play area and a friendly staff with a mission to "keep healthy play alive."

Finalists

With locations in Kenmore and Redmond, [Snapdoodle Toys](#) is as beloved by parents as by kids. Besides offering a chance to explore educational and imaginative toys, Snapdoodle gives families around the Sound "Crafternoons" and drop-in art classes. And don't worry about becoming parched while exploring; Snapdoodle offers a complimentary latte or cup of tea to shoppers, along with free gift wrapping.

When it comes to books, [The Elliott Bay Book Company](#), on Seattle's Capitol Hill, is hard to beat. Kids might not care about the daily readings and author events, but they will love the children's book section, which is larger than some bookstores and anchored by a castle worthy of childhood fantasy. Teens will appreciate the Elliott Bay Underground, the bookstore's convention-breaking, teen-led young adult book group.

[Third Place Books](#) was founded in 1998 in Lake Forest Park with the intention to create a community around books and the ideas inside them. Twenty years later, the community has grown to include locations in Ravenna and Seward Park. In each location, Third Place has achieved its goal, offering a fun, comfortable and safe place for people of all ages to browse, relax, read, eat, laugh, play and talk.

Featuring a variety of unique educational toys for all ages, [White Horse Toys](#), in Issaquah, is touted for its quirky charm and knowledgeable staff. "The space is really well-organized, which I think is important because toy stores can be really overwhelming," says one reviewer. That's especially true when you have more than 17,000 toys in a 3,000-square-foot space.



Super Kids' Salon

Winner: Kids Club and Salon

Haircuts and wiggly children – what could possibly go wrong? [Kids Club](#), in Seattle's University Village, turns a potential catastrophe into a pleasant experience. Sharing space with Kids Club's toy and clothing store, the salon features car-shaped chairs and jungle-themed murals. "The staff is friendly and patient!" says one reviewer. "They also offer toys and treats to the kids – and a balloon when we're done!" Whether the challenge is your child's hair type or their temperament, the salon at Kids Club can get you both through the process tear-free. Its \$34 half-hour hair tutorials are priceless for many families.

Finalists

"My kids won't get their hair cut anywhere else," says one mom about [Sharkey's Cuts for Kids](#), which has locations in both Bellevue Square and Seattle's Ballard Blocks. Besides the usual car-shaped seats, it has added Xbox stations, a Tween Lounge and spa parties to the mix of amenities. Discounts for cash payments, military families and parents who get their hair cut with their kids sweeten the deal even more than the free balloon and lollipop included with each haircut.

The "we're ready when you are" walk-ins-only approach of [Snip-its](#) kids' salon in Bellevue is welcomed by any parent who has had to deal with a last-minute change of plans brought on by a child's sudden stomach bug or a meltdown. The kid-focused approach is equally in evidence once you arrive: Kids get a welcome video, video games and when they're all done, a prize. In addition to haircuts, services include ear piercing and lice prevention. Snip-its stylists also receive special training to meet the needs of children with autism in conjunction with Autism Speaks – need we say more?

[Frances Grace Salon](#), in Mill Creek, is a full-service salon with a dedicated kids' room, where kids younger than 10 can enjoy toys, games, videos and a mechanical elephant ride. Two of the salon's stylists specialize in handling kids who have a hard time with haircuts. One happy reviewer says, "Our kids used to hate going to the barber. Now they all want to go first."

It's the one place nobody likes to go to, but that everybody is grateful for. [Lice Knowing You](#), with multiple locations around the area, won't give you or your kid a stylish new 'do. But when that red "lice" letter comes home with your child from school, the salon's \$15 Wet Head Lice Check will give you peace of mind that you're lice-free. And if you aren't, its staff will get rid of the lice for you (\$100/hour, billed in 15-minute increments) with a 30-day guarantee. Families appreciate Lice Knowing You's no-nonsense, nonjudgmental approach and the education (including tips for avoiding future problems) that comes with the service.



Fabulous Furniture Shop for Kids

Winner: IKEA

The circumstances of college life – constant change and tight budgets – apply equally to kids' rooms. So, it's no wonder that parents return to their first furniture store when shopping for their kids. [IKEA](#) furniture looks good, costs little and lends itself to creative adaptation as kids' interests and abilities change. Now that delivery starts as low as \$29, you don't even have to drag the littles through the store's labyrinthine aisles to get the goods anymore. But if you do visit the Renton store, there's still the prospect of Swedish meatballs and Daim candy bars to keep kids moving forward.

Finalists

In past years, readers praised the good design and high quality of the classic, vaguely nostalgic, yet practical Land of Nod furniture collections. Now Nod has been folded into the Crate&Barrel brand as [Crate&kids](#). Families seem to agree that the company has achieved its goal of combining "Crate&Barrel's modern, elevated style with the heart, lively spirit and energy kids are made of." A bonus? The new line seems to hit a somewhat lower price point.

It's natural for new parents to turn to their favorite grown-up furniture store for their kids' rooms, especially when the offerings are as charming as those from [Pottery Barn Kids](#). Pottery Barn Kids has the same clean, relaxed style as its grown-up counterpart. Personalization through monogramming and upholstery options are especially appreciated in spaces as intimate as the nursery. Its West Elm collaboration collection is a playful variation on the mid-century modern style.

It may have started out as a waterbed store in 1972, but our savvy readers know that the family-owned [Bedrooms & More](#) on 45th St. in Wallingford is the place to go for bedroom furniture today. From organic crib mattresses to solid wood bunk beds, you'll find what you need for your kid's room. A small children's play area with books and toys under the staircase will keep kids occupied while you're looking.

[The Old Cannery Furniture Warehouse](#) in Sumner may be off the beaten path, but it's worth the drive just for the unique shopping experience, even if you don't need new furniture. A hobbit-style fudge factory in an ancient tree and suspended G scale trains traveling through the showrooms are sure to please the kids, while parents appreciate interest-free financing, classic styles and down-to-earth prices.



Favorite Family Photographer

Winner: Hardie Photography

Seattle-based artist [Whitney Hardie](#) specializes in the unique service of birth photography. Inviting someone into your birthing space is a big decision, and incredibly personal. Hardie remains on call for her clients and stays with them from labor through the first hour or two of the baby's life, quietly capturing the moments of strength and emotion that are a part of every unique labor. In a few weeks, the new family receives about 120 photos and a 20-page photo book.

Finalists

Forget the department store photography studio; Puget Sound-area families want truly memorable portraits. That's why you voted [Kiley Riffell Photography](#), run by a photojournalist whose work has been used by BBC Nature, NPR and "Science" magazine, among your favorite family photographers. One mom says, "Kiley is so talented and fun to be around. She managed to really capture my children's personalities through the pictures." Book early – especially for those time-sensitive maternity photos – to guarantee an appointment with this popular photographer.

With more than 20 years of both child-care and photography experience, [Lydia Brewer Photography](#), the "punk rock Mary Poppins," captures unforgettable moments and true character. One happy customer said, "Somehow, with the camera lens, you strip away pretense and catch the raw emotion ... you captured a secret, beautiful peek at who we are together."

Poulsbo-based [Whitney Coudray Photography](#) specializes in family adventure and lifestyle sessions on the Olympic Peninsula. Instead of stiff poses and studio lighting, Coudray uses natural light and outdoor settings to capture the unique flavor of family life in the Pacific Northwest.

All family photographers need to be good with kids, but Anne Young of [Young Reflections Photography](#) has the special gift of connecting with kids with autism, putting them at ease and catching their smiles and glances at the camera in images that capture the beautiful spirits their parents know. Young is based in Kirkland and the Methow Valley, where she offers both full and mini sessions.