

Readers' Choice Best of 2011



Best Toy Store: Geppetto's

For three decades, Geppetto's has sparked imaginations and creativity with classic toys, from darling dolls to smart science kits, board games to bikes. The family-owned, countywide chain — eight stores in total — truly is “a child's fantasy.” (www.geppettostoy.com)

Best Domestic Staffing Company: Seaside Nannies

A repeat readers' favorite, this full-service referral agency strives to find the perfect Mary Poppins for your pipsqueaks, meeting with families at their homes to figure out individualized nanny needs. Seaside Nannies exceeds all state and local standards and regulations. (619/384-5505, www.seasidenannies.com)



Dara Green



Best Preschool: Horizon Prep

Little ones get an early start in academic excellence at this Christ-centered prep school, situated on a beautiful 20-acre site in Rancho Santa Fe. (858/756-5599, www.horizonprep.org)

Best Private School: Santa Fe Christian Schools

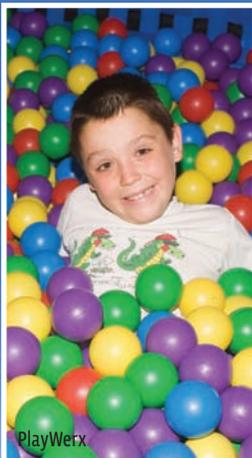
A K-12 school that provides rigorous academics and plenty of co-curricular activities within a “loving Christian environment,” SFCS boasts a parent satisfaction rate of more than 90 percent, according to a recent independent survey. (858/755-8900, www.sfcs.net)

Best Public School: Torrey Pines High School

A California Distinguished School and three-time National Blue Ribbon School, TPHS offers an abundance of AP courses. Nearly three-quarters of Falcons meet or exceed the minimum requirements for UC and CSU. (858/755-0125, www.tphs.net)

Best Retirement Living: La Costa Glen

Retirement is rewarding at La Costa Glen, a resort-like residential community that offers upscale amenities, activities, and services within a 55-acre preserve. (760/704-6000, www.lacostaglen.com)



PlayWerx



YMCA

Best Children's Activity: PlayWerx & YMCA

While the knee-high crowd goes wild in the huge play area at PlayWerx, parents can chill at the café with free Wi-Fi. (760/804-1600, www.playwerx.com)

Practically every neighborhood has a Y nearby. The organization — a part of San Diego since 1882 — “seeks to develop strong kids, strong families, and strong communities” through athletics, volunteerism, and other enrichment activities. (www.ymca.org)



La Costa Glen