

Best of Our Valley 2011: Kids

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Just because they cater to children doesn't mean these Valley destinations are anything short of spectacular. Read on to learn your local faves for kids.



Best Private or Charter School

Mesa Preparatory Academy

As a state-sponsored charter school, Mesa Preparatory Academy prides itself on giving every student the best liberal arts education available. Founded on a creed of truth, goodness and beauty, this secondary education facility provides students with lifelong skills for success.

www.mesaprep.org.

Best Birthday Party Spot: Kids and Best Kid's Entertainment: Indoors **Five-Time Winner**

Ice Den

Whether you're looking to host a birthday party or just keep the kids entertained for an afternoon, the Ice Den is the coolest spot in the Valley—literally. Adults and children are invited to take the ice or kick back and enjoy one of the cold spot's delicious restaurants. 480.585.7465, www.coyotesice.com.

Best Kid's Clothing

garage-a body shop for kids

If your tot's wardrobe needs a tune-up, check out Scottsdale-based children's boutique, garage. Hip brands like Fendi and Christian Dior are among the collections that will keep your little one looking chic all season. 480.556.6900, www.garageboutique.com.



Best Kid-Friendly Hotel **Second-Year Winner**

Arizona Grand Resort

Arizona Grand Resort offers up first-class amenities for both children and adults. Mom and Dad can enjoy the relaxing spa services or a round of golf, while the rest of the family plays at the deluxe pool complete with three water slides and a wave pool. 602.438.9000, www.arizonagrandresort.com.

Best Kid's Entertainment: Outdoors

The Farm at South Mountain

This fully functioning farm has been part of the Valley for more than nine decades, providing residents with fresh food and a tranquil day trip for the family. The three on-site eateries all provide healthful dining, while local flora and fauna captivates everyone's attention. 602.276.6360, www.thefarmsouthmountain.com.

Best Kid's Restaurant

18° Neighborhood Grill

Situated just inside Scottsdale's Ice Den, skaters big and small jet to 18° Neighborhood Grill for post-ice eats. This modern sports bar offers kids-eat-free specials on Tuesdays to boot. www.18-degrees.com.

Best Toy Store

The Doll House & Toy Store

Boasting a full-scale doll nursery, as well as dozens of games and puzzles, The Doll House & Toy Store is a playtime palace. With toys for every boy and girl, parents won't be able to resist the high-quality craftsmanship and happiness they bring. 480.948.4630.