Parenting Media Association
2026 Design and Editorial Awards Program

EDITORIAL

E1 – Overall Writing

SMALL
No Bonze or Silver awards.

Gold: *Washington Family;* editorial staff

People first – that's the approach this very accessible magazine takes to all things parenting. Whether it be a story on how to make friends, or profiles of mom activists, it's a human touch. Writing is also bite-size with lots of Q&As and breakouts to further make it easy to understand.

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LARGE
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Nashville Parent;* Susan Day, editor, Michael Aldrich, managing editor

Parenting dilemmas take center stage here, and the writing is clear, consistent and strikes right at the heart of the issues. That issue might be calming the chaos of puberty, or stopping overparenting, or how to raise a "smart kid." Participation from readers is key, whether weighing in on life without screens or how to let your child roam while still setting limits. Overall, the writing is clear, with lots of people examples and a bit of sparkle.

Gold: *Atlanta Parent;* Liz White, Laura Powell, Atlanta Parent editorial team

Strong writing is matched with content ideas that don't pull punches – like helping your children grieve or understanding how childhood friendships are changing. Overall, the issues are packed with high-interest topics that are written in straightforward authoritative tone. The writing is powerful yet not overly long, with lots of opportunities to learn more.

E2 – Recurring Column

SMALL
No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *Kern Family County Magazine;* "Hello Happy Mama"; LJ Radon, Callie Collins, Jinger Belchere.

Each column focuses on a mother in the community, spotlighting a story that offers a connection to their deep roots locally. With such a personal focus, the stories are relatable. The stories focus on family and friendships with a conversational tone.

LARGE
Bronze: *KC Parent;* "Park Jaunts"; Michael Gimotty, Kim Tappan, Allie Cole, Anna Hiestand

What parent or grandparent couldn't benefit from a feature of this kind? It's a simple idea but also a brilliant one to give readers an introduction to the local parks and playgrounds with various standout features or themes like nature.

Silver: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Tweens and Teens"; Julie Wenger-Watson

This is a wonderful column dedicated to the needs and stories of tweens and teens. The bike club feature shows how an after-school program is helping address social issues in this cohort while the summer job feature shares some practical tips for people hoping to enter the job market.

Gold: *Atlanta Parent;* "Healthy Families"; Tali Benjamin, Laura Powell, Liz White

This feature column hits on some of today's most prevalent parenting topics with a tone that's conversational and educational. Readers can easily scan the stories for the key points they find most relevant. It's easy to imagine these columns being clipped and saved for later reference on the parenting journey.

E3 – Publisher's/Editor's Note

SMALL
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Cincinnati Family Magazine;* "A Note From Mom"; Amy Foreman

With a relatable and transparent voice, these editor's notes set the tone for the publication's expertise in parenting. Using personal narrative details, the writer places broad and complex parenting ideas – including parenting children with learning disabilities and teaching kids how to actually make phone calls — into the day-to-day life of readers.

Gold: *Southwest Florida Family;* "Celebrating 25 years, Social Media Kids"; Stacy Nicolau, Jane MacNealy

Meaning abounds in these editor's letters, which puts some of the publication's behind-the-scenes decisions in context. In one entry, four leaders reminisce on the publication's history, trajectory and influence on their lives and readers lives. In the next entry, the note connects the tween cover model's anxieties in front of the camera to the vital landscape of children's privacy, data and protection in the social media era. With conversational tones and interesting details, each note helps the reader understand the editors' and publication's insights on local parenting.

LARGE
Bronze: *Northeast Ohio Parent;* "Editor's Note"; Angela Gartner

With a lively, conversational voice, the author reflects on themes of kindness, musical connection and holiday magic. The author frames the issue's stories within memories and moments that matter, even bringing in additional reporting for deeper context.

Silver: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Editor's Note"; Natalie Mikles

These letters invite the readers to get to know the author and publication at a much deeper level. Emotional moments in airports and hospital rooms are framed well within the issue's content as the author illustrates the publication's relationship to parenting and family life.

Gold: *DFW Child;* "Editor's Note"; Amanda Collins Bernier

Thoughtful and thematically impactful, these editor's notes give an intimate inside look at the author's and magazine's perspectives. With clear, engaging writing, the author connects a Mother's Day tradition to how the publication defines what is "best" for readers' individual families — alongside a tease to Lemon Yogurt Waffle recipe. The result is a feeling of deeper understanding and connection.

E4 – Briefs/Short Stuff

SMALL
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Baltimore's Child;* "Top 5 Things to Know"; Mia Resnicow

Breezy writing and smart curation create real impact in this section despite the small space. The collection of items speaks to parents and the concise language gets stories across efficiently — a perfect combination for busy households.

Gold: *Kern County Family Magazine;* "KCFM's Refrigerator Door"; LJ Radon, Roxanne Ricker and Vaun Thygerson

These sections are put together well and provide an engaging overview of what's going on around Kern County. The variety and writing keep it interesting and befitting its namesake — you just might want to save the pages on the refrigerator door.

LARGE
No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "News & Notes"; Natalie Mikles

Chickens that boost school attendance? Cherokee Nation activities for kids? That and more can be found in these lively sections. Engaging writing and thorough reporting come together in bite-size briefs that surprise and satisfy.

E5 – Calendar of Events

SMALL
Bronze: *Philadelphia Metrokids;* "Calendar"; Editorial Staff

This calendar is effortless to navigate, with easy-to-find events and interesting call-outs to particularly relevant events. The listings and actionable details make it easy for parents and families to jump into the activities in real life.

Silver: *Cincinnati Family Magazine;* "Things To Do"; Amanda Ciani, Amy Foreman

This calendar is broken up into two sections — a curated Top 10 list followed by numerous entries listed by date — and the throughlines are lively writing and usable information. No matter where the event falls on this calendar, the details are clear, concise and chock full of relevant reader service information.

Gold: *Charlottesville Family;* "Calendar of Events"; Ellen Sewell, Liz Valente, Billie Bryerton, Suzannah Spaar, Jennifer Bryerton

With emphases on storytelling and usability beyond the print pages, this calendar is the perfect partner for any parent in search of activities. Curated roundups of seasonal and related events, such as pumpkin picking, are helpful for planning, and the related QR codes that take readers to robust online event listings make the entire calendar fit helpfully into a parent's pocket.

LARGE

Bronze: *Atlanta Parent;* "Family Fun Guide"; Emily Webb, Laura Powell, Liz White, Mary Williams

Armed with this calendar, parents have no excuse not to load up the family calendar with events and activities. The number of included events is staggering, yet each listing contains helpful information to help readers engage. But perhaps the most charming aspect of this calendar is how the event categories are structured using magazine-style story formats, including using the "12 Days of Christmas" to organize lists and ordering information with grids, curated roundups and location-specific selections.

Silver: *Chicago Parent;* "Chicago Parent events"; Jenna Dolch

Curation is the name of the game for these event listings. Informed by audience insights, the event roundups are helpfully narrowed and specifically relevant to the reader's needs, such as area-specific summer festivals. Each list is topped by key takeaways, and event details are thorough and clear to navigate.

Gold: *Nashville Parent;* "Things to Do"; Susan Day, Editor, Michael Aldrich, Managing Editor

Some of the best elements of magazine storytelling are on display in this substantial calendar, including energetic voice, robust reader service information and narrative storytelling ("A dad reporter outing"). With so many events included, the reading experience could be overwhelming, but smart decisions such as call outs, highlighted events and useful flags make the information fun and exceedingly functional.

E6 – Special Section Within a Publication

SMALL

Bronze: *Baltimore's Child;* "Big Book for Families"; editorial staff

For parents looking for enrichment opportunities for their children, this book abounds with helpful lists. This handy guide runs the gamut from festivals and museums to youth sports.

Silver: *PDX Parent;* "Special Section: The Arts"; Denise Castañon, editor, Tiffany Hill, managing editor, digital & social content, Tiffany Howard, art director, Ashley Gifford, writer

An authoritative voice shines through to spotlight two Portland artists who relish creativity and their children. For parents inspired to introduce their children to the arts, other articles offer good insight on exhibits and the performing arts scene.

Gold: *L.A. Parent;* "Inclusive L.A."; Elena Epstein, Cassandra Lane, Nina Harada

Strong original reporting shows how equine and music therapy can benefit individuals with learning differences. The stories let parents hear from experts and get a head start investigating area facilities and programs that might be perfect for their children.

LARGE
Silver: *Atlanta Parent;* "Atlanta's Best Guide to Education 2026"; Laura Powell, Liz White, *Atlanta Parent* editorial team

The broad range of stories offers parents an abundance of curated information. Highlights include locally reported features about the benefits of recess and the seemingly forgotten skill of cursive. The Q&A with literacy experts also brought in local voices.

Gold: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "TulsaKids' Baby Handbook"; Betty Casey, associate publisher and editor-in-chief

Moms and dads will want to keep this section handy as they start their parenting adventure. The easy-to-navigate section showcases expert voices in the community and offers endless helpful tips.

E7 – Child Development & Parenting Article

SMALL
Bronze: *Baltimore's Child;* "How can I get my children to play together?"; Michelle Hollander, Sharon Hollander

Family playtime is about so much more than playing. These experts deftly explain which games are best for which age groups and why. Parents will appreciate the concrete recommendations.

Silver: *Cincinnati Family Magazine;* "The Moms Who Look Fine But Aren't"; Amanda Ciani, Amy Foreman

Impressionable teens aren't the only ones dealing with social media. Moms feel the pressure of being perfect, too. The writer uses good examples to pull the reader in and then offers savvy suggestions.

Gold: *Washington Parent;* "Nurturing Growth in Therapy and Parenting"; Melissa Schwarzbard, writer, David Arkin, Brandi Calhoun

An authentic, knowledgeable voice offers a refreshing, thoughtful metaphor from gardening for parents worried about their child's development. Her writing and shared experiences give parents a chance to exhale and learn.

LARGE
Bronze: *Metro Parent;* "Parenting with ADHD: What it means for your child's mental health"; Claire Charlton, senior client content editor client care

A typical story about ADHD might address what to do if your child is diagnosed. This story provides a fresh angle: What if the parent has ADHD? Strong explanatory reporting shows the potential impact as well as coping strategies.

Silver: *DFW Child;* "The Comfort Trap"; Amanda Collins Bernier

From terrific scene-setting to meaningful quotes from local experts, this smoothly written article will likely inspire some soul searching: Are parents' efforts to protect their kids leading to weaker coping skills? The pros say Yes. But the article offers clear tips to help parents encourage resilience.

Gold: *Brooklyn Family;* "Type 1 Diabetes Isn't Always Obvious"; Danielle Ramos

The first-person anecdotal lead captures the reader's attention immediately, providing the perfect segue to provide parents important, well-sourced information about treating a frightening health condition.

E8 – Family Matters Article

SMALL
No Silver or Bronze award.

Gold: *L.A. Parent;* "New Year, No Gimmicks"; Elena Epstein, Cassandra Lane, Esther Carlstone, Jenny Cardoza

A lively and well-written January guide to deciphering health trends that are truly helpful or just fads. With consumers focused on their wallets, this guide helps readers spend more wisely on their health.

LARGE
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Metro Parent;* "Bug Bites in Michigan"; Claire Charlton, writer

Your child lets out a yelp on a hot summer day. Was that a mosquito bite? Is Or a bee sting? This article is a great one to slap on the refrigerator, as its no-nonsense language helps readers decide how to treat insect bites, and when to rush the child to the ER. This is great public service, timely and specific to its audience.

Gold: *Nashville Parent*; "Surviving Mean Girls"; Susan Day, editor and writer, Michael Aldrich, managing editor

Forget all the movies – this is real life and mean girls do exist. This is a well-written, highly personal guide to helping 8- to 12-year-olds deal with peer pressure and bullying. This speaks to a social problem that can have scarring consequences, and the concise straight talk empowers parents.

E9 – Family Fun Article

SMALL
Bronze: *Washington Family;* "Summer Fun on a Small Budget"; Katie Schubert

This smart idea is executed very well. The story gives families great entertainment options that they can afford, with enough details to help anyone decide which choices best suit their crew.

Silver: *Southwest Florida Family;* "Hidden Gems of SWFL"; Stacy Nicolau, Jane MacNealy, Andrea Stetson, Leigh Ann Newman

The concept is simple and smart: highlight tourist attractions that most residents probably don't know about. The end result is a great way to introduce options in the area without sending more attendees to the usual spots.

Gold: *Charlottesville Family;* "Where the Wild Things Are"; Peter Boucher, Suzannah Spaar, Jennifer Bryerton

Detailed descriptions and fantastic photos highlight outdoor areas that most residents may not know exist. The author uses his expertise to provide interesting insights and details that will inspire many families to hit the great outdoors.

LARGE

Bronze: *Atlanta Parent;* "Summer Fun from A to Z"; Emily Webb

This well-executed effort introduces readers to the wide range of places and events available in the region. The package presents a nice mix of offerings, and any family should find several things they can get excited about.

Silver: *KC Parent;* "Sunrise Adventures in KC"; Michael Gimotty, Kim Tappan, Allie Cole, Nichole Parks

A novel way to think about things to do in your town. This smart package looks at multiple options families can enjoy as dawn breaks. It is nicely written, and the extra tips are a nice touch.

Gold: *New York Family;* "10 Cool Aviation Activities"; Soe Kabbabe

This smart package offers an unexpected guide to attractions centered on flying. The story presents opportunities that many may not have realized they would be interested in — from watching planes take off and land, to museums that focus on all things aviation.

E10 – Travel Feature

SMALL

Bronze: *Pittsburgh Parent Magazine;* "Columbus"; Eric D. Goodman

This inviting road-trip feature highlights a variety of attractions through clear, conversational writing and vivid descriptions. Attention to the experiences of different family members demonstrates the broad appeal of each destination, helping readers envision their own visit. The story delivers strong service value while conveying the pleasures of family travel.

Silver: *Washington Family;* "On Bored"; Andrew Madigan

This memorable narrative blends destination advice with a charming account of a family trip. Recommendations are woven naturally into the storytelling, rewarding readers with practical tips while capturing the moments that make travel meaningful. The result is a distinctive feature that serves as both a guidebook and a reflection on shared experiences.

Gold: *PDX Parent;* "Yay for Yurts!"; Courtney O'Leary, Denise Castañon, Tiffany Hill

This engaging travel feature transforms yurt camping into an approachable family adventure. Rich sensory details, practical packing and booking advice, and thoughtfully selected destinations create a guide that is both inspiring and useful. By combining firsthand experience with abundant trip-planning resources, the story makes off-season outdoor exploration feel accessible and rewarding.

LARGE
Bronze: *Metro Parent;* "Family Trips on a Budget"; Naomi Kayser

This practical feature demonstrates that meaningful family travel does not require a large budget. Thoughtfully selected destinations and useful planning details help readers identify affordable adventures close to home. By focusing on both value and experience, the story provides a reliable resource for families seeking memorable outings throughout the year.

Silver: *Chicago Parent;* "Route 66"; Cheryl Eugenio

This comprehensive road-trip guide showcases the best of Illinois' stretch of Route 66 through a carefully curated collection of family-friendly stops. Clear organization and practical descriptions make planning easy, while a companion map helps readers visualize the journey. The feature highlights the history, character and discoveries that make this iconic route worth exploring.

Gold: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Hit the Road"; Natalie Mikles, Amanda Murphy, Lyssa Flanagan, Tara Rittler

This energetic travel package offers families an abundance of ideas for memorable road trips. Covering five destinations with recommendations spanning history, science, outdoor recreation, dining and the arts, the feature balances breadth with useful detail. Sharp, engaging writing and thoughtful trip planning resources make it an inspiring guide for future adventures.

E11 – Personal Essay

SMALL
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Pittsburgh Parent Magazine;* "When Grandparents Live Far But Love Close"; Carrie Woodard

This column touches on the issue of grandparents at a distance, but keeping close connections in a family. While it can be difficult when help or relatives aren't nearby, this column takes the gift of connection to a new height.

Gold: *Monterey Bay Parent;* "Letting Go to Let Them Grow"; Dawn Alva, Summer Romney, Andrea Breznay

A poignant column about how to balance parental concern and giving children enough independence to make mistakes and learn life lessons. The column is relevant to parents of children at all ages and stages.

LARGE

Bronze: *Atlanta Parent;* "Pile It On! Tips for Surviving the Sandwich Generation"; Tali Benjamin

Having a 'grilled cheese' moment is such an apt description of people who find themselves sandwiched between parenting duties at home and caring for aging parents. This has a bit of humor to it, but the tips and advice are spot on for people trying to do it all at once.

Silver: *New York Family;* "When a Meatball is the Milestone"; Donna Duarte-Ladd

This personal essay asks readers to consider a new perspective when developmental milestones for a child aren't on the usual timetable. It's charming in its personality and depth of advocacy from the parent perspective, too.

Gold: *KC Parent;* "When Hope Feels Fragile"; Michael Gimotty, Kim Tappan, Allie Cole, Christa Bergerhofer

A compelling story of a mom advocating for her daughter during a scary and traumatic medical crisis, this first-person feature captures the love of a mother amid the diagnosis and chaos of finding the right treatment options for her family.

E12 – Profile

SMALL

Bronze: *Colorado Parent*; "Santa's Little Hackers"; Amy Foreman, Amelia Roesller, Amanda Miller

This article chronicles how a mom and her husband customized a Minion toy for their child, who uses a wheelchair, and then made similar toys for several thousand other children with help from volunteers at a speech therapy clinic. The story is inspiring and impactful. The mom says that for many of the children it's not just about play time. "For our specific population, many of them, this is how they start with communication."

Silver: *Hood Magazine*; "Making Birthdays Matter"; Sarah Parker, Jennifer Fleming, Ally Chase, Steff Holtrop

This story provides a powerful message about the importance of birthdays from a man who grew up an orphan in Thailand and didn't experience such a celebration until he was 8 years old. It's not about the big gifts. It's about the celebrant feeling seen, valued and loved.

Gold: *Washington Parent*: "This Virginia Nurse Tackled Mount Everest"; Chelsea Robinson, David Arkin, Brandi Calhoun

A Bulgarian immigrant and ICU nurse pursues a personal goal of climbing Mount Everest. But it becomes a much more determined journey when the nurse takes along a piece of cloth belonging to a patient who died in her care right before the trip. The author does a good job using the subject's own words to paint a picture of resilience.

LARGE

Bronze: *Baton Rouge Parents Magazine*; "Stirring Up Opportunity: Stir Coffee House Creates Grounds for Growth"; Amanda Miller, Amy Foreman

The story is a succinct tale of a behavior analyst at a therapy center who starts a coffee shop and employs teens and adults with developmental disabilities. The detail about how the

shop owner worked with a designer to ensure the coffee shop would be a calm, relaxing place for customers and employees. We learn that has a waiting list of 35 people who want to work there.

Silver: *Metro Parent*; "Building the Village: How Ariel Wan is rewriting support for Michigan Parents"; Chelsea Robinson

Ariel Wan's battle with postpartum depression motivated her to create a nonprofit organization known as the Mamas Network. The story explores Wan's journey and goes into detail about how the network operates. The author does a good job conveying Wan's belief in the importance of creating a "third space" where moms can go for support. "We cannot wait for the system or someone else to save us," she said. "So, as moms always do, we are doing it ourselves."

Gold: *TulsaKids Magazine*; "Amazing Mom: Madelyn McIntyre"; Natalie Mikles

Madelyn McIntyre's life was turned upside down when her newborn son was born with a brain condition that left him developmentally disabled. The story does a good job exploring how she manages to stay upbeat while essentially living in the hospital with her son – and while still being a wife, and a mom to two other young children at home. It was a nice touch with the publication also wrote a few paragraphs each about three other finalists for the Amazing Mom award, including a mom who works 12-hour weekend hospital shifts, a single mom who arrangees her days to be with her sons and a woman nominated by her 6-year-old son for being a "Wonder Woman" during cancer treatment.

E13 – Q&A Interview

SMALL

Bronze: *Washington Family;* "The Do's and Don'ts of Inclusivity"; Katie Schubert

The personal experience that grounds the subject's advice to parents teaching their children about developmental disability adds weight to her words. The piece's questions give her an opportunity to meet parents where they are, and engage their curiosity in good faith.

Silver: *Cincinnati Family Magazine;* "The Best Chapter Yet"; Amanda Ciani, associate editor, Amy Foreman

The enthusiasm of this piece reflects its subject's openness and positivity in sharing her experience as the mother of a baby with Down syndrome. The piece offers a platform for her to be vulnerable about what she didn't know at the beginning of her journey with her daughter, and to share the many joys she has discovered along the way.

Gold: *Washington Parent;* "'Is This Autism?': An Interview with Author Sarah Wayland"; Jackie Beech, author

Capturing a subject's personal experience and professional expertise in one interview is no mean feat, but this piece achieves it. The interviewee offers specific advice to parents who want to learn more about autism, and her references to navigating her own son's diagnoses make her feel like a human, relatable source, not just an expert one.

LARGE

Bronze: *New York Family;* "Kathy Hochul: Fighting for New York Families"; Náosha Gregg,

author

The breadth of this conversation with the state's governor provides a comprehensive overview of policy decisions that specifically impact parents. The interviewer successfully navigates a variety of topics, ranging from cell phone bans to healthcare and tax credits.

Silver: *New York Family;* "Tamron Hall on Motherhood, Her Son Moses, and the Magic of Harlem"; Danielle Ramos, author

It can be a challenge to push past the public persona of a well-known celebrity, but this piece manages to do just that with its subject Tamron Hall. The interview presents an experience of motherhood that is much more relatable than the reader might expect, given the subject's prominence and fame, and centers her sensitive and thoughtful approach to parenting her son.

Gold: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Green Country Grown-Up: Dr. Meg Myers Morgan"; Nancy A. Moore, columnist

The questions in this piece feel natural and conversational and demonstrate a familiarity with the subject. That familiarity allows the subject to be vulnerable about her struggles with postpartum depression and anxiety, and explain how they factor into her latest book. The interview never feels strictly promotional, but rather it provides an opportunity to get deeper into the issues that motivated the author to write her new novel.

E14 – Special Series

SMALL

Bronze: *Kern County Family;* "Mural Stories"; LJ Radon, Roxanne Richer, Jinger Belcher,Mary Anne Radmacher, Heather Hafen

This series presents a nice look at art that tells the story of the area and the community. Each installment tells the community the story behind the images they see every day.

Silver: *Hood Magazine;* "Money Milestones"; Sarah Kurtenbach, Sarah Parker, Ally Vogel, Steff Holtrop

Parents get help with raising financially smart kids via this series of short stories that provide practical information and realistic tips parents can follow. The writing is conversational and refreshingly straightforward.

Gold: *Monterey Bay Parent;* "E-Bike Series"; Dawn Alva, Summer Romney, Andrea Breznay

This is a well-written, information-packed series that provides detailed guidance for anyone mulling the idea of getting an E-Bike. It covers everything from how to choose a new bike to where to ride it, with practical advice on how to take the most advantage of the relatively new technology.

LARGE

Bronze: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Route 66"; Erin Page

The publication put together a fun series that helps Oklahomans celebrate their stretch of Route 66. In keeping with the highway, it focuses on offerings ranging from quirky to historic.

Silver: *Chicago Parent;* "Best Places to Live"; David Arkin

This guide presents a detailed, well-organized look at options that families can consider when deciding where to live in the area. The articles combine exhaustive data with the author's insights to provide practical recommendations.

Gold: *Metro Parent;* "Best Schools Guide"; David Arkin

A very helpful and useful guide to the area's school districts highlights top schools throughout the region. The level of detail gives parents actionable information in an easy to use format.

E15 – News Feature

SMALL

Bronze: *L.A. Parent*; "Is Skinny Back? Body Image, L.A. Moms and Weight-Loss Use of Diabetes Drugs"; Elena Epstein, Cassandra Lane, Jenny Cardoza

An informative question and answer session with a physician and obesity expert about the growing popularity of weight-loss drugs. It includes lots of tips for parents about how to talk with their kids about weight and health, and how to change their own attitudes about why they eat and exercise.

Silver: *Charlottesville Family*; "Change the Rules: Perimenopause for a New Generation"; Katharine Paljug, Suzannah Spaar, Jennifer Bryerton

A physician and director of midlife health answers questions about the period of time when women's bodies begin to transition to menopause, and the changing approaches to treatments and therapies nationally. The story is well-written and full of useful tips for readers.

Gold: *Southwest Florida Family*; "Florida's New EKG Law"; Stacy Nicolau, Jane MacNealy, Leigh Ann Newman, Andrea Stetson

This piece does an excellent job explaining how a new Florida law will ensure that many more young athletes receive electrocardiograms to check them for hidden heart problems. The story is loaded with good sources, including one who talks about how non-athletes can get tested, too. Terrific example of how to get useful information to an audience.

LARGE

Bronze: *Metro Parent*; "War in Iran"; Zakkary Parker

This is an insightful look into some ways that parents can talk with their children about a tragedy. The idea is to be truthful to them, but not alarming, and to focus not on the politics but on age-appropriate conversations. Also, the story stresses the importance of listening to the children and reassuring them that they are safe.

Silver: *Chicago Parent*; "Boundary changes"; Maggie McIntyre

An informative look at an abundance of changes coming to a Chicago-area school district. The article provides information on the district's sixth grade classes moving to middle school (from elementary school), bus schedule changes and changes inside the school buildings. Nice ending with tips on what parents can do now.

Gold: *Atlanta Parent*; "Why Recess Matters"; Jennifer V. Hutcheson

A terrific read that pushes back on the efforts by some Georgia school districts to cut recess time. The writer used an array of sources to explore why recess is considered beneficial to academic learning and social/emotional development. The story also provided tips on what parents can do if their children don't get enough recess at school.

E16 – Themed Issue

SMALL
Bronze: *Southwest Florida Family;* "Summer Fun Issue"; Stacy Nicolau, Jane MacNealy, Andrea Stetson, Leigh Ann Newman, Anna Snyder

This special section contains all the waterpark fun one would expect for southwestern Florida with surprises like events for America's 250th and hidden gems to explore. The stories are brimming with need-to-know information and writing that sings. It's an issue that lives up to the "fun" in its title.

Silver: *PDX Parent;* "PDX Parent's Ultimate Summer Camps Issue"; Denise Castañon, Tiffany Hill, Tiffany Howard

Ultimate certainly is the right word for this issue. The camps guide is a useful resource for parents planning for summer. But it's stories like "9 Ways to Save on Summer Camps" or the "Reader Favorites" that make this so much more than your standard summer camp overview. The stories also display a deftness of language and extensive reporting.

Gold: *L.A. Parent;* "Family Travel Issue"; Elena Epstein, Cassandra Lane, Jenny Cardoza

Los Angeles parents hitting the road or the skies for summer have all they need with this robust and thoroughly reported issue in hand. The "Family Travel Survival Guide" is packed with tips for flying, for screen-free road trips and packing pointers along with travel stories about excursions near and far. And the "How to Be a Tourist in Your Own City" recognizes that travel sometimes just means across town.

LARGE
Bronze: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Pets"; Natalie Mikles, Amanda Murphy

Four-legged friends take center stage in this issue alongside the kids who care for them. The stories have a distinct local flavor with kids showing off their pets, a second grader's project with shelter dogs and a profile about a woman who volunteers with her therapy dogs. A detailed and well-reported Family Pet Guide caps it off.

Silver: *Atlanta Parent;* "Summer Fun Guide"; Laura Powell, Liz White, Atlanta Parent Editorial Team

This summer fun guide goes beyond the ordinary. Alongside helpful guides for swimming, Father's Day and staycations are useful features about topics such as setting a parental example about screen time and how to get in on World Cup fever. The writing is breezy and fitting of the topic and the stories are grounded in what Atlanta parents want to know.

Gold: *Seattle's Child;* "Universal Childcare: What Will It Take?"; Cheryl Murfin, Kathryn Holloway, Ann Bergman, Josh Huston

This special issue is a true achievement. It takes a topic that hits home for Seattle parents

— the rising cost of childcare — and examines it from a variety of perspectives. A piece that looks at the effect of high costs through the eyes of one city block of parents or the story about a universal childcare example in another state make a real impact. Exemplary writing, reporting and design work together for an incredibly effective and stand-out themed issue.

E17 – Non-Traditional Story Form

SMALL
Bronze: *Southwest Florida Family;* "Celebrating 25 Years of Neapolitan Family"; Stacy Nicolau, Jane MacNealy, Leigh Ann Newman

A wonderful highlight of this 25th anniversary commemoration is the collection of photos showing cover models then and now. Showing how these kids have grown is a great way to convey community and put a face to how the publication itself has matured.

Silver: *Washington Parent;* "Painted Stories of the DMV"; Zakkary Parker, David Arkin, Brandi Calhoun

This feature encourages parents to experience 12 striking public murals across the area, with consistent details about each one. Grouping the material by area helps readers find those closest to home. Photos also help convey key visual information.

Gold: *Monterey Bay Parent;* "250 Iconic California Experiences"; Andrea Breznay, Summer Romney

The comprehensive guide to memorable experiences across the state provides the ultimate bucket list for families. Having the publication's Facebook group help compile the list was both a good reporting technique and a clever way to engage the audience.

LARGE
Bronze: *Metro Parent;* "All the places where kids can eat free across metro Detroit (Father's Day Guide)"; Miranda Simpson, writer

This highly useful guide to restaurants with free kids meals provides important tips and details in a format that helps parents select a good option. Grouping the entries by neighborhood adds to the article's utility.

Silver: *Atlanta Parent;* "Destination: Playgrounds"; Emily Webb

Playground options of all types are presented in this well-organized, comprehensive roundup. Well-written text does a great job describing succinctly what makes each park worth visiting. Photos also add an important element to the storytelling.

Gold: *DFW Child;* "Dream It, Do It"; Amanda Collins Bernier

Offering summer camp options to match the various career aspirations of real kids from the community is a great idea. Including great quotes and photos from each child enlivens the material in a fresh, fun way. The writing tone adds additional energy.

E18 – Service Feature

SMALL

Bronze: *Baltimore's Child;* "How to Host a Birthday Party for a Child With a Disability"; Praniti Gulyani

This thoughtful article explores how small adjustments can help make celebrations more welcoming for children with disabilities and their families. Practical suggestions on sensory needs, food considerations and guest experiences encourage inclusive planning while remaining accessible to a broad audience. The result is a useful guide with lessons that extend well beyond birthday parties.

Silver: *Chesapeake Family Life;* "Creating a Haunt the Whole Neighborhood Will Enjoy"; Dylan Roche

This lively service feature offers practical guidance for creating a memorable Halloween display without losing sight of budget, safety or neighborhood relationships. From working with homeowners' associations to building effects on a budget, the story is filled with actionable advice and creative inspiration for decorators at any experience level.

Gold: *Monterey Bay Parent;* "We're Finally Talking About Menopause"; Tricia Vlasak, Summer Romney, Andrea Breznay

This compelling feature uses one person's experience navigating menopause care to examine broader patterns of gender bias in medicine. Thorough reporting connects personal narrative with research on health care disparities, creating an engaging and informative read. Sharp writing empowers readers to advocate for themselves while bringing needed attention to a longstanding issue.

LARGE

Bronze: *Metro Parent;* "Home Schooling Explained"; Jenna Dolch

This accessible primer answers common questions about homeschooling in a clear and organized format. Complex requirements are translated into straightforward language, helping families understand both expectations and available resources. The structure makes information easy to locate, creating a practical reference that readers can revisit throughout their homeschooling journey.

Silver: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "How To Pick a Summer Camp"; Lindsay Morris

This thorough and thoughtful story equips families with the information they need to choose a camp that fits their child's interests, needs and circumstances. Strong reporting examines readiness, safety and affordability while remaining focused on practical decision-making. A companion list of safety questions provides readers with a useful tool for evaluating options.

Gold: *Baton Rouge Parents Magazine;* "What No One Tells You About College Planning"; Andrea Miller, Amy Foreman

This comprehensive guide helps families navigate the college search process with confidence. Practical advice on essays, applications and costs is paired with clear explanations that demystify a complicated journey. By addressing challenges that arise from the earliest planning stages through final application decisions, the piece delivers lasting value for readers.

E19 – General Feature Writing

SMALL

Bronze: *Washington Family*; "Archery Right on Target"; Jack Frederick

From the lead, the writer does a good job of connecting popular culture with the sport of archery. The story tracks its growth in schools from youngsters to teenagers and includes national statistics. What separates it from other stories about sports is that it addresses the social-emotional benefits through the eyes of parents and students.

Silver: *Chesapeake Family Life*; "Preparing for the Fourth Trimester"; Karuga Koinange

This article spends as much time providing possible solutions as it does describing postpartum problems. The experts' quotes are accessible and conversational rather than academic. The lead gets to the heart of the matter quickly and pulls the reader into the body of the story.

Gold: *Southwest Florida Family*; "From Playtime to Academic: The Evolving Kindergarten Classroom"; Andrea Stetson

Here's a story that's right in front of us but so easy to miss because the change in kindergarten teaching has evolved over time. The writer does a great job of explaining the shift as well as the controversy around it. It shows the nuance in the debate rather than pit one source against another. The sidebar added context, showing the long road of kindergarten from its roots in Germany.

LARGE

Bronze: *DFW Child*; "The New Kids"; Amanda Collins Bernier

The writer combines the experience of parents, including her own, with experts and teachers on the front lines to describe the life of kids born in the Covid bubble. The risks for these children entering school for the first time is balanced with practical advice.

Silver: *Northeast Ohio Parent*; "Parenting with a Disability"; Angela Gartner

There are lots of articles about parenting a disabled child; this one delves into parents who have disabilities. The lead begins with two such parents, but they are not just anecdotes because the writer closes the loop with them at the end of the piece. The article has multiple sources, both live and data driven. The writer gives us insights into the hurdles these parents face and actions being taken to protect them.

Gold: *DFW Child*; "The Comfort Trap"; Amanda Collins Bernier

The writer uses national statistics, local experts and people in the education trenches to create a consistent and compelling narrative. The advice is practical and actionable; instead of platitudes, the writer includes specific things you could tell or ask your child. The lead creates a common scenario, a school drop-off line, and connects it to the larger issue of childhood anxiety.

E20 – Sponsored Content

SMALL

Bronze: *MetroFamily Magazine;* "Kickin' It on Route 66"; Rebecca Fast, Amy L. Foreman, Amanda Miller

A spirit of freedom and excitement is effectively captured in this preview of an event in Oklahoma City to commemorate 100 years of Route 66. The content is thorough, detailed and well-produced. A graphic illustrating the day's schedule gives readers an outline of the day at a glance.

Silver: *Hood Magazine;* "Saddles Over Screens"; Ally Chase, Sarah Parker, Jennifer Fleming, Steff Holtrop, Staff

This is sincere, authentic content about the healing possibilities of horses with a child's story at the center. The mother's voice has a heartfelt quality that enhances the integrity of her message about trading screens for the joy of engaging with animals. The endearing photographs add to the charm of the spread.

Gold: *Washington Parent;* "Your Guide to the National Cherry Blossom Festival"; Jenna Dolch, Marian Caballo, Meredith Hancock, David Arkin, Brandi Calhoun

This comprehensive guide to a popular festival is expertly organized and delivered, with bonus tips for taking the kids and making the most of the occasion. Event details are clearly listed and labeled, the day's activities are explicitly presented, and related information is designed to help parents navigate and enjoy the festival with minimal stress. Obvious thought and care are evident here.

LARGE

Bronze: *Atlanta Parent;* "The Holidays Sparkle With So Much Fun!"; Mary Williams, Laura Powell

The colorful, upbeat set of items marking the holidays covers a wide range of events around the city. Each item is descriptive and helpful, with details that give parents a chance to compare and plan according to their own interests.

Silver: *Metro Parent;* "Answer Engine Optimization"; Claire Charlton

This campaign was directed to autism awareness and is an excellent example of dividing information into manageable pieces with a hierarchy of entry points and uses. From basic information to more in-depth discussions to videos and links, the strategy allows parents to choose how much time they want to invest in the learning process.

Gold: *Chicago Parent;* "Idea Box"; Emilie Lutostanski

This package demonstrates an effective use of space and resources to deliver an exceptional amount of material about summer camp choices to parents. Important information is identified and details are provided in efficient, accessible ways. The value of this coverage is undeniable for parents looking to make smart, thoughtful decisions.

DESIGN

D1 – Front Cover: Original Photo

SMALL
Bronze: *Kern County Family Magazine;* "October 2025"; LJ Radon, Roxanne Ricker, Heather Hafen

The Halloween color palette and striking lead tease convey the content instantly. Technically perfect, this photograph will capture viewers with the charming expression. From the tap shoes to the ribbons, the styling is superb. The text is easy to view and well-placed around the subject.

Silver: *Hood Magazine;* "July/August 2025"; Patricia Solis, Sarah Parker, Ally Chase, Steff Holtrop, Jennifer Fleming

In a unique and fun idea for a cover photograph, both children and cattle are in a compact space, with gorgeous backlight. The children seem comfortable with the animals, and it's easy to imagine the cattle are invited guests at the birthday party.

Gold: *Southwest Florida Family;* "December 2025"; Jane MacNealy, Stacy Nicolau, Monica Alvarez, photographer

The light, design and color are just lovely. Balancing the light on the child's face and the tree isn't easy, and it's beautifully done. It creates a feeling of nostalgia, harkening to childhood and the magic of the holidays. Typography is well done, with the lead tease easy to see and understand.

LARGE
Bronze: *DFW Child;* "April 2026"; Sean Parsons, Nick Prendergast

Sophisticated typography surrounds this fun portrait of a child in their summer shark shirt. Technically excellent, the photograph has a clean, pastel background that allows the child to pop from the page.

Silver: *Northeast Ohio Parent;* "March 2026 – Sweet Days Ahead"; Stephanie Mauric

The color palette cleverly moves viewers' eyes around the page, as they hop between similar tones. A story about recipes makes for a difficult photographic illustration, but this idea works well. Notably, the focus is on the child, drawing attention from a quick glance at the pancakes to a longer stare at the happy child.

Gold: *Nashville Parent;* "Take the Plunge!"; Susan Day, editor, Sophie Rhodes, photographer

This cover photograph is a surprise, with quite an unusual angle. It requires a doubletake to realize that we're viewing a water slide with a very shallow depth of field. The colors are harmonious, echoing the colors of the slide. This is a unique and fun idea.

D2 – Front Cover: Use of Stock Photo

SMALL
Bronze: *Colorado Parent;* "June 2026"; Asarel Smith, Amy Foreman

This cover shouts "Colorado adventure," from the muddy boots and vest to the river and the snowy mountains. The color of the vest is repeated throughout the cover, tying everything together. The child's eyes lead to the well-placed teases.

Silver: *Nola Family Magazine;* "March 2026"; Madeline Miletello, Amy Foreman

This child is in the middle of running and jumping, which makes the photograph come to life. She seems to be enjoying vacation with the family. The soft background allows the child to pop off the page and makes the teases visible.

Gold: *Cincinnati Family Magazine;* "December 2025"; Madeline Miletello, Amy Foreman

The soft focus on the snow, orange sparkler in the corner, and joyous, bundled child create a delightful cover. The black background is excellent for the teases, which are well placed around the child. This is technically superb and a delight to view.

LARGE

Bronze: *Atlanta Parent;* "April 2026"; Laura Powell, Liz White, Sheri Taylor-Emery

Beautiful backlight streaming through the child's hair accentuates the color of the trees, shirt and hair. She is caught mid-action, as she is running, which creates an active cover. Green grass and type compliment the orange color.

Silver: *Atlanta Parent*; "January 2026"; Laura Powell, Liz White, Sheri Taylor-Emery

The colors of the background artwork and nameplate are gorgeous. The child with a paintbrush, standing on a step stool, is simple enough to allow viewers' eyes to move around the frame. Black teases are well-placed and do not detract from the subject matter.

Gold: *Nashville Parent;* "Surviving Mean Girls"; Susan Day, Editor

So many qualities make this a winner. The photograph encapsulates the idea perfectly. The colors work together, with the strong pink lead teases echoed in other spots. The green of the eyes is likewise repeated in a few teases and clothing. Typography is elegant and easy to read.

D3 – Front Cover: Illustration

SMALL

No Bronze award.

Silver: *Kern County Family Magazine;* "Merry HoliYay! (December 2025)"; LJ Radon, Roxanne Ricker

A soft color palette, punctuated by holiday red, invites readers into this winter wonderland. The illustration uses interesting abstracted shapes to convey its meaning. Typography is well integrated into the layout.

Gold: *Washington Parent;* "Ice Skating Fun (January 2026)"; Meredith Hancock

Bold colors and facial expressions in this illustration capture the eye and hold attention. The subtle visual effect of snow falling adds a nice texture to the artwork. The color use across illustration and typography feels cohesive and well-planned.

LARGE
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Atlanta Parent;* "Ready. Set. School! (August 2025)"; Sheri Taylor-Emery, Liz White, Laura Powell

The floating array of school gear sets the stage for this issue. The size and positioning of the items within the illustration creates a dynamic feel, while the cohesive color palette and light background grid tie it all together.

Gold: *Nashville Parent;* "Your Child's Mental Health (April 2026)"; Susan Day, editor; Michael Aldrich, managing editor

The stark, dramatic silhouette grabs attention and conveys the seriousness of the story subject. There is nice interplay between the child and the primary headline. The rest of the type is positioned nicely around the illustration, with clear typographic hierarchy.

D4 – Table of Contents

SMALL
No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *Washington Family;* "Table of Contents"; art department staff

Thumbnail photo navigation and clear typography easily connect readers with the top featured stories in each issue. The Readers' Poll section alongside the contents listing is also well arranged to facilitate engagement.

LARGE
No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *Atlanta Parent;* "Table of Contents (October 2025)"; Sheri Taylor-Emery

Strong typography and layout guide the reader through page while projecting a sense of abundance. Special features are effectively highlighted in the boxes at the top. The limited text color palette keeps the page looking unified.

D5 – Use of Typography

SMALL
Bronze: *Baltimore's Child;* "Halloween Happenings"; Art Department

Bold seasonal colors pair with imaginative and fearless typography to communicate a wonderful sense of the Halloween season. The frightfully delightful type combinations are used throughout the layout and design to not only add spirit to the pages, but to also create a great sense of visual hierarchy. Altogether this thoughtful use of typography and color creates a memorable design that is both festive and visually compelling.

Silver: *Chesapeake Family Life;* "How To Host A Birthday Party For A Child With A Disabilty"; Lonna Koblick

Take colorful and creative typography and add complimentary colorful graphic elements

like sprinkles and you've got yourself a visual party worth celebrating. The type choices set a fun and celebratory tone while the design presents the information on neurodivergent party planning in a well-organized and easy to consume manner.

Gold: *PDX Parent;* "What Teachers Want You to Know About Your Kids"; Tiffany Howard

Hand drawn illustrations and hand drawn typography form a visual synergy that immediately conveys a scholastic tone and adds a strong sense of humanization. This clever repetition of style is perfect for a personal and enlightening story about the way teachers view the kids that are their students. The use of color is both attractive and complimentary, helping to communicate and accentuate important information. It's a simple concept and a lovely execution.

LARGE
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Atlanta Parent;* "Atlanta: A Mecca for the Arts"; Sheri Taylor-Emery

The type treatment is literally a work of art in this feature on Atlanta and the Arts. Swaths of multi-colored paint overlap one another to create complex and visually interesting letterforms. The compositions and type treatments are repeated throughout the feature and are beautifully complemented by additional layers of colorful typography. The use of bold, vibrant color makes a beautiful statement, resulting in a feature that feels as artistic and expressive as the arts and culture of this major southern metropolis.

Gold: *DFW Child;* "The Comfort Trap"; Sean Parsons

This feature is a wonderful example of how a strong design concept can be elevated through thoughtful typography. The type doesn't simply support the idea—it actively participates in it, creating a visual relationship that makes the concept feel even more engaging and memorable. The brilliant use of a thin string to connect the typography to the concept is particularly effective and demonstrates a truly innovative approach to storytelling through type. Bold, sophisticated typography, purposeful negative space, and a confident use of color all contribute to an overall design that is impressive, engaging and easy to navigate from start to finish.

D6 – Single-Page Design

SMALL
Bronze: *Baltimore's Child;* "Ages and Stages"; Lonna Koblick

Structured color blocks for each question and answer makes navigation easy, and varied font size balances the page. The use of graphic details adds interest to this helpful content.

Silver: *Kern County Family Magazine;* "You Can Do It: STEM Showdown: The Great Kid-Vention Challenge"; Lisa Keosouphanh, Roxanne Ricker, LJ Radon

Color is used to guide readers through the page, step by step. Bold, bullets and check boxes add visual interest and something for children to do. Graphic elements add whimsy and balance.

Gold: *Charlottesville Family;* "Peanut Allergies/Healthy Family"; staff

The photography and headline immediately tell the story, and the peanuts lead eyes down the page. Simplicity and restraint keeps the emphasis is on the text. White space and photographic elements are balanced.

LARGE
Bronze: *Baton Rouge Parents Magazine;* "What Kind of Dad Are You?"; Madeline Miletello, Amy Foreman

A lot of information is packed into a readable design. Font size helps with navigation, as viewers move through the numbered blocks. The relatively large sidebar with tallied numbers immediately draws attention, which will inspire readers to take the quiz.

Silver: *Atlanta Parent;* "8 Delightful Ways to Celebrate Hanukkah"; Sheri Taylor-Emery

Typographic hierarchy guides viewers from the lead art and headline to the numbered suggestions. The illustrations hint at some of the fun Hanukkah suggestions. The page uses white space well within a densely packed layout.

Gold: *Atlanta Parent*; "Homework Help and Other Forms of Mutual Suffering"; Sheri Taylor-Emery

The photograph fits perfectly with the topic and creates a focal point. Sophisticated typography and font sizing guide viewers through each stage. The use of colored font and a large quote for each stage adds interest and even a bit of fun.

D7 – Department Design

SMALL
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Baltimore's Child;* "Seasonal"; Art Department staff

Visual elements immediately convey each seasonal theme. Illustrations on the Performing Arts page are a cute representation of the spring arts season, while the Memorial Day headline treatment sets a recognizable tone for the content.

Gold: *L.A. Parent;* "Family Recipes"; Elena Epstein, Cassandra Lane, Jenny Cardoza

Nice portraits and other well-chosen visual elements are positioned nicely on these sophisticated pages to attract readers and enhance the storytelling. Typography on the recipes is well done. The design also displays good cohesiveness from issue to issue.

LARGE
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Atlanta Parent;* "In the Neighborhood"; Sheri Taylor-Emery

Large photos guide the reader through the layouts and convey important information about each of the featured locations. Meanwhile, the large numbers provide helpful entry points into the text.

Gold: *Atlanta Parent;* "Good Stuff"; Sheri Taylor-Emery

The variety of shapes and colors projects a lively tone, while expert placement of all the elements keeps the pages feeling organized and inviting. The blue headlines pop out and are just the right size to guide the reader without overpowering things.

D8 – Calendar of Events

SMALL
Bronze: *L.A. Parent;* "Top Picks for Family Fune"; Nina Harada, Jenny Cardoza, Cassandra Lane

Legibility is enhanced by the open, uncondensed sans serif text font. Coupled with generous line leading this is very easy to read. The clip art provides relevant, attractive and tasteful support for the content without being intrusive.

Silver: *Washington Family;* "Family Fun Calendar"; Lonna Koblick

The package leads off with a good use of art, color and clean typography. The organization and compartmentalization are clear and easy to navigate. The artwork, while not always the center of attention, creates interest and accentuates white space.

Gold: *Washington Parent;* "Things To Do", Meredith Hancock

The calendar benefits from good use of art, color, and typography. The use of photographs, spread liberally throughout package, helps pull the reader through a lengthy list of events. There is variety in display, from large (Painted stories of the DMV), medium (Step inside the Holodeck) to multiple smaller images. A Playful Mothers' Day package features an airy display of art and type.

LARGE
Bronze: *Nashville Parent;* "Things To Do"; Michael Aldrich, entertainment editor, Susan Day, editor

Editors rise to the challenge of packaging a very lengthy list of Things To Do. They use pictures (lots of them), artwork (tastefully sprinkled throughout the package), a few picture dropouts and tinted text blocks to break up all that text. The text is clean and easy to read.

Silver: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Community Calendar"; Jesse Robinson, Tara Ritter

Bold and colorful pictures grab the eye. Very modular layout, clean listings with ample white space, color headings and legible text till out the package.

Gold: *Atlanta Parent;* "Family Fun Guide"; Sheri Taylor-Emery

A visual feast for the eyes, the fall Family Fun Guide shows and tells the many festivals and activities, leading off with "7 You Just Can't Miss". It's followed by Top Events, then New Exhibits an on through Fall Bucket List. Photographs are illuminating and plentiful. Listings are clearly organized, the typography is clean and legible, the color palette for main and list labels complementary and easy to navigate.

D9 – Event Highlights

SMALL
No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *Hood Magazine;* "Hood Featured Events (Event Highlights)"; Ally Chase, Sarah Parker, Jennifer Fleming, Steffanie Holtrop

Featured events are logically arranged into even columns for easy reading. Photos and shading effectively draw readers into the page, particularly in the July-August layout. Subtle color coding on the date numbers underscores the clear separation of events by month.

LARGE
No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *Atlanta Parent;* "Top Events"; Sheri Taylor-Emery

Well-selected photos draw in readers and provide a nice snapshot of what each event entails. Good typographic contrast unifies the layout and helps make the information easily scannable. The design is clear and effective.

D10 – Feature Layout

SMALL
Bronze: *Hood Magazine;* "The Best 2 Weeks of Summer"; Ally Chase, Sarah Parker, Jennifer Fleming, Steff Holtrop

A wildly appropriate color palette, a strong scholastic typeface that evokes education and learning, and an array of playful intricate icons all combine to create a visual approach that feels perfectly suited to summer camp. The visual entry points are plentiful, while exciting photography captures the energy, adventure, and fun-filled memories made at Camp Leif Ericson. This design does something every great piece of design should do. It demands an emotional connection and makes the reader want to be there and be a part of it all.

Silver: *Washington Parent;* "DMV's Most Over-the-Top Milkshakes"; Meredith Hancock

The playful circular photographs of milkshakes practically jump off the page, creating an immediate sense of excitement and desire, with each image more tempting than the last. A joyful rainbow of colors and celebratory graphic elements sets the tone for this delicious exploration of a family-friendly frozen treat. The typography and design are both relevant and well organized, delivering multiple layers of content in a clear and easy do digest manner. The Google Map is another standout, demonstrating ingenuity and resourcefulness while adding genuine value for the reader.

Gold: *L.A. Parent;* "Rooted in Renewal"; Jenny Cardoza, Elena Epstein, Cassandra Lane

Dirt and lush sprawling plants are clever accents and inspired visual devices in a story on plants and their influence on our daily lives. The subject and photography is bursting with color, personality and visual interest, perfectly capturing the spirit and persona of the story's main character. The typography and design remain simple and strong, allowing the imagery and colorful graphics to take center stage. Illustrative accents and a charming illustrated sidebar add unexpected moments of visual energy. This feature is as vibrant, organic, and full of life as the subject itself.

LARGE
Bronze: *New York Family;* "A Room of Her Own"; Leah Mitch

Expertly composed and beautifully executed photography immediately grab the reader's attention. Consistent lighting and color, combined with well framed subjects give the images a cohesive visual language while conveying an undeniable sense of excitement and wonder. The hand-painted quality of the typography is a clever choice for a story centered around a child's room, adding personality while reinforcing the subject matter. The overall design is simple yet sophisticated, allowing the photography to take center stage and do exactly what it is meant to do: draw the reader in and make them want to curl up with a stuffed animal and a good book.

Silver: *Seattle's Child;* "Travel On!"; Kathleen Holloway, Cheryl Murfin

Photographs of beautiful destinations paired with candid family moments create a compelling visual combination, giving readers a sense of both wonder and personal connection. The overall design incorporates colors, varied shapes, strong typography, and purposeful negative space to deliver a sophisticated and playful visual experience. The layout features an abundance of travel information impressively organized in a way that is both approachable and easy to navigate. The result is an engaging and balanced feature that invites readers to explore, dream, and start planning their own adventures.

Gold: *DFW Child;* "Dream It, Do It"; Sean Parsons

A bright and bold color palette paired with expressive and engaging photography establishes a dream-like tone that is both appropriate and intriguing. The photographs are playful and full of personality, serving as the perfect visual heroes on each page of the feature. The typography and design take a restrained approach, yet remain creative and thoughtful, complementing the photography and graphic elements without creating visual competition. Together, these elements create a harmonious and cohesive design that is delightful and fun to read.

D11 - Special Section

SMALL

Bronze: *Philadelphia Metrokids;* "Inclusive Family"; art department

The typography for listings is sound, using ragged right text to inject white space into what might otherwise be dense, dull justified blocks of type. For variety, the "What to Ask" and "Access to Fun" packages switch to centered type. There's refreshing variety in the selection of pictures throughout the section.

Silver: *Washington Family;* "Big Book of Education"; Lonna Koblick

TThe stunning eye-catching cover illustration pulls readers into the section. The pictures inside are well selected and fit perfectly with the themes and content they accompany. The "Skills Outside the Classroom" layout is a good example of using typography to break the gray.

Gold: *Baltimore's Child;* "Big Book for Families 2026 Resource Guide"; Lonna Koblick, Frank Wagner

Clean, readable typography and bullet lists serve the extensive listings very well. The lead pictures for "Fairs, Festivals & More" and for "Camp Directory" are played well. For good measure there is a bit of playfulness in the presentation: the goat picture with the "Sheep and Wool Festival," color silhouette art in "Let's Play," and the art "What To Ask." Typography is tasteful and easy to read, with ample white space. The pastel color palette is easy on the eyes. The layout is well organized and thoughtful.

LARGE

Bronze: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Outstanding Seniors"; Jesse Robinson

This is a very stylish, tightly designed package that adheres to a clean grid format. Typography is formal, subdued and easy to read.

Silver: *KC Parent;* "January Winter Fun Guide"; Michael Gimotty, Kim Tappan, Allie ColePerson

Interesting pictures displayed large and the design and typography of the 31 Days of Fun calendar stand out in this section. The typography and layout are lively and airy. The color palette leans nicely into the winter theme.

Gold:*; Atlanta Parent*; "Atlanta's Best Guide to Education"; Sheri Taylor-Emery, Liz White, Laura Powell

Overall this is a well-executed package of complementary photo, art, and typography. A terrific example is the Glossary of Educational Terms. The art is tightly put together, the contrasting color palette of red and blue is tasteful and effective, and the typography is clean with adequate white space. An intriguing and fun juxtaposition of headline and photo in Homework Help is supported by attractive pull-quote typography. The quality of art and consistency of typography carries on throughout the section.

D12 – Overall Design

SMALL

Bronze: *Washington Family;* art department

The covers consistently pair strong family portraits with bold cover lines, distinctive typography, and thoughtful use of color. That sense of cohesion continues throughout the pages, where the grid system, typography, and imagery maintain a strong and consistent structure that makes the content easy to navigate and creates a confident reading experience. Yet the design team knows exactly when to loosen the reins and break from that established visual language. Features such as "Archery Right on Target" and "Moms Need Friends Too" introduce unexpected typographic and visual approaches that break the mold and give these stories a distinct personality of their own. These departures from the established system create moments of surprise and keep the reader engaged, while allowing individual features to stand out. The consistency and creative freedom is very well balanced maintaining a strong visual identity and plenty of space for visual surprises.

Silver: *Kern County Family Magazine;* LJ Radon, Jinger Belcher, Heather Hafen, Felix Adamo, Lisa Keosouphanh

The Summer Camp cover features an energetic action photograph with lively illustrations and colorful graphic elements, immediately establishing a sense of fun and adventure. The Beale Library cover takes a completely different approach, creating a wonderful sense of history and place through a striking black-and-white environmental portrait, while the Family Legacy cover offers a warm and intimate mother-daughter color portrait. This variety of visual styles and storytelling continues throughout the issues, with a wide-ranging palette of color, typography, photography, and graphic treatments. Despite the diversity of approaches, the publication maintains a strong and recognizable visual identity, creating consistency without sacrificing surprise or personality. The varied issues are unmistakably connected through design choices and visual communication, each offering their own unique and compelling visual invitation.

Gold: *Hood Magazine;* Ally Chase, Jennifer Fleming, Sarah Parker, Steff Holtrop, Jaclyn Small

The smaller format immediately gives this publication a distinctive quality, creating a sense that the book itself is something sentimental, special, and meant to be cherished. While such a compact format can present significant design challenges, this publication turns those limitations into opportunities for bold and imaginative visual storytelling. The use of large full bleed photography paired with creative typographic headlines makes the feature stories both impressive and visually playful. A simple and effective grid system presents content in a clear, concise and highly approachable way, while an expansive and explorative use of color adds visual energy and personality to each page.

LARGE

Bronze: *Atlanta Parent;* Liz White, Laura Powell, Sheri Taylor-Emery

The covers are moving and captivating, capture joyful, authentic moments such as a girl soaring on a swing or a boy hard at work on his STEAM project. Color is used intentionally and thoughtfully throughout each issue to signal pertinent information and reinforce a strong sense of visual hierarchy within the page compositions. One particularly delightful recurring feature is the Neighborhood Spotlight, which combines energetic layouts, large and compelling photography, informative captions, and oversized graphic numbers to create a distinctive and highly visual storytelling experience. Full of personality and purpose, this publication does a great job delivering a remarkable amount of information in a compact yet approachable format.

Silver: *TulsaKids Magazine;* Jesse Robinson

These issues demonstrate consistency in countless thoughtful ways. From the cover designs and headline treatments to the use of color and even the smallest of graphic details, there is a remarkable sense of cohesion. Yet, that consistency never comes at the expense of surprise. Feature stories introduce moments of visual delight through explorative and fearless typographic treatments, such as “Doggy Dates for Shelter Dogs,” which cleverly incorporates graphic paw prints alongside small, intimate candid photographs of dogs. The result is a beautifully balanced design system that feels cohesive and recognizable while still finding fresh and unexpected ways to delight the reader.

Gold: *DFW Child;* Sean Parsons

Pure visual engagement from cover to cover, these issues and the pages therein are exemplary of great design. The cover designs are consistent and visually impactful, while a variety of modern and innovative typefaces are wonderfully paired and showcased throughout each issue. The dynamic grid system integrates beautiful photography, expressive typography and engaging illustrations creating visual variation and sustained interest from page to page. But it is the conceptual thinking, infusion of personality and execution behind features such as “Food Fight”, “The Comfort Trap” and “The New Kids” that truly make these issues memorable. When strong concept, confident design, and exceptional execution come together at this level, the result is a visual experience that stays with you long after the final page.

ANCILLARY PUBLICATIONS

AP1 - Ancillary Cover

No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *Kern County Family Magazine;* "2025 Holiday Fun & Games"; LJ Radon, Roxanne Ricker

The friendly subject matter, nice layering of imagery, and overall tone of this illustration welcome readers into some holiday fun. The animal friends are cute and well-drawn. The small holiday song lyric coming from the owl adds a nice touch.

AP2 - Ancillary Overall Writing

Bronze: *Monterey Bay Parent;* "Monterey Bay Military Parent"; Andrea Breznay, Summer Romney, Jessica Thibault, Tim Bartholomew

This is a publication that understands military parents — and that comes across in its writing and story selection. Stories are written with authority and convey information in a clear, trusted way. Thoughtful organization makes stories both easy and enjoyable to read.

Silver: *Colorado Parent;* "Everything Baby"; Amy Foreman, Amanda Miller, Amelia Roessler, Julianna Steen, Madeline Pistorius

From the short briefs in the front of this publication to its features, these stories are breezy, entertaining and informative. The writing tone fits the topic, whether that's pregnancy anxieties or a rubber duck bath thermometer.

Gold: *DFW Child;* "DFW Baby"; Amanda Collins Bernier, Jennifer Casseday-Blair, Heidi Butler, Erin Burt Hayes, Katelin Walling

Across a variety of story types, the writing in this publication weaves in creativity — from the leads to the word choices. Stories are presented in lively ways keep it interesting, whether that's a Q&A or longer story about mental health.

AP3 - Ancillary Overall Design

Bronze: *Charlottesville Family;* "Charlottesville Family Relocation Guide"; Jennifer Bryerton, Liz Valente, Billie Bryerton, Suzannah Spaar, Ellen Sewell

Relocation can be an intimidating endeavor, but this bright, colorful, neat and tidy publication transforms an often overwhelming process into an approachable and inviting experience. The design balances a wealth of practical information with strong photography and consistent graphic treatments, giving the guide a distinct sense of place and personality. Thoughtful organization and clear visual hierarchy guide readers effortlessly through the publication while capturing the character and essence of Charlottesville.

Silver: *Kern County Family Magazine;* "2025 Holiday Fun & Games Book"; LJ Radon, Roxanne Ricker, Andrea Rose

A seasonally inspired color palette, charming illustrations and creative typography

immediately set the tone for a holiday experience that is joyful and inviting. The games and puzzles bring an interactive quality to the pages, while the typography and design add moments of discovery and delight through festive holiday songs and expertly designed recipes for holiday treats. The red ribbon inspired typography is a particularly lovely touch, demonstrating ingenuity and a clever repetition of form and concept while beautifully tying itself into the holiday theme. All of the thoughtful details create a joyful and festive design, that brings the spirit of the holidays to life.

Gold: *DFW Child;* "DFW Baby"; Sean Parsons

The in-your-face baby approach on the cover creates an immediate emotional connection with the reader. The cover lines are visually interesting and beautifully cue the reader to the important content to come. The overall organization of the entire issue is brilliant, with clever parenthood terminology like "crib notes" and "baby steps" adding personality and interest to the navigation and overall reading experience. The Visual hierarchy is top-notch, from department pages to feature stories, as gorgeous photography and illustrations play harmoniously with innovative typography. The section openers and the feature on Motherhood & Mental Health are especially exceptional, using powerful visuals that draw the reader in and demand attention. Every inch of this publication thoughtfully considered and truly captures the magic of parenthood.

DIGITAL MEDIA

DG1 - Blog/Bloggers

SMALL
No awards.

LARGE
No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *TulsaKids;* "Grand Life"; Diane Morrow-Kondos

This blog is infused with friendly practical wisdom, combined with plenty of compassion for others experiencing the challenges of parenting. The author, now a grandmother, offers nice reassurance and perspective from the later stages of the journey.

DG2 – Short-Form Video

SMALL
No Bronze or Silver award.

Gold: *PDX Parent;* "PDX Parent Waterfall Reel"; Meg Asby, Tiffany Hill

This video creates an immersive experience that draws viewers right into the location and moment. The carefully chosen clips make you feel as though you're actually there, experiencing the scenic views yourself. Combined with smooth pacing, a clear caption, and engaging voice over, the video delivers value in a way that feels both exciting and accessible to parents and families.

LARGE
Bronze: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "May 2026 Cover Photo Shoot: Behind the Scenes"; Tara Rittler

This entry takes the audience behind the scenes, using a perfect mix of music, video and photos to capture the energy, emotion, and candid moments of the cover photoshoot. Those elements, paired with the careful editing, create an intimate, immersive feeling, as if you're right there alongside the family, experiencing each moment as it unfolds.

Silver: *Metro Parent;* "Social Video"; David Arkin

This entry immediately catches the eye with its striking visuals and standout editing. The intentional combination of clips, pacing, and creative cuts transforms the content into informative, engaging videos that hold the audience's attention from start to finish. Every visual choice feels deliberate, making the information easy to absorb while creating a crisp, energetic feel.

Gold: *Chicago Parent;* "Chicago Parent's Editor on short video"; David Arkin

This entry stands out for delivering deep dives in a short amount of time. Its personal, engaging feel, enhanced by the editor appearing on screen, works seamlessly with helpful text and perfectly matched visuals to make the content both accessible and memorable. The thoughtful editing makes every second count, creating a polished experience that is both

informative and genuinely enjoyable to watch.

DG3 - E-Newsletter

SMALL

Bronze: *Washington Parent;* "Top Things to do in the DMV this week"; Ronel Hentschel

These newsletters make it easy for busy parents to quickly see what is happening around the D.C. area and decide what their families might want to do. Timely topics such as cherry blossom events, Easter activities and weekend outings are paired with concise descriptions that give readers enough information to decide what interests them without slowing down the experience. The strong emphasis on useful, local information makes each edition feel relevant to the week it arrives.

Silver: *Charlottesville Family;* "Holiday Season Newsletters"; Jennifer Bryerton, Ellen Sewell, Suzannah Spaar, Billie Bryerton

This newsletter offers plenty of reasons to keep scrolling, with timely local information that feels useful and not overwhelming. Short, focused summaries make it easy to quickly find something relevant, while the mix of seasonal activities, holiday outings, recipes and other family resources anticipates what readers may need this time of year. Clear calls to action throughout make the next step obvious and help turn the newsletter into a practical guide for its community.

Gold: *Monterey Bay Parent;* "Weekly E-News"; Andrea Breznay, Jenna Keisling, Summer Romney

The newsletter turns a packed calendar of local events into an inviting and easy-to-navigate guide for families. Timely details, concise event descriptions and clear links make each edition immediately useful, while features such as "Jenna's Weekend Pick" add personality and thoughtful curation. This newsletter has a strong mix of service, local expertise and engaging content that gives parents plenty of reasons to keep reading. And plenty of ideas for the weekend.

LARGE

Bronze: *Seattle's Child;* "This Hits Home"; Cheryl Murfin, Rose Williamson

A personal, conversational voice makes this newsletter feel like it is coming from someone who understands the concerns of local parents. Serious topics including community safety, school meals, public health and state policy are introduced with context and a clear sense of why they matter to families. The writing creates a connection with readers while balancing difficult news with useful information and lighter moments.

Silver: *Chicago Parent;* "Parent Hub newsletter"; David Arkin

This newsletter respects busy parents' time without shortchanging them on information. Smart framing around the newsletter content such as "Why it matters," "The tension" and "Bottom line" breaks down topics ranging from health care and legislation to screen time and family activities into useful, easy-to-scan takeaways. Readers get enough context to understand why each story matters before deciding whether to click, while a strong mix of serious parenting issues and practical family resources keeps each edition relevant and engaging.

Gold: *New York Family;* "New York Family Weekly Newsletter"; Jeannine Cintron

This polished, visually striking newsletter makes every section inviting and easy to explore. Strong photography immediately draws readers into the content, while the clean design creates an easy path through stories, recommendations and useful information for families. The combination of compelling visuals, thoughtful organization and engaging content makes this newsletter as enjoyable to browse as it is useful.

DG4 – Social Media, Single Platform

SMALL
No Bronze award.

Silver: *PDX Parent;* "PDX Parent Instagram"; Meg Asby, Tiffany Hill

This entry demonstrates the power of video to engage and inspire exploration, even and especially in your own community. The social videos are thoughtfully crafted, combining strong visuals with purposeful editing and compelling footage to keep the viewer absorbed from beginning to end. The creative composition and polished presentation bring each post to life, making information feel dynamic.

Gold: *Charlottesville Family;* "Charlottesville Family Instagram"; Billie Bryerton, Jennifer Bryerton

This entry demonstrates how social media can truly serve a community. The posts go beyond simply sharing information; they provide practical tools and valuable resources that help families better understand, connect with, and engage in their community. Beyond the substance of the content, the quality of the entry is outstanding. The posts are colorful, clear, and creative, making the information both approachable and appealing.

LARGE
Bronze: *New York Family;* "New York Family Instagram"; Alexa Lutter

This entry uses a presenter to create a compelling connection with the audience, while thoughtfully incorporating text and information to enhance the message rather than distract from it. The result is a clear, engaging, and carefully curated experience that is both personal and intentional. It has a natural, approachable quality that draws viewers in and makes the information easy to connect with.

Silver: *Kansas City Parent;* "KC Parent Instagram"; Michael Gimotty, Halley Zitterkopf

This entry demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of how to use the platform to maximum effect. It puts striking visuals at the forefront, using text strategically to enhance rather than compete with the imagery, resulting in videos that are both appealing and informative. The result is a dynamic, engaging approach that keeps viewers informed without sacrificing visual impact.

Gold: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "TulsaKids' Instagram"; Tara Rittler

This entry is striking, stimulating, and substantive. It uses the Instagram to share content that is captivating, dynamic, visually vibrant, entertaining, and insightful and meaningful. This entry strategically uses the platform as a tool to amplify the message, rather than letting the

platform dictate the message. The result is an entry that is authentic, purposeful, and focused on connecting with the audience while connecting the audience to its mission.

DG5 – Biggest Growth in Social Media

SMALL
No awards.

LARGE
No Bronze award.

Silver: *Chicago Parent;* David Arkin

The entry shows a steady effort to use social platforms to extend the publication's reach and connect with its parenting audience. A consistent mix of family activities, education and expert advice gives parents useful information across social media. Clear branding and approachable visuals make the content easy to recognize and follow, while locally focused posts connect families with information relevant to their everyday lives.

Gold: *Metro Parent;* David Arkin

A smart short-form video strategy meets families on the platforms where they are already spending time. Strong intros quickly pull viewers in, while colorful visuals, fun concepts and concise storytelling keep the videos engaging without overstaying their welcome. Publishing across TikTok, YouTube and Facebook extends the reach of the work, with content that feels well suited to both the platforms and a family audience. It is a focused, energetic approach to video that turns strong execution into audience growth.

DG6 – Online Directory

SMALL
No Silver or Bronze award.

Gold: *Charlottesville Family; "*Summer Camp Guide"; Jennifer Bryerton, Billie Bryerton, Suzannah Spaar, Ellen Sewell, Liz Valente

Those lazy days of summer can create a conundrum for working families: finding the right camp at the right price. This directory delivers information on more than 40 programs across four states. Ease of use is key – parents can click on a camp if they already know the name or use the Hub to explore different types of camps. Listings follow a structure, and it's digitally updated as more information is available.

LARGE
No Silver or Bronze award.

Gold: *TulsaKids Magazine;* "Summer Fun Guide"; Amanda Murphy, Tara Rittler

Very comprehensive listing, with helpful week-by-week activities. A great planning tool that provides transparency for parents like activity level, age group and cost. This is more than a camp guide, it's guide to local attractions like parks and museums, youth workshops and camps, sports programs, and ideas for family adventures. It's clearly a time intensive project that's been well thought-out.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

GE1- Best Redesigned Publication

Silver: *Philadelphia Metrokids;* "Philadelphia MetroKids: Parenting in Greater Philadelphia"; staff

This redesign leans into consistency and restraint of typography and color resulting in a more modern and sophisticated appearance. A welcome addition is a front of book reader poll with a QR code link to submit answers, encouraging reader engagement. Familiar features - Top 5 Things to Know, Eat, Neighborhood and Bookmarked — have been updated with more white space and pastel color screens that provide an airy feel and a sense of flow.

Gold: *Charlottesville Family;* "Ultimate Go-To Guide"; Suzannah Spaar, Billie Bryerton, Liz Valente, Ellen Sewell, Jennifer Bryerton

This is not a transitional upgrade but a very strong makeover, with bold design improvements and elevated content. The necessary and useful lists are preceded by long-form reporting on timely and topical subjects, including Parenting in the Age of Cell Phones where teens have taught researchers about phones, and what adults get wrong. The cover boasts beautiful original art that is mirrored inside on section fronts, and a full-page illustration by a local artist kicks off the new front of book content. An updated grid — two columns for narrative stories, three column listings — provides more white space and larger photos.

GE2- Ancillary General Excellence

SMALL

Bronze: *Monterey Bay Parent;* "Monterey Bay Military Parent 2026-2027"; Andrea Breznay, Summer Romney, Jessica Thibault, Tim Batholomew

This welcoming guide for new Monterey residents goes beyond simply providing recommendations to expected attractions. It also uncovers lesser-known experiences, giving new military families both an introduction to their surroundings and plenty of opportunities to further explore. Reading suggestions add another dimension to the guide, making it feel like a resource for discovering not only what to do, but also how to better understand and connect with a new home. The 250-item format for the iconic California experiences section is an especially clever and patriotic way to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the country.

Silver: *PDX Parent;* "PDX Parent's Welcome Guide 2025"; Denise Castañon, Tiffany Hill, Tiffany Howard, Rose Caudillo, Justine Arnold

Rather than simply presenting lists of information, this guide succeeds by making an abundance of knowledge genuinely engaging to read. Helpful details about kid-friendly restaurants and options for schooling are tailored to the needs of families, and the smart use of photographs paired with colorful graphic pullouts help the reader enjoy the experience of exploring each recommendation. The neighborhood coverage is delightful, combining practical information with personal perspectives through features such as "What Neighbors Say" and the recurring "Play Here," "Live Here" and "Eat Here" sections.

Gold: *Charlottesville Family;* "Bloom, Summer 2026: Pick-Your-Own Path"; Suzannah Spaar,

Liz Valente, Billie Bryerton, Ellen Sewell, Jennifer Bryerton

This special edition expertly delivers on its promise to solve the problem of summer boredom. An interactive quiz at the beginning immediately draws readers into the issue to help them discover which activities best fit the interests and personalities of their family. This concept of a journey carries throughout the entire guide, from the purposeful and playful design of the table of contents to the flowcharts and thoughtfully organized activity blurbs in each section. Recommendations are comprehensive without becoming overwhelming, and the inclusion of local authors demonstrates a meaningful connection between the publication and the community.

LARGE

Bronze: *KC Parent;* "Going Places"; Michael Gimotty, Kim Tappan, Allie Cole

By combining practical listings with original editorial angles, this special edition serves as a must-have guide for exploring a city that's become home to an international event. The World Cup FAQ utilizes a question-and-answer approach that anticipates the curiosity both newcomers and locals are bound to have as they engage with all the city's festivities. Information is presented in an accessible, straightforward manner, to guide readers through experiences and memories, and not just a checklist of destinations.

Silver: *Atlanta Parent;* "Atlanta Baby Digital - 2026"; Liz White, Laura Powell, Sheri Taylor-Emery, Emily Webb, Atlanta Parent editorial team

This issue is designed around the questions and needs that arise at different stages of a child's early life, making the information easy for parents to find and apply. Community-driven recommendations, including mom-approved doctors, give the advice a trustworthy, personal touch. The magazine consistently respects parents' limited time by putting useful answers and actionable information within easy reach, creating a practical resource that feels both approachable and reliable.

Gold: *DFW Child;* "DFWBaby"; Amanda Collins Bernier, Sean Parsons, Elizabeth Smith, Joy Niebes Wommack

A warm and inviting editor's note establishes this issue as approachable and genuinely helpful, and that voice carries through the entire magazine. The writing is grounded, down-to-earth, and personable, all while tackling an impressive range of subjects. Particularly strong are the features that address the challenging realities of parenting, such as PMD and other post-partum struggles for maternal mental health. Expert advice is presented in accessible formats such as "Sound Advice," bringing authoritative information to subjects that parents need but may find difficult to navigate. The result is a thoughtful collection of stories that combine practical guidance with meaningful discussion about the realities of modern parenthood.

GE3 – Website General Excellence

SMALL

Bronze: *Southwest Florida Family;* Stacy Nicolau, co-publisher, Jane MacNealy, co-publisher

This website avoids clutter while ensuring there is still plenty for parents to engage with when they visit the homepage. The prominent calendar is easy to read at a glance, and the original reporting in its stories is accessible and engaging.

Silver: *L.A. Parent;* Elena Epstein, creative director, Cassandra Lane, editor in chief, Nina Harada, digital community editor

The site makes full use of its homepage real estate, foregrounding its latest content with an appealing gallery at the top of the page. The thoughtful use of visuals enhances and draws attention to the wealth of original reporting, which ranges from human interest to news.

Gold: *Washington Parent*; Ronel Hentschel, publisher

The welcoming design and color scheme of this site offer cohesion to the homepage, which does an excellent job of spacing out its many elements to avoid being overwhelming. Each category is clearly labeled, which makes the site easier for parents to engage with efficiently, and the content is evenly distributed throughout the site.

LARGE

Bronze: *Chicago Parent*; David Arkin, editor in chief

This site's use of visuals make its articles immediately attractive and attention-getting. The featured article on the homepage is unmissable, and the use of color to separate the guides section is elegant. The site's design uses negative space to provide clarity, and there is a nice variety of articles.

Silver: *Seattle's Child*; Britt Thorson, Cheryl Murfin, Jasmin Thankachen, Ann Bergman, Josh Huston

The eye-catching yellow labels for each category of article add legibility to the site, while neatly tying back to the masthead. The search function on the calendar provides a specific and unique utility to parents looking for family activities, and the articles give a fairly comprehensive accounting of Seattle parenting topics, including technology and politics.

Gold: *New York Family*; Danielle Ramos, deputy editor, Donna Duarte-Ladd, head of editorial and content

The hand-drawn look of this site's category icons is thoroughly charming and separates the homepage from its competitors. A lot of thought has been put into making the website visually appealing, from those design elements to the use of original, rather than stock, photographs. All of this attention to design enhances the stories featured on the site, and provides a human touch to its content.

GE4 - General Excellence

SMALL

Bronze: *Washington Family*; staff

A satisfying mix of content across a range of topics reflects the audience, from a package on supporting a middle child to lessons from moms about making friends in a new community. Lots of parent voices provide wisdom and charm, the typography gives every section a consistent look, and breakouts add nice information choices.

Silver: *PDX Parent*; Denise Castañon, Tiffany Hill, Tiffany Howard, Rose Caudillo, Justine Arnold

Thoughtful features with content specific to its audience are highlights of this

publication. A combination of resource-rich ideas ("Ready Freddy" about preparation for natural disasters) and updated classics (kid-friendly art galleries, concerts and dance performances, for example) boosts the content from ordinary to exceptional. Design is straightforward and polished, especially the lead feature packages. It's clear the publication is invested in providing actionable reader service to its audience.

Gold: *Baltimore's Child*; staff
Timely, community-centered features about area news and families distinguish this magazine. How to connect with Orioles heroes was a clever way to turn an idea into a family project, writing practice and exercise in managing expectations. Organization of packages, such as the one called "Welcome Summer," divide the text into helpful blocks and layer the information with lists and other breakouts. The calendars are solid, and the directories are terrific additions. This is a spirited, refreshing publication.

LARGE
Bronze: *Nashville Parent*; Susan Day, editor; Michael Aldrich, managing editor
A distinct voice and point of view demonstrate consideration of the community. Each issue has fresh ideas that make sense of contemporary concerns, such as resilience, confidence and the amount of appropriate screen time for children. There is bold use of color with value-added calendars and other helpful listings. The importance of serving readership seems always top-of-mind.

Silver: *DFW Child*; Amanda Collins Bernier, Sean Parsons, Elizabeth Smith, Joy Niebes Wommack
The appeal starts with charming covers of children and continues throughout the publication with original ideas, tasteful design and a broad range of relevant information. Editors' letters are consistently sensitive to what the community is experiencing, and topics cover universal needs and concerns. Overanxious parenting, for example, is addressed smartly and thoughtfully in one article. Photographs are delightful, listings are easy to navigate and personal stories about real moms add authenticity. Overall, there is an excellent balance of light and serious content that pays attention to reader interests.

Gold: *TulsaKids Magazine*; Amanda Murphy, Natalie Mikles, Tara Rittler, Jesse Robinson, Lyssa Flanagan
Consistently engaging stories and approachable design are evident. The publication puts a premium on articles that are both useful and powerful. An outstanding example is "Amazing Mom," a story that celebrates the ability of a mother to find joy in tending to a special needs child while raising two other sons. From insightful columns to the artfully arranged calendars and short pull-out tips, the magazine demonstrates a careful attention to details. The publication is a winner that is well-sourced, edited and presented.