

# Before You Vote

From big races to small, initiatives to referendums, this fall's ballot is filled with issues important to children and families in Washington. In addition to reading your official Voter's Guide, you'll want to check out the endorsements on these two Web sites.

The Children's Campaign Fund – This 20-year-old political action committee interviews and endorses candidates. [www.childrenscampaignfund.org](http://www.childrenscampaignfund.org).

The Children's Alliance – This state-wide organization advocates for the needs of children and families in Washington at both the state and federal level. To see their stands on initiatives and referendums, go to [www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org). Look under "Our Current Work" for "2010 Elections and Endorsements."



## National Award

First, parents from her multilingual preschool in West Seattle nominated Nicole Chaudry for an Exceptional Caregiver Award through KCTS public television here in Seattle. She was one of seven providers in the region to win in 2008.

Next, she landed a "Caregiver of the Week" feature spot on a PBS program for child care providers, *A Place of Our Own*, and its Spanish-language companion, *Los Niños en Su Casa*, that aired around the country.

Then, last month, Chaudry traveled to Washington, D.C., as one of 17 child care providers to be recognized at the Third Annual National Child Care Providers Awards Ceremony.

Chaudry, who grew up in Germany, created Europa Kids International Preschool four years ago to share her love of languages and other cultures with children. She teaches the kids German and has a Spanish instructor on staff. "It's not just about learning a language; it's about opening a culture to them," Chaudry says.



## kindiependent

We just can't get enough of Seattle's fabu kindie rockers. So, *Seattle's Child* is a proud sponsor of Kindiependent's Nov. 7 "Share the Music" concert at the Seattle Central Library. Without plunking down a dime, you can rock out with five of the bands in the Kindiependent collective: Caspar Babypants, Recess Monkey, The Not-Its!, The Board of Education and The Harmonica Pocket.

It also happens to be a celebration of Caspar Babypants' new CD, "This is Fun," which is scheduled to be released a few days earlier.

Get it on your calendar. You won't want to miss it.

## Get Crushed

Arts Crush is an enormous, all-over-the-place, month-long, multimedia, interactive celebration of the arts. There are literally hundreds of music, literary, visual art, dance and theater events happening throughout the month of October. Saturdays are officially designated as Family Days, but there are loads of other family friendly happenings. Check out <http://artscrush.org/events/category/familyday/> for a full schedule.

Geocachers won't want to miss GeoCRUSH, a high-tech arts-themed treasure hunt around the Sound from Oct. 3-31. 20 art caches will be hidden at special arts-related sites throughout the region. Search for details at <http://artscrush.org>.

