

# Burkhart Buzz



## Surviving the Summer: Safety and Fun

Summer always poses an interesting challenge for parents as schools are no longer in session and responsible for providing daily childcare to your youngsters.

In this increasingly poor economy, finding affordable activities to keep your children busy and yourselves sane can be difficult.

These challenges are only further intensified for parents of children with special needs, specifically autism.

About.com has put together an article for parents

on how to survive the summer with a special needs child. The following link, [Summer Survival Kit](#), provides a great deal of information and ideas regarding making the summer fun and effective for everyone.



In addition to the ideas listed on this website, developing a daily routine for your child with ASD is essential to their success over the summer. Posting this visual schedule in the house may prove to be very helpful as well.

Finally, don't for-

get all of the important safety tips to follow:

- Drink lots of fluids
- Don't talk to strangers
- Use sunscreen
- Keep a first aid kit available
- Keep doors locked and gates closed to prevent fleeing—as the weather can be tempting
- Remind all babysitters of any allergies or unusual behaviors

We hope everyone has a great summer and stays safe!

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## Introducing...2009-2010 Burkhart Fellow



Stephanie Sokolosky, doctoral student, TTU

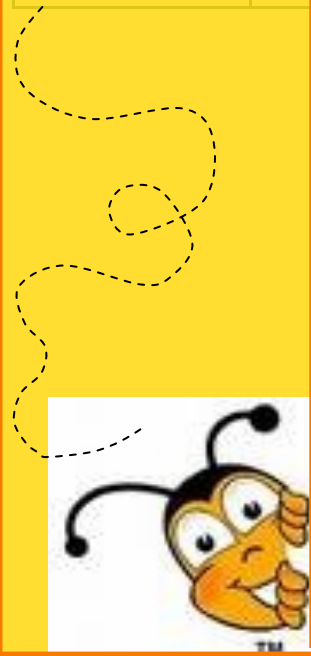
Stephanie Sokolosky, a doctoral student in Special Education, was recently named the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research Fellow for the 2009-2010 school year.

Ms. Sokolosky was also appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Texas Council for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. This is a tremendous honor and will allow Stephanie to

help families throughout Texas address the needs of children with autism.

In addition, she will get the opportunity to speak at the Association of Behavior Analysis Conference in both Phoenix, AZ and Oslo, Norway.

We are very proud to have her representing us in the Burkhart Center and wish her the best in these endeavors.





## A Closer Look: Family Fun Days

As summer begins, so does the tradition of Family Fun Days, hosted by the Burkhart Center.

Each year, our Center organizes a variety of activities in which children on the autism spectrum and their families can participate.

These events traditionally begin the week after the Fourth of July and occur weekly for an average of six weeks.

Activities are free of cost and are a great way for children and families in the community to socialize with other individuals who can relate to their situation.

It is asked that you RSVP prior to each event so that we can provide each venue with an esti-

mated number of expected guests.

This year we have arranged to have our Family Fun Days at the following locations: Southwest Sportsplex, Sun 'N Fun Swimming Pool, South Plains Lanes, Kenny's Korral, Science Spectrum, and Ready, Set, Go.

The dates and times for these activities can be found in the Upcoming Events section to the right.

In the past, we have seen huge success in this tradition and hope it continues to flourish.

Please come out and join us in the fun! If you have any additional questions or to RSVP please contact Susan Voland at [susan.voland@ttu.edu](mailto:susan.voland@ttu.edu).

## Upcoming Events

June 20, 2009	Parents' Night Out	5:00-8:00
July 7, 2009	Southwest Sportsplex	6:30-8:30
July 13, 2009	Sun 'N Fun Swimming	6:00-8:00
July 23, 2009	Bowling—South Plains Lanes	10:00-12:00
July 25, 2009	Parents' Night Out	5:00-8:00
July 30, 2009	Kenny's Korral	10:00-12:00
August 6, 2009	Science Spectrum	10:30-12:30
August 13, 2009	Ready, Set, Go	10:00-11:30



Sherry Sancibrian, Program Director of Speech and Language Pathology, TTUHSC



## In the Spotlight: Sherry Sancibrian

This month we are featuring a professional in Lubbock who has made a tremendous impact in the community and those affected by ASD. Sherry Sancibrian founded the South Plains Autism Network (SPAN) in 2003 and has been able to provide educational information to many families and professionals throughout Lubbock.

Sherry was born in Georgia and spent much of her childhood traveling the world, as she was raised in an Air Force family. She graduated from Texas Tech University with a Master's in

Speech and Language Pathology and permanently settled in Lubbock with her husband in 1978.

Since then, she has been working as an associate professor teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and has served as the Program Director for Speech and Language Pathology at the TTU Health Sciences Center. During her time at the HSC, Sherry has had the opportunity to work with many families in the area and has been touched by their stories and the struggles they face. She saw a great need

to provide more information and support to families affected by ASD which ultimately led to the creation of a program now known as SPAN.

This program allows parents and educators to get together once a month to hear an informational speaker and socialize with other parents in similar situations. For more information about SPAN, please contact the Burkhart Center.

Sherry has been a blessing to our community, and it is our hope to partner with her more in the future.

### Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research

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