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COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH
Office of Health Services

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*Chairperson, Public Safety
and Health Committee*

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County Administrator

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Department Head

Lester Jones
Director – Health Officer

Resources for Special Needs Children Affected by Edison Elementary School Fire

The following are some basic resources families with children with Special Needs /Special Healthcare Needs may find helpful in the aftermath of the fire at one of Edison's Elementary Schools:

***Article -Coping with Crisis – Helping Children with Special Needs:** National Association of School Psychologists article on line at www.nasponline.org/.../spec

***Article – How to Help An Individual with Autism Cope With Change:** www.ehow.com/how_6338716_individual-autism-cope-change.html

***SPAN (Statewide Parents Advocacy Network):** Middlesex County SPAN Family Resource Specialist, Jeannette Mejias (732) 745-3109 / email: Span@co.middlesex.nj.us

***Department of Children and Families / Perform Care:** May contact them if your child is having behavioral issues and is developmentally disabled 1-877-652-7624

***Autism New Jersey:** Non-profit agency which provides information, referrals and advocacy services geared specifically for individuals and families who are affected by Autism; Call their information and referral line at 1-800-428-8476 for possible referrals to counselors / behavior therapists who specialize in working with children with Autism / children who are non-verbal or have limited verbal skills, if you need, or explore their website at www.autismnj.org

***Family Support Center of New Jersey:** Operates a statewide toll free number 1-800-372-6510 for family members, professionals and other interested individuals to call for access to a broad array of support services geared to families caring for a child with a disability, medical condition, special needs, etc.

***Special Child Health Services Middlesex County Case Management Unit:** This program provides Comprehensive Case Management for special needs children from birth to the 22nd birthday who may have a disease, disorder or condition that may interfere with normal growth and / or development. The program offers resources and referrals to community, state and federal programs. Upon referral, the child is assigned to a Case Manager who completes an assessment and explores ways to meet the child's needs. The Case Manager also develops a comprehensive plan of care for the child which includes medical, dental, developmental, educational and social, emotional and economic areas. Call (732) 745-3100 for information.

*****Special Note:*** Assistance or services may not be found to be needed right away. Sometimes issues arise in children after the fact, weeks or months after. Parents may also contact their private insurance or Medicaid HMO, speak with a Care Manager and ask for services when school is out if they are found to be needed.

Middlesex County Special Child Health Services Case Management Unit 3/14

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