

Opinion Editor  
Burlington County Times  
4284 U.S. Route 130  
Willingboro, NJ 08046

April 8, 2014

Re: Letters to the Editor

Young Children Need Specialized Treatment

April is Autism Awareness Month, and the Centers for Disease Control has just issued its newest findings on autism: New Jersey once again has the highest rate in the nation, with one in 45 children diagnosed with the condition.

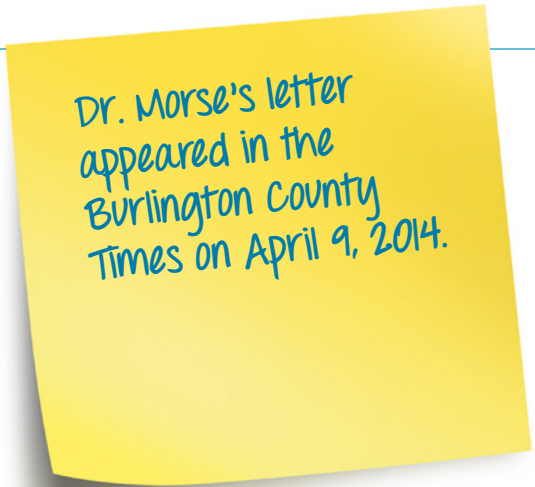
If there is a silver lining to this news, it is that it is now possible to identify children even before they turn 2. This opens the door to early treatment; effective, specialized behaviorally-oriented special education services.

While awareness of autism may have increased, too few young children are getting referred to highly specialized programs. In fact, private special education schools in New Jersey are reporting that the average age of referral is getting older — not younger — in recent years.

To those parents who have a child with autism, please advocate to secure effective, intensive behaviorally-oriented special education services right away. It is the only treatment shown by science and research to be effective, and it can make a lifetime of difference.

Steven Morse, Executive Director

Garfield Park Academy  
Willingboro, NJ



Dr. Morse's letter  
appeared in the  
Burlington County  
Times on April 9, 2014.

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**Education... *for a Lifetime***