

Children on waiting list

Women and homes needed for local day care

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer
The Halton Department of Social and Family Services is looking for women in the Georgetown area who are willing to provide day care in their home for up to five children under the age of ten.

Karen Sheremeta, private home day care visitor, says she has received many calls from people in the Georgetown area who would like to have their children placed in private home day care, but at present she has only two women in the program.

The private home day care program is run by the region's department of social and family services, and provides a complement to the regional day care centres, Ms. Sheremeta said.

This type of day care is good for parents who want to have some place for their children to go after school, or for infants when the mother returns to work, or wants some free time, Ms. Sheremeta said.

Day care is limited in the Georgetown area, with waiting lists at the regional day care centre, and for private day care, Ms. Sheremeta said.

"There is a need in Georgetown and what we need is people willing to provide private home day care," she said.

Women who decide they are interested in the program can contact Ms. Sheremeta, who will then visit the home to make sure it is suitable. Applicants for the program must have a fire inspection and health inspection of their home, and must pass a medical examination.

The region bills the parents monthly, and pays the providers twice a month. The fee structure is based on the time the child spends in the home.

The program is government-subsidized for single parents, while two-parents, two-income families are charged a \$1-a-day user fee.

The program has a list of priorities for parents applying for day care. Single parents, working, in a re-training program or on general assistance and classified as employable, are on the top of the list. Next are children who are referred by a medical doctor or a social service agency because of some particular need.

Children of two working parents who need assistance with the fee are next, followed by

children of two working parents who don't need assistance with the fee.

Edith Hodel, one of the women in Georgetown who works in the private home day care program, said she finds an advantage to the program in that the region supplies the referrals of children, and she doesn't have to advertise.

She added that some people are concerned about the effect the extra income will have on their income tax, but that much of the expenses involved can be deducted, because the provider of day care is considered to be the operator of a small business. Certain costs in the operation of the home, such as a portion of the electricity, can be deducted as business expenses, she said.

Because the program comes under the provincial Day Nurseries Act, providers of home day care are limited to accepting five children under the age of 10. However, women need not take as many as five. The number of children is up to the woman providing the care, Ms. Sheremeta said.

The children will be provided with a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack, as well as a nutritious lunch, Ms. Sheremeta said. The cost of these meals is included in the fee. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide formula and baby food for infants.

The homes are supervised by the region, with visitors from the region dropping every month to six weeks to provide any needed assistance. The region also distributes a newsletter providing program ideas for entertaining the children.

Providing day care in the home need not mean the woman is tied to the house. Parents sign a consent form

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Kelly and Adam seem to enjoy their time spent with Edith Hodel, one of the two women who offer day care in their homes under the region's private home day care program. Karen Sheremeta, one of the private home day care visitors, said she has a waiting list of parents who would like to have their children cared for in private homes, but no people who are willing to offer this care.

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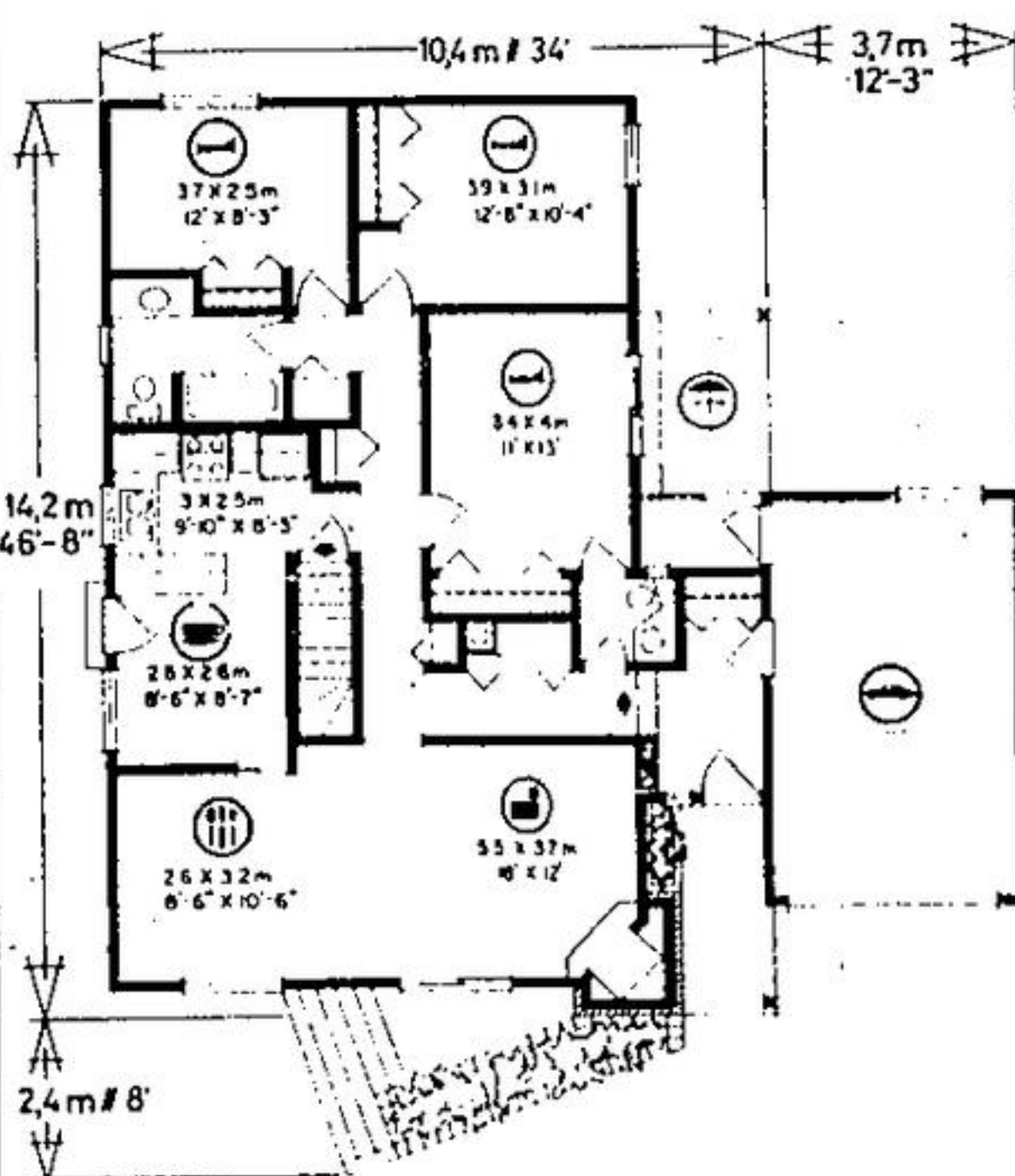
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The deep, weather-sheltered entry leads into a large reception foyer and outerwear storage area, which connects the garage and the house proper like a bridge. From the foyer, traffic moves up two risers to the elevated hallway, and naturally left into the long rectangular living-dining room combination. The living room features a corner-positioned, cantilevered-hearth masonry fireplace and sliding glass doors leading onto a small front patio. The dining area separates from the dinette via convenient pocket door, offering excellent division of formal dining and more casual family meals.

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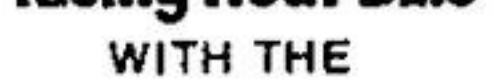
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