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Adoptive family sought for Laura

The Halton Children's Aid Society is seeking an adoptive family for a five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy.

Laura received little stimulation before she came into foster care at the age of 20 months but now is making rapid progress and is developing into a lively, affectionate child. She needs a permanent family to help her reach her full potential.

It is difficult to assess her limitations, according to the CAS, as her development continues to progress. A year ago she was getting around by scooting along on her bottom — today she's walking without assistance.

Speech is difficult for her because of the cerebral palsy but she's learning sign language so quickly that her foster mother is having trouble keeping up with her.

At one time there were concerns that she might be legally blind. Vision tests now show no problems at all. Laura is able to feed and wash herself, although she still needs help with toileting.

Music gives her special pleasure and her foster mother

predicts that once she masters walking, she'll soon be dancing. Even now, if someone is holding her, she'll wiggle and move to the music. She also enjoys imaginative play and drawing.

Laura is an attractive little girl and she knows it. When she gets dressed in the morning she looks in the mirror and signs "beautiful". She's also affectionate and loving and quick to respond to others.

Changes in her routine are difficult for Laura, and often lead to tears and tantrums. While she can cope with an occasional late night, she's pretty grumpy if she doesn't get enough sleep.

Laura would fit most easily into a family where she was the youngest child. Older siblings would be wonderful — she thrives on the stimulation and attention of older children. A family from north Halton would be ideal, as she could then stay in her current school program. Families interested in adopting Laura should contact Shirley Hynd at 878-2375.

RICK FISHER & MICHAEL PHILLIPS

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