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MLAs help launch finger painting world record bid

Politicians get painting as NICMA commences world record attempt

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MLAs rolled up their sleeves and got their fingers covered in paint earlier today [Wednesday, 27th May] – to help NICMA - the Childminding Association launch its bid to create the world’s largest finger painting.

NICMA is aiming to break the current world record which was awarded to a 2,000 square metre (21,800 square foot) painting created in Austria in 2007.

The charity is staging the attempt as part of its 25th Anniversary celebrations.

“Hundreds of childminders and children across Northern Ireland are contributing to this artwork,” explained NICMA’s Director, Bridget Nodder.

“And we’re delighted that politicians were prepared to get a little messy in order to help launch this exciting and unusual challenge.”

The world record attempt will culminate in a major event at Belfast Zoo in late August [20th August] in which some 2,000 children and adults are expected to participate.

The gigantic artwork will comprise thousands of squares of canvas which will be painted separately and then sewn together.

NICMA is holding a number of finger painting workshops around Northern Ireland so that some of the canvasses can be painted and put together in advance of the big day.

The launch event was hosted by Tom Elliott MLA who said he applauded NICMA's innovation in initiating the idea.

"This world record attempt will help highlight the very valuable role of NICMA and the thousands of childminders who care for children in Northern Ireland," he said.

"But it also enables those children to get involved in a really creative, fun project that hopefully will go into the record books."

One of the MLAs attending the event was Alex Attwood who brought along his three-year old daughter Nora.

"I am very supportive of childminding as a childcare choice," he said.

"Indeed, Nora was cared for by a childminder when she was younger."

"Registered childminding offers a quality childcare option which is also affordable – and that's a very important criteria for many families."

MLAs from all the main parties were due to attend the event. They were joined by a number of children and childminders.

ENDS

Editor's notes:

1. NICMA – the Childminding Association is a charity, and is the sole organisation representing childminders in Northern Ireland. 74% of registered childminders here are members. For more details about NICMA, please go to: www.nicma.org
2. **Caption details:**
 - Photo 1 of 3 – Bridget Nodder, Director of NICMA – the Childminding Association, with Audhon Morgan (4), Shannon Kaymak (4) and Hasan Kaymak (6) at the launch at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, of NICMA's attempt to break the world record for the largest finger painting
 - Photo 2 of 3 – Bridget Nodder, Director of NICMA – the Childminding Association, with Alex Attwood MLA, Alex's daughter Nora (3) and Tom Elliott MLA at the launch at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, of NICMA's attempt to break the world record for the largest finger painting
 - Photo 3 of 3 – Tom Elliott MLA with Grace Mullan (4) and Rebecca Thompson (3) at the launch at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, of an attempt by NICMA – the Childminding Association to break the world record for the largest finger painting
3. For further details, please contact Liz Fawcett, Liz Fawcett Consulting. Tel: 028 9020 0811 Mobile: 0771 943 5662.

