

Finger painting world record unofficially broken - news release

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For immediate use

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NICMA - the Childminding Association is celebrating the fact that it has unofficially broken the current Guinness World Record for the world's largest finger painting.

Its giant canvas, which it finished assembling at Belfast Zoo shortly before 5pm today, stands at **2,090 square metres**. The current official Guinness World Records world record for the largest finger painting stands at 2,025 square metres.

Two adjudicators approved by Guinness World Records have just finished examining the canvas and say they are satisfied that it meets all the required criteria. It will be about two weeks before NICMA will know whether or not Guinness World Records has confirmed its bid as the new world record.

Almost 6,000 children and adults contributed to the mammoth painting today and in the run-up to the event, which was staged to mark NICMA's 25th Anniversary.

NICMA's Director, Bridget Nodder, said she was thrilled with the news.

"This world record attempt has taken months of planning and organisation, and involved an immense amount of hard work by staff, volunteers, childminders and children," she said.

"Although we were reasonably confident that we could succeed, it's still hard to take in the fact that our canvas actually is bigger than the current record - although obviously we must await official verification from Guinness World Records.

"I just want to pay tribute to the tremendous effort which so many people have put into this project - it's been a really rewarding and wonderful way to celebrate our 25th Anniversary."

The huge painting, dubbed 'The Big Picture', comprised more than 2,000 pieces of canvas which were painted separately and then sewn together.

It featured a central image of a house to symbolise the home-based care offered by childminders.

The current Guinness World Records record for the largest finger painting stands at 2,025 square metres. This record was achieved by approximately 350 children in the Austrian town of Kematen an der Ybbs in September 2007.

NICMA is the sole organisation representing childminders in Northern Ireland.

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Issued by Liz Fawcett on behalf of NICMA