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## NI childminders gear up to beat finger painting world record

*Thousands of children taking part in NICMA's world record attempt*

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**For immediate use**

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Childminders and children across Northern Ireland are gearing up for a truly mammoth challenge later this week [on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> August] when they try to beat the current Guinness World Records® record for the world's largest finger painting.

Nearly 3,000 children and adults are expected to converge on Belfast Zoo where the event is being staged by NICMA – the Childminding Association.



*Tilly Nield (5) and Rivo the Ring-tailed Lemur get ready for the NICMA finger painting world record attempt at Belfast Zoo later this week.*

NICMA is aiming to break the current record which was awarded in 2007 to a 2,025 square metre (21,800 square foot) painting created in Austria.

The charity is undertaking the ambitious challenge as part of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

The gigantic artwork, dubbed 'The Big Picture', will comprise more than 2,000 pieces of canvas which will be painted separately and then sewn together.

More than 4,000 children have already contributed to the artwork, while nearly 3,000 children and adults are expected at the Zoo on Thursday to paint additional canvases.



*Tilly Nield (5), Bridget Nodder, Director of NICMA, and Georgina the Bearded Dragon prepare for NICMA's finger painting world record attempt on Thursday*

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**Editor's notes:**

1. **More details** about the NICMA finger painting challenge can be found on the event's website: [www.fingerpainting.org.uk](http://www.fingerpainting.org.uk) . For the latest information and updates, check the event's Twitter feed at: <http://twitter.com/NICMAPainting>
2. **A fuller advance news release**, for use on the day, is being issued. This contains more details about the event. A 'key facts' sheet is also being issued.
3. **Timetable.** The Zoo will be open to the public from 10am to 7pm (last admission 5pm). However, it may be possible to facilitate media coverage prior to 10am if advance notice is provided. The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Naomi Long, will launch the event at 10.30am at the Zoo's Visitor Centre.
4. **Arrangements. Media personnel should enter through Zoo reception, to the left of the Visitor Centre. Please bring photographic ID and sign in with Zoo reception staff.** Painting will take place by the lakeside at the Zoo or, if wet, in the Zoo's Education Centre. NICMA staff and volunteers will be assembling the giant artwork in the Zoo's overflow car park. It's provisionally estimated that NICMA will know sometime between 5pm and 6.30pm whether the artwork is larger than that produced by the current Guinness World Record holders. **A cherry picker will be available to facilitate filming and photography of the finished artwork at the overflow car park.**
5. **Directions.** Directions to Belfast Zoo can be found on the Zoo's website at: [www.belfastzoo.co.uk/directions](http://www.belfastzoo.co.uk/directions)
6. 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](http://www.nicma.org)
7. For further details, please contact Liz Fawcett, Liz Fawcett Consulting on 028 9020 0811 or 0771 943 5662. Please let her know in advance, if possible, if you plan to attend the event.