

# Children Contact Centres in Northern Ireland



[www.contactni.org](http://www.contactni.org)



NINCCC is affiliated to the National Association of Child Contact Centres  
[www.naccc.org.uk](http://www.naccc.org.uk)

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# Promoting Safe Child Contact



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## NINCCC

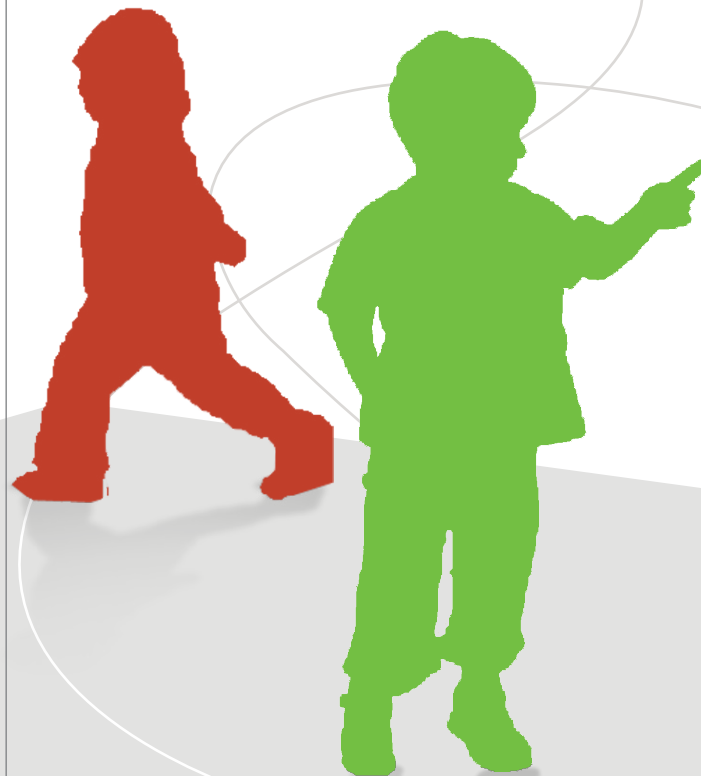
In today's society 1 in 3 relationships/marriages in the UK end in separation or divorce. It has been estimated that 100,000 children per year in the UK lose contact with a parent following a family break-up. Child Contact Centres were set up to facilitate contact between a child and those parents, or significant others, with whom they no longer live.

It can be hard for children and parents to keep in touch during this emotionally difficult time. Research tells us that children benefit from meaningful and safe contact with both parents and this assists them in dealing with the emotional and psychological effects of separation and loss.

## What is NINCCC

The Northern Ireland Network of Child Contact Centres is an umbrella organisation, supporting those groups, or individuals, who wish to work together to provide Child Contact Centres. The Network provides a framework to share best practice, campaign on child contact issues, publicise and provide educational material regarding child contact.

The first Northern Ireland Child Contact Centres were opened in 1998 and today there are 13 centres throughout the province that work on a weekly basis. All the centres rely on committed, skilled and trained volunteers who are fully vetted as suitable to work with children and families.



"Children benefit from **meaningful and safe contact** with both parents and this assists them in dealing with the emotional and psychological effects of separation and loss".

## NINCCC Values

NINCCC promotes the following values:-

- Child centred
- Ensuring safety
- Independent and impartial
- Respecting individuals, preserving confidentiality
- Promoting equality, celebrating diversity
- Valuing and supporting voluntary service

To ensure the best interests of the children and families involved in contact the NINCCC works in partnership with:-

- Court services
- Solicitors
- Social services
- Parents Advice Centres
- And other relevant agencies

At all times centre staff and volunteers maintain impartiality and confidentiality unless a child, or anyone else at the Child Contact Centre, is felt to be at risk.