



ombudsman
for children • do leanaí

Opening Address

Dr. Niall Muldoon
Ombudsman for Children
Parents Plus Conference
"Innovations in Working With Families"
December 3rd 2015



Ombudsman for Children's Office

- Ombudsman for Children Act, 2002
- Independent statutory body
- Presidential appointment
- Direct accountability to the Oireachtas





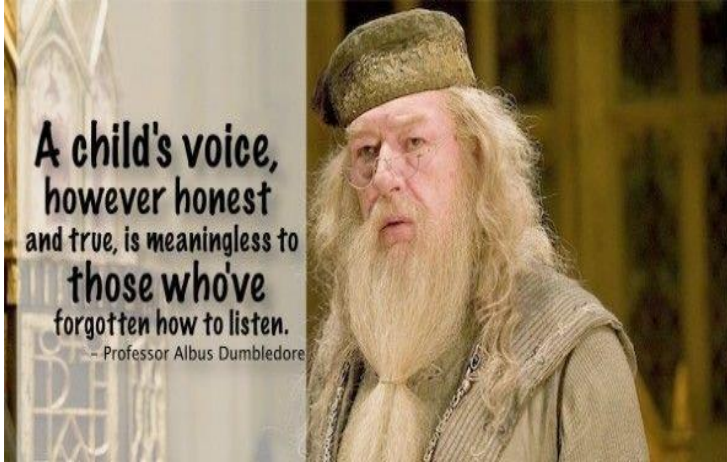
“The office [of the Children’s Ombudsman] has embodied for the first time an official recognition of children as citizens...Its existence is predicated on the simple but easily ignored fact that children do not have the vote and are not represented in the structures of power. It gives them at least a foothold in those structures.”

- Fintan O’Toole, *Children First*, [The Irish Times](#), Apr 25, 2014



We need to “tune in to children.” The child may have a genuine concern and needs to know that they will be listened to.”

Laura Ward, manager of Ballybay Community Creche,
Co Monaghan



My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.

- Clarence B. Kelland





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Further information and
publications:
www.oco.ie

Freephone 1800 202040

It's Your Right:
www.itsyourright.ie

