Parents and children at the Kids Art and Craft Camp.

Kids Art, Craft Camp at UMS nurtures creative potential

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KOTA KINABALU: The 2025 Kids Art and Craft Camp, organised by the Early Childhood Education Programme (PAKK) under the Faculty of Education and Sports Studies (FPPS), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), recently succeeded in nurturing children's creativity and imagination through a series of engaging art and craft activities.

According to FPPS Deputy Dean (Student Affairs and Alumni), Associate Professor Dr Roslee Talip, the high-impact programme served as a vital platform to connect the university with the community through experiential learning.

"Programmes like this not only bring great benefits to children but also help our students enhance their interpersonal and pedagogical skills.

"It also fosters the spirit of volunteerism and social responsibility among our undergraduates," said Dr Roslee.

Programme director Mohd Nurhelmi Johalim shared that the camp involved 15 children aged between four and six, each guided by third-year PAKK students who acted as facilitators throughout the activities.

"The main objective of this programme is to support balanced development in children cognitively, socially and emotionally while aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in promoting quality education and mental well-being.

"Through art and craft, children are able to express themselves creatively and are also introduced to STEM-related concepts through design and material manipulation activities," he explained.

Among the highlights of the camp were making necklaces using straws, crafting butterflies from cupcake liners and building creative box aquariums.

These activities not only enhanced fine motor skills but also encouraged imagination, focus, and self-confidence among the young participants.