

Rosmah Encourages Exposure To Arts For Pre-school Children
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SEREMBAN, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- The prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor said she encouraged exposure to the arts for pre-school children, besides giving them academic lessons, for their wholesome development.

She said multi-faceted learning would help in shaping children's personality and in their holistic development.

"Studies have shown that the arts, whether singing, playing music, dance, acting and others, could help children to be more focused and disciplined, improve their social skills and build more confidence.

"And according to a study done by Stanford University, the arts also teach children how to evaluate and use discretion, solve problems and help develop creative thinking."

Rosmah said this at the "Kasih Dititip Budi Bersemi" programme organised by the Seremban District Ex-Education Officers Association and Negeri Sembilan Education Department at the Tuanku Muhammad Broadcasting Complex in Sungai Gadut, near here, Tuesday.

She said a better future could be built for children by giving them a strong foundation in education, including the arts, to produce generations of Malaysians who would be brilliant, creative, caring and very talented.

Rosmah said while the arts including music were not intensively taught in schools, some schools did not have enough equipment and facilities to make the learning more effective.

She said realising this and the need for children's holistic development, she had set up Permata Seni early last year for talented children to further hone their skills in the arts to a high level.

The programme involving 150 children currently, covers three fields, namely choir singing, music and dance, for those aged seven to 12.

"Besides that, the Permata Seni Camp in an intensive learning programme in the arts during the school holidays, with the participating children taught by trainers from abroad," said Rosmah.

She said although not two years yet, the programme's achievements had been encouraging with its choir group having performed locally and abroad.

"God willing, we will be holding the Children's Arts Festival at the end of this year involving eight countries, namely Singapore, the Philippines, China, India, Sri Lanka, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia," she said.

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