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Fiji National University takes young children very seriously, although tiny visitors to the University's Community Education tent, Kindy @ the Park, thought it was great fun.

The Hibiscus Festival tent is well set up as a real child care and kindergarten space with all kinds of activities for children such as painting, music, body movement, face painting, lego construction, library and much more.

"We have our students, lecturers, child care workers and teachers from the Little Ones Learning Centre to all the activities," said Emiliana Afeaki Assistant Professor in Community Education

"While the children are busy with activities, the parents have talanoa sessions with the lecturers on how to look after children in a professional sense. There is also DVD screenings on child rearing, child development and other aspects of child care."

"Parents can see our students in action as child care workers, the different kinds of education activities for little children and how it can be fun for them.

"They also see the necessity of a clean and healthy environment for a kindergarten or child care centre," she said.

FNU Community Education students are trained in the skills needed to work with children up to eight years old, with specialization in 0-5 years and a focus on 0-3 years.

"As more and more mothers in urban areas are now working in employment that takes them out of the home, we ask the question 'who is looking after your children while you are at work?'," Ms Afeaki said.

"Working mothers are concerned about this situation and want their children to be well taken care of by the best and most qualified people."

"This Community Education programme at the University can train child care workers to do this necessary job," she said.

Students enrolled at the community education programme said "it's the love of children" which has attracted them to the course available at Fiji National University's Department of Community Education.

Student Sereana Rainevu said small children have a lot of potential and this was proved by small children who were at the Kindy at the park.

Mr Raibevu who hails from Naitasiri said "I have this love for children".

She plans to have a family child care centre in future when she has a established career in child care.