



# Ministry of Education and Training



## PRESS RELEASE

### Early Childhood Care and Education centres celebrate Kindergarten Day today

**Port-Vila, Vanuatu – 12 June 2020:** Today, 12 June, marks Kindy Day in Vanuatu. This year's theme, "Promote cultural and Christian values and beliefs to raise a child to show good behaviour at an early age in the community", highlights the importance for children to respect their culture and develop strong values. It also emphasizes the importance of parents and communities' support in their learning.

Early learning is key for children as it builds their foundations. If not encouraged in early life, some structural and attitudinal barriers can affect the learning of the children for a lifetime. Due to the current situation and as Vanuatu is still under the State of Emergency, this year, the Ministry of Education and Training is encouraging the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) centres to mark the event locally and celebrate at their level in the respect of the hygiene measures.

The ECCE National Coordinator, Mr Smith Anderson, declared "It is an important date to mark. We support the Early Childhood Care and Education centres across Vanuatu in celebrating the day under the theme *Promote cultural and Christian values and beliefs to raise a child to show good behaviour at an early age in the community*". He added "Today with this theme we also want to encourage parents and communities to support the learning of their children. This year is like no other as Vanuatu is also celebrating its 40-year Independence Anniversary that's why values and culture are key in our 2020 theme for Kindergarten Day".

The Director of Education Services, Mr Samuel Katipa, declared "The Ministry of Education and Training would like to wish all the people in Vanuatu a happy Kindergarten Day. The Ministry is committed to deliver better access, quality and management of education in Vanuatu starting from the early years. We encourage the Early Childhood Care and Education centres to respect hygiene measures at all time during their celebrations".

The national Kindergarten Day reminds us all that all the boys and girls, including those with disabilities, have a fundamental right to education starting at early age no matter the situation. The initiative was led by the MoET, with the support of the Vanuatu Education Support Program, funded by the Australian Government.



*[Handwritten signature]*  
E. J. J. J. J.  
10/06/20