

Read with Me At Home

March 2020



Read with Me activities during Coronavirus Outbreak, March 2020

By the end of February 2020, schools and kindergartens in Iran were closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak, disconnecting teachers and the students in the centers where the Read with Me project was implemented. Beside the schools and the kindergartens, libraries and child supportive centers were also closed. Staying far from school, kindergarten and other places where children spend their time and learn by different means, can affect negatively on children, on their developing skills and also on their mental condition. The problem is milder in families who can support quality time and education for their children at home, but children covered by Read with Me, are mostly children in deprived regions of the country, and are seriously vulnerable to such situations due to lack of literate parents or siblings at home who can provide a supportive environment for them during this time.

So since the very first moments, the Read with Me experts tried to find ways to reconnect to children during this time so they can reduce the trauma caused by the situation. The most important activities were via the social media concentrating on mothers, helping them to work with their children at home.



Activities before the full closure of schools and other centers

During the first days of the outbreak, teachers and promoters focused on reading books such as “I don’t want to wash my hands” by Tony Ross or “Kein bisschen dreckig” by Wanja and Manuela Olten, working with children on subjects like the importance of regular handwashing, personal hygiene, how viruses spread, making them ready for the situation.





Germs Spread, a follow-up activity after reading the book “Kein bisschen dreckig”, *Qeshm Island*

Activities after the closure of schools and other centers via social media

When the Schools were fully closed, teachers, trainers and other promoters contacted with children's mothers on social media, started to find ways to keep the children connected to books and learning through Creative Education Packages. Now groups of mothers on social media are working in different parts of Iran.

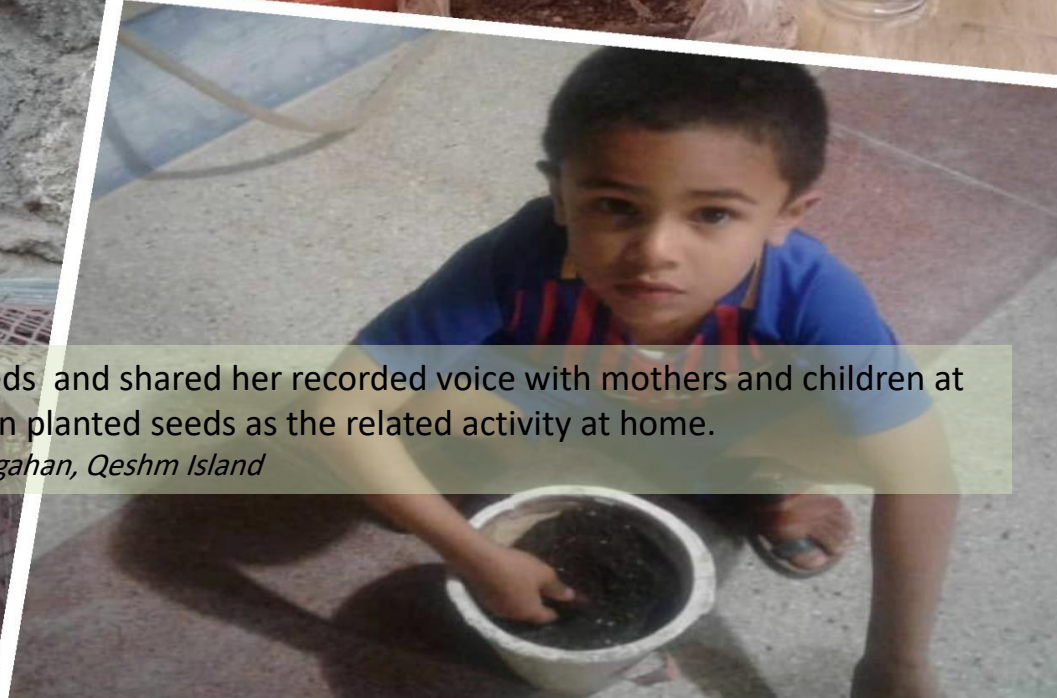


In marginal and underserved parts of Tehran, more than 200 mothers from 4 different supportive education centers cooperating with read with me, are involved in such activities. They receive online guidances , and do the activities at home with their children



The Supportive Education Center of MahmoudAbad





The teacher read aloud a book about planting seeds and shared her recorded voice with mothers and children at home. After listening, the children planted seeds as the related activity at home.

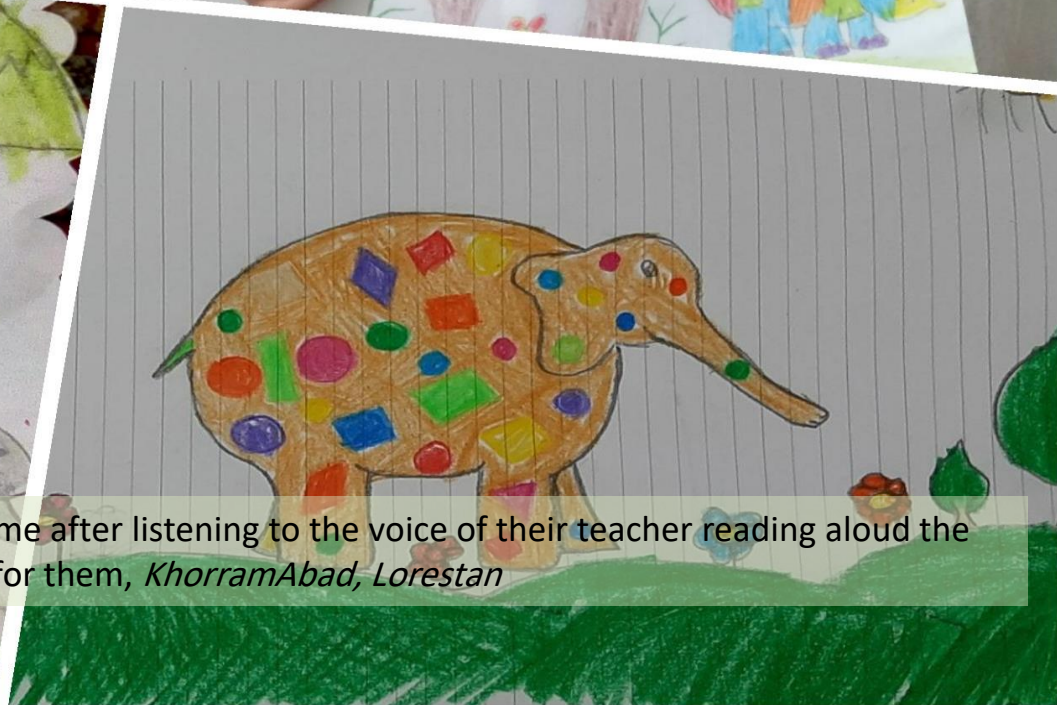
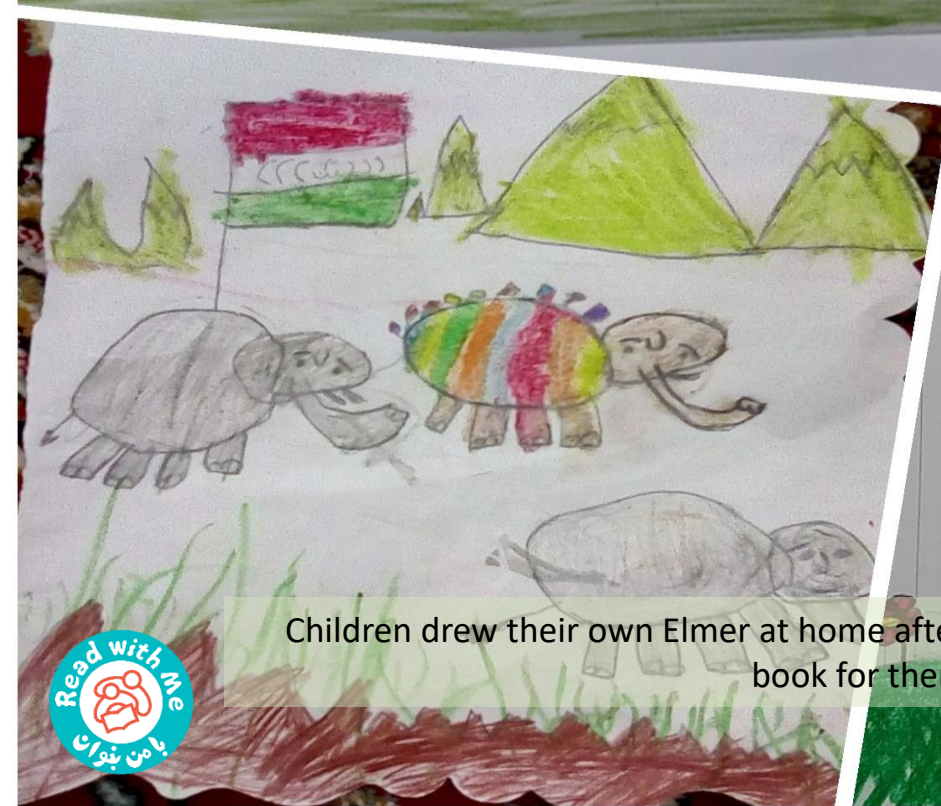
Dargahan, Qeshm Island





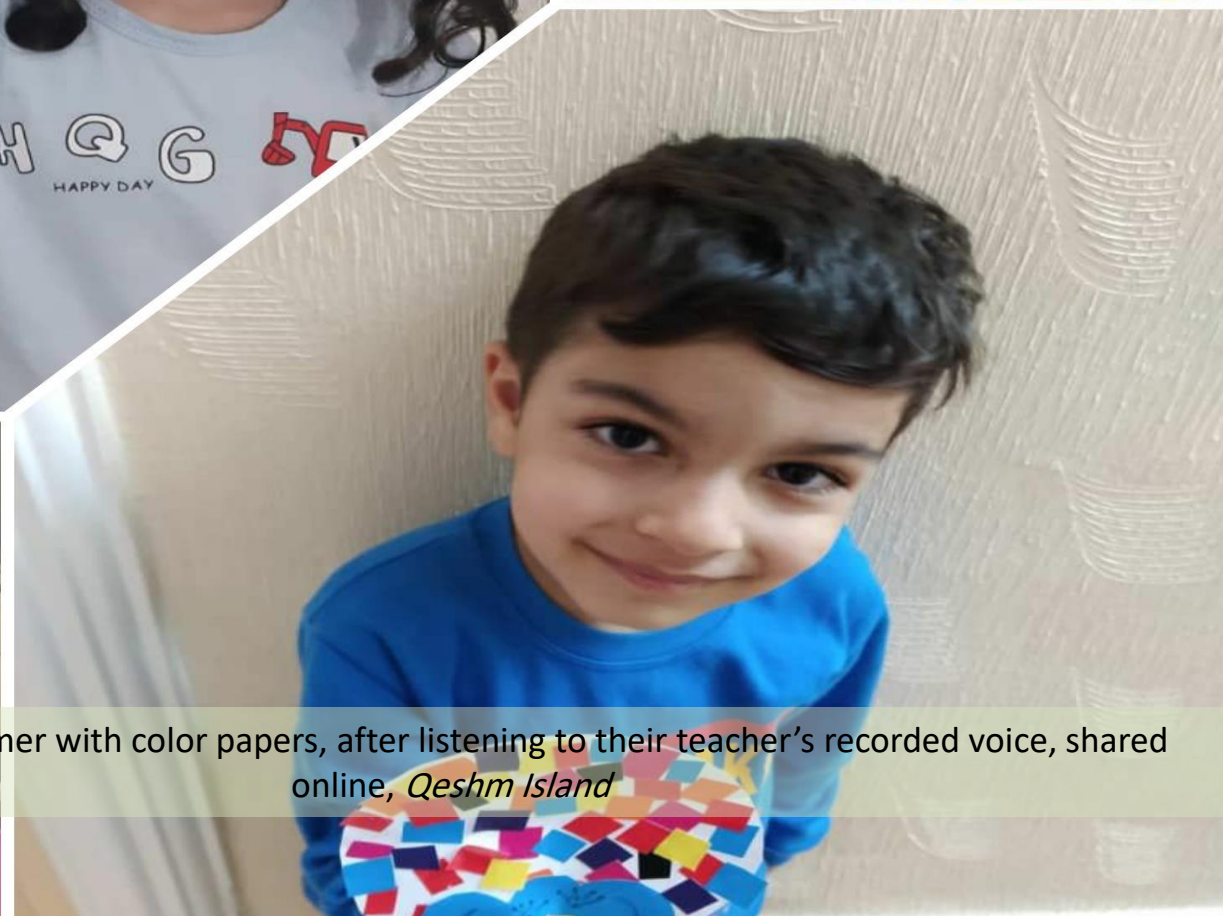
Making a crow as a related activity for the book "In a Garden I'm Walking" which was read and shared on social media groups, *Qeshm Island*





Children drew their own Elmer at home after listening to the voice of their teacher reading aloud the book for them, *KhorramAbad, Lorestan*





Children make Elmer with color papers, after listening to their teacher's recorded voice, shared online, *Qeshm Island*





Mothers are guided to share “Learning Phonemic Awareness Skills Packages” with their children at home,
Saravan, Sistan and Balouchestan





A mother has made a rich literacy environment at home, by labelling on toys and encouraging her child to engage pretend play to develop her expressive language and learning letters,
Saravan, Sistan and Balouchestan



Information about the Coronavirus have been shared online and children learn about the virus and how to stay safe during this time.

Activities in libraries



In some villages, where parents do not have access to smartphones, some librarians have acted differently to deliver books to children at home . A librarian in Dourbani Village, Qeshm Island, have taken books to the village, considering all safety measures. He has also distributed a brochure about the coronavirus among the families.



Another library in *Sistan and Balouchestan* announced a day open at the school library and lent books to children considering all safety measures. Other than children from the school, some out-of-school children and children of the village who attend other schools were also eager to borrow books.





The Read with me library in Sazvar Sazeh Azarestan Factory gives books and activity sheets to fathers who work in the factory so the children can spend fruitful, quality time at home.



Activities in villages by teachers and promoters

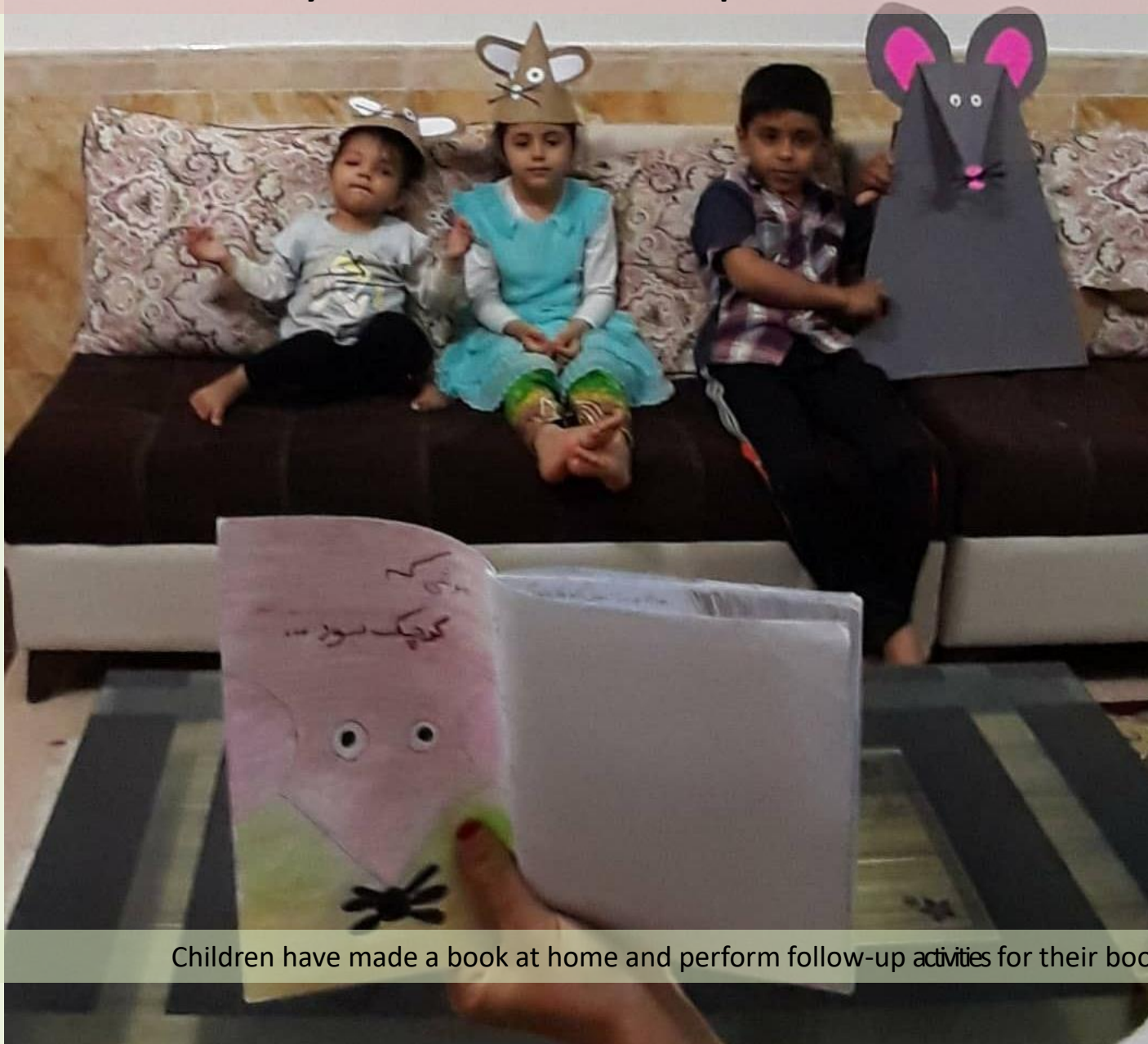


The teachers have taken the books and activities home and to their children in Sistan and Balouchestan, Qeshm, Kerman and Kermanshah. In some villages, where multiple families live in the same house or they traditionally live in groups, teachers still have the chance to hold group read aloud sessions.

On the National Tree day, a group of children in their grandparents' garden, listened to reading aloud of the book "An empty vase and I" and they all planted a seed which they took from their grandmother. Then they washed their hands thoroughly, giving special attention to regular handwashing and hygiene.



Activities by teachers, librarians and promoters at home



Children have made a book at home and perform follow-up activities for their book.

Children have made crafts for Elmer Book by recycled materials at home.

Jiroft, Kerman, Read with Me Librarian's Home





Reading aloud at the night of Chaharshanbe Suri festival at home

Sarpol Zahab, Kermanshah, Read with Me Librarian's Home



Book-related activities for the “International Day of Forests”

Karavan Village, Qeshm Island



The elder children read books to their younger siblings at home and they performed the story afterwards.



Activities by teachers for the time when the schools will re-open



While at home, the teachers use their time to make what they need for read-aloud activities. This teacher from a nomadic village near Zahedan, Sistan and Balouchestan, has made the alphabet from “Learning Phonemic Awareness Skills Package” with her daughter at home.



All Children Have the Right to Read Quality Books.