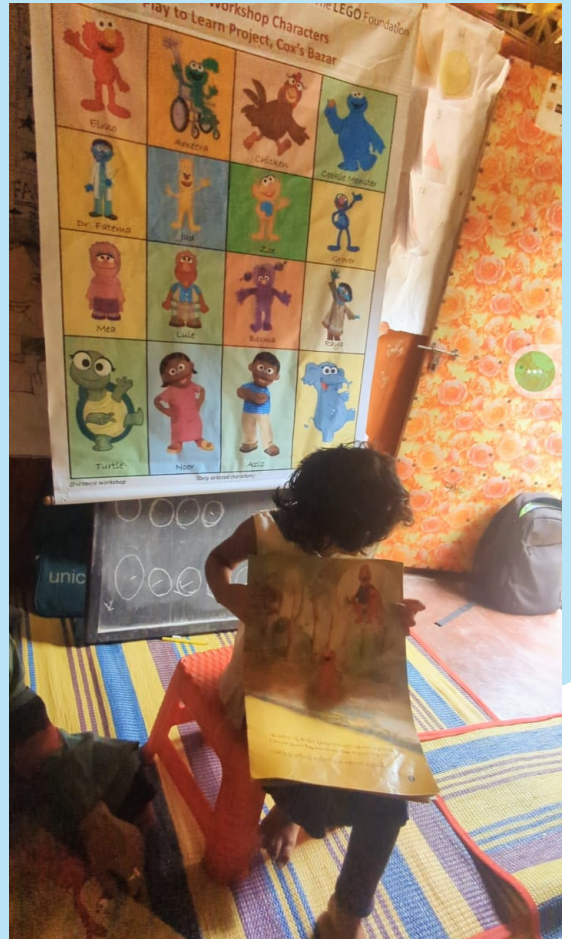


Little Haresa's Love for Storybooks

Haresa Jesmin is 4 years old and was born in Rohingya Refugee camp in 2019. Her parents arrived in Bangladesh in August 2017. Haresa's family is living in a congested space in the camp with great difficulties. Haresa's parents were very worried about her as she did not talk much and kept herself isolated. Her parents wanted to provide her with a playful environment where she would get good company and materials for her development.

They enrolled her in a nearby Community-based Learning Center (CBLF) and this decision marked the beginning of Haresa's inspiring journey to success. At the CBLF, Haresa actively engaged in Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities, including games, reading Burmese storybooks, and singing rhymes. Initially reserved, Haresa gradually opened to her peers, finding joy in storytelling sessions, particularly drawn to the vibrant characters in the storybooks developed by Sesame Workshop. She listens with great interest that how Tara and Elmo making a car move with the help of a windmill in the story "Voo."



Not only did Haresa find inspiration at the CBLF, but she also became a storyteller at home, sharing captivating narratives with her siblings and parents. She tells how Dalim Kumar could pluck the dalim by washing his hand from the story "Dalim Kumar" and explains the importance of washing hands. Her father expressed, "Haresa is very keen on studying, especially listening to stories. At home, she always wants to hear stories and has even started reading Burmese words from the storybooks." Haresa's eagerness to learn and share has not only brightened her own path but has also brought a positive change to her family life.

Haresa's journey from a quiet and isolated space to an active and engaged learner is a testament to the transformative power of reading and a supportive environment.