



October 2024

Monthly Report



Introduction & Contents

Project Play is a grassroots NGO working to create safe spaces for children on the move in northern France to play, learn and grow.



In this report:

Updates, News & Observations

- Key figures: number of sessions run, children worked with and hours of play facilitated.
- News relevant to the UK-France border, and our observations relating to the impact of border policies on children's rights.

Our Activities

- Update on our service: our monthly themes
- Activities spotlight! Our favourite activities from this month and how we design sessions to support key developmental outcomes for the children we work with.

What Can You Do?

- Further information, contact details and avenues to support us / get involved.



Updates, News, and Observations

WE CARRIED OUT

34

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

101

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

81

HOURS

Both France and the UK have signed and ratified the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, meaning they have the obligation to **respect, protect and fulfill** the rights within it. Instead, they **pursue hostile border policies** which prevent children on the move from accessing their rights.

Access to Asylum

Seeking asylum is a fundamental human right - and one that no-one should have to risk their lives to access. However, safe routes to seeking asylum in the UK are increasingly limited. This means that the families we work with have no other option but to make the treacherous journey across the Channel to do so. October saw a tragically high number of fatalities during crossings as well as many people reported missing. The youngest victim was just weeks old. We know that these deaths are a political choice by the UK and French governments who refuse to create safe routes for all to seek asylum.



Police Violence

The children we work with face frequent police violence and intimidation during regular evictions of living sites. Our team was also delayed in starting play sessions multiple times in October due to police blocking entry to living sites during evictions.

We also received testimonies from different families and children about police violence surrounding crossings, including an 8 year old who had to run from the police and families including infants being tear gassed.



Shelter

Many of the children we work with do not have access to housing or shelter. Instead, they live in tents. Children often express the ways this has made their life difficult. This month, a 12 year old told us sleeping in a tent every night is making their back hurt. One 10 year old asked us for candles since it is too dark to see in their tent at night.



This month, we witnessed children as young as 3 playing out police evictions. No child should be subject to these traumatic experiences.

Education

The lack of access to safe routes to seek asylum means that children and their families cannot create stable lives for themselves - and children are often out of education for long periods of time. This month, we worked with a 6 year old who had missed years of school due to their journey seeking safety.

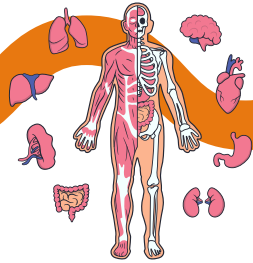


Our Activities

As always, this month we endeavoured to create a safe space for children to play and learn. Our sessions are planned carefully to foster a sense of community and collaboration. This is especially powerful when we start sessions with circle time to build relationships and communication skills. We plan main activities to support skill development. Each session is finished with some free play to give autonomy and space to just play!

This month, we explored:

The Human Body



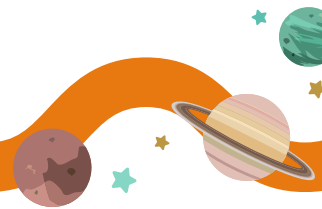
Dinosaurs



Circus



Space



The Human Body

We started this month with the important theme: The Human Body. The children were able to draw themselves on a big piece of paper which strengthens their self-perception and helps them to get an understanding of their own body. We also taught the children first aid in a playful way and had a session about safe touch. Among other things, through these activities we try to bring the children closer to the topic of health and self-care.



Dinosaurs

In the second week of October everything was about Dinosaurs. So, we got creative and painted them, built them out of playdough, turned into little researchers and looked closely at their footprints and studied them. We also painted beautiful dinosaur masks. Dressing up or wearing masks can help children to immerse themselves in an imaginary world and initiate imaginary play.



Our Activities

Circus

Then we had an exciting and action-packed Circus week! We brought our Circus activities and games, so the children could learn how to juggle, balance, spin a plate, walk on stilts and more! Wonderful activities to improve fine and gross motor skills and bring the children closer to the joy of movement! We played with our parachute, which is great because it gives the children a feeling of collaboration. We also made a fun and creative craft where the children could paint clown's hair with the help of toilet rolls!



Space

We said goodbye to the month of October with one of our favourite themes: Space! We loved colouring and creating straw rockets and competing to see how high they could go! We also created a Black Hole Game through which the children can further develop their gross motor skills such as targeted throwing. The children also had lots of fun with getting creative and mixing their own space glittery puffy paint. Painting with it afterwards can be very calming and relaxing. It is also one of our sensory activities.



October 2024



What Can You Do?

Thank you for reading our monthly updates! We couldn't do what we do without the support of amazing people like you. If you'd like to get involved:



Stay in Touch!

Follow us on social media:



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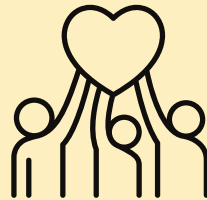
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Donate

We rely on donations to keep playing. If you can, please consider:



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Engage



Your voice counts. If you'd like to learn more about life for children on the move, and how you can take action, [click here](#).



Would you like to **join our team**? We're always on the look out for motivated people to help us with our work! [Click here](#) to find out more.



www.project-play.org

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Thank You!

For more info on our updates & observations:

Visit:

project-play.org/our-advocacy-work

Contact our advocacy team:

advocacy@project-play.org

For more info on our activities:

Visit:

project-play.org/our-work

Contact our ground team:

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