

# November 2023



Project Play is a grassroots NGO that aims to provide safe spaces for displaced children in northern France.

**93**  
Children

**30**  
In GS

**63**  
In MA

We work with children in the informal living site in Grande-Synthe (GS), as well as in independently run safe houses and day centres (maisons accueillantes - MA).

This month, we worked with 93 children, and met an additional 25 children who didn't join our sessions. We expect the total number of children-on-the-move in northern France to be higher.

## COPIING WITH THE COLD....

As winter settles in, temperatures are lowering each day in Calais.

Many children we worked with were freezing, without the right clothes. One child held their hands against ours to show us how cold they were.



## ARTICLE 19

of the UNCRC (which France signed and ratified in 1990) states...

Every child has the right to be protected from all forms of mental and physical violence.

This month, we met two brothers who had been the victim of horrific police violence:

While attempting to cross in a small boat, police arrived and attacked the group that was trying to leave Calais in hope of a better future in the UK. The police had reportedly thrown tear gas at the children and their families. The young boys told us that the gas hurt their throats and temporarily blinded them. They told us that they cried because they thought they were permanently blind.



## FOOD & WATER

This month, many children told us that they were hungry and thirsty. During one session, children were so thirsty that they didn't want to play. During another session, 7 children asked us directly for water.



Due to war and displacement, many of the children we work with have missed years of schooling and socialisation with groups of other children. As a consequence of this, children can often feel **uncertain and anxious** in busy, socially demanding situations.

This month we worked with many children who seemed to be **struggling to socialise** with their peers. Issues emerged with **sharing and squabbling**. Some children who were confident in one-on-one scenarios appeared to struggle **when other children joined the sessions**.

## ARTICLE 27

Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for the child's social development.



[www.project-play.org](http://www.project-play.org)

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# No childhood should look like this.