



February 2025

# 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.



# February 2025



## Updates, News, and Observations

WE CARRIED OUT

18

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

55

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

54

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.

## Physical Health

February was a cold and difficult month in Northern France. Many of the children we worked with had physical health issues, for example colds which persisted for a long time. Children's immune systems are impacted by living outside or in unstable living conditions, making it hard for them to recover from even small illnesses.

In February, we met a family struggling to find baby food for their one year old child. Unfortunately this can be difficult for organisations to provide. The state has a responsibility to ensure all children have access to food and adequate standards of living.

A. 27  
Adequate standard  
of living

## Access to Asylum

In February, we met many children who had spent a large part of their life in other European countries, such as Germany and the Netherlands. Although none of them confirmed that this had happened to them specifically, we know that many families have their asylum claims rejected in these countries after years of building a life there, and that coming to the UK can seem a last resort. One 11 year old expressed his frustration at throwing his life in Germany "in the trash" and how difficult it would be to start again in the UK or France.

Many of the children we work with have experienced dangerous journeys to reach Northern France. In February, one 8 year old described her crossing from Turkey to Greece and how difficult it was for her.

A. 24  
Access to healthcare  
and food

A. 31 of the 1951  
refugee convention

## Disability rights

In February, we worked with at least two children with physical disabilities. The state does not provide any adapted or additional support to such children and their families. The rights of children with disabilities are specifically protected under the UNCRIC, and we call on the French government to fulfill this right by considering the specific needs of these children and their families, and adapt services they provide accordingly. For instance, shelter options must always be accessible for those who require them.

A. 23 Support  
for children with  
disabilities



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

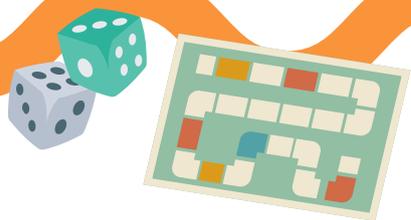
Contact us:  
[advocacy@project-play.org](mailto:advocacy@project-play.org)

## 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:

### Games



### Friendship and community



### Emotions and senses

#### Games

In February, we celebrated games! We created a huge interactive board game, and children loved jumping along the track. We focused on maths based rules such as +1, -2 to support educational development. They were then inspired to create their own small games with similar rules.

As part of this theme, we also created a scavenger hunt in a safe house. This encouraged collaboration and problem solving, as well as getting the children running around and active!



#### Emotions and senses

This is always one of our favourite themes, and February was no exception! We created a range of facial features and children could create lots of different emotions. This encouraged some great conversations about what different emotions look and feel like. We created emotions masks to continue this theme. We also created sensory boxes for younger children to explore what things look, feel, sound, and smell like.



## Our Activities

### Friendship and community

This week's theme enabled us to celebrate each child as well as the relationships between children. Each child decorated a paper person to look like themselves and we joined them together to join a chain of friendship. We also decorated a world mural to celebrate the varied origins of the children we work with.



### Free play and circle time!

Popular free play this month included role play with our kitchen space. Children love to get their imaginations fired up by "cooking" for each other and volunteers - it really creates a nice sense of community!

We also had some lovely circle times in February. By starting each session with a circle full of songs and games, we create continuity between the different team members. Children grow in confidence and take the lead within these activities. Circle time also encourages musical skills as well as gross motor skills, mirroring each others' dances and actions.

This month, we adapted circle time to create a version specifically aimed at toddlers. This involved more repetitive songs and took place sitting on the floor, rather than standing up and dancing around. The little ones loved it and it's certainly one to repeat!



# February 2025



## 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:



@projectplayfrance



@projectplayfrance



@projectplay7

[Sign up to our newsletter](#) to receive these updates straight to your inbox each month.

## Donate

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



[Making a one-off donation](#)



[Joining our community of monthly donors](#)



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

[Sign up to our mailing list to receive this updates.](#)



# Thank You!

**For more info on our updates & observations:**

**Visit:**

[project-play.org/our-advocacy-work](https://project-play.org/our-advocacy-work)

**Contact our advocacy team:**

[advocacy@project-play.org](mailto:advocacy@project-play.org)

**For more info on our activities:**

**Visit:**

[project-play.org/our-work](https://project-play.org/our-work)

**Contact our ground team:**

[info@project-play.org](mailto:info@project-play.org)

