



August 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.



# August 2024



## Updates, News, and Observations

WE CARRIED OUT

29

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

182

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

74

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 Water

Many of the children we work with live outside, without access to adequate running water. In GS this month, 22 children expressed that they were very thirsty. Whilst we provide water on our sessions, and other organisations work to meet this essential need, more needs to be done. Last year, the French government committed to accepting the UN's recommendations to improve access to water for people on the move in northern France - but we are yet to see action taken.

A.24: Right to Health

### 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. Many of the children we work with are already trauma experienced - yet instead of being able to access the support and stability they need, they are exposed to further physical & psychological harm as a result of the hostile policies enacted by the French and UK governments.

A.22 Refugee convention: right to seek asylum

### Police Violence

The children we work with face regular police hostility and violence whilst in limbo in France. "Eviction" operations see French riot police systematically move people from an informal living site, destroying their tents, blankets and personal belongings in the process. They are a source of physical and psychological violence. During a session at a living site in Calais this month, we were present as the police evicted the site. The children were visibly distressed as a result.

A.19: Freedom from violence

A.28: Right to education

This month, we worked with an 11yo who had fractured their foot after having to walk all night as part of a failed crossing attempt.

### 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 13 year old who told us that they really missed school and their friends.



[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:

## Growth

## Outer Space

## The 5 senses

## OUTER SPACE

Always a favourite, this week loved getting playful on the theme of outerspace! We made alien masks and face paint (always a favourite). We also learnt all about the planets -making a plant string to learn about their order, colour and size. We also loved creating straw rockets and competing how high they could go!



## Our Activities

### GROWTH

As the sun was shining, it seemed appropriate to celebrate the growth of the summer! We made connections between growth cycles and our own personal growth and development. We brought to life the cycles of frogs and butterflies through costumes and crafts before living out the life cycles of butterfly through an obstacle course! Lots of science was learnt and skills developed.



### THE FIVE SENSES

We know that sensory activities are vital for children of all ages' development and they always make up an element of our sessions. This week, we loved exploring the five senses through many activities. We grounded ourselves in different relaxing scents as part of a mindfulness session, created our own music with our orchestra game and enjoyed creating with different materials and textures.



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## 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)

