

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

94
Children

55
In GS

39
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 94 children, and met an additional 7 children who didn't join our sessions. We expect the total number of children-on-the-move in northern France to be higher.

Emotional Well-being

UNCRC

Article 24:

every child has the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health

1) Many children seemed to be battling a lot of **anger and frustration**. Some struggled with **sharing and interacting** with other children. Others were quick to **'lash out'** at other children



2) In our art-focused sessions, we noticed that some children **drew pictures** of **people in boats** on the ocean, with rain falling down on them.

3) We met **one child** who told us that she **feared the water** due to her recent experience of being **stuck at sea in a boat** with her baby brother and many other adults

This month...

we heard many stories from families about the atrocities of their treatment within Calais. **One family** reported being unable to cross to the UK as the French **police** had **slashed their boat with a knife**



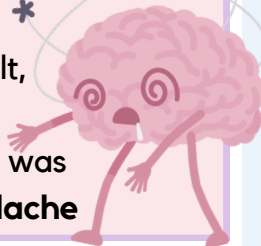
The Right to Play



One child...



was experiencing **vision problems** as her glasses had been broken/lost on her journey. As a result, she had **trouble orienting herself** and was suffering from a **headache**



1) One of **our sessions was disrupted** by the presence of **politicians and news people** who wanted to thoroughly question minors about the **details of their journeys**.

2) Despite encouragement to play, one child prioritized cleaning their **muddy shoes** with the baby wipes that we provide **instead of playing**.



UNCRC Article 31:

every child has the right to rest, leisure and play.



www.project-play.org

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No childhood should look like this.