



November

# MONTHLY REPORT

For supporters

2022

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## Service Impact

This month, Project Play ran **27 sessions**, with a total of **48.5 hours of play**.

We aim to run sessions 6 days a week in the informal camps at Grand-Synthe. We also run 1-2 sessions each week at Secours Catholique's Accueil Social, Calais. This month, we also ran a session at BMX in Calais.

*This month we know that we worked with at least **93 children**.*



*Potion Making*

## Activities

We want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to engage in something that they enjoy. We therefore provide a variety of activities that allow children to exercise agency and make choices, and try to ensure we are able to offer something for all children, from babies to teenagers.

Each session, we begin with a main activity based on our weekly theme. Then we move onto collaborative circle songs and games, before offering a range of free play activities to choose from.

This month our weekly themes were **THE NIGHT SKY, SPORTS, FRIENDSHIP & COMMUNITY, MAGIC** and **SUPERHEROES!**



## The Night Sky

Inspired by the beautiful night sky, we made stunning paper sparklers using tissue paper and paper. This was a great activity for practising fine motor skills and scissors skills and the finished paper sparklers looked beautiful! We also did some fireworks painting where we could put our creative skills to use different colours and replicate fireworks in the sky.

We finished the week off by taking inspiration from a nocturnal animal, the bat. We painted night skies and then stuck cutouts of this interesting mammal onto the night sky paintings. This activity was great for us to work on gross and fine motor skills.

## Sports

During this week we had various sports days where we got competitive and had a ton of fun! We started off the week by making headbands and using these we did some dance aerobics. This was a great activity for us to use our balance and coordination.

We had two sports days this week. During the first one, we had a sack race, did some hopping, jumping and dribbled footballs. We also had egg and spoon races and joined hands when competing in a game of tug of war. During the second sports day, we got together in teams and played various games including pass the hoop, races, musical statues and danced to silly songs!

We also made animal masks and used them to do some playful animal yoga! The children loved observing animals in books and transferring their faces onto masks, and exploring the ways in which different animals move. The children also loved making tickets and paper chains to transform our gazebo into a disco tent!



## Friendship and Community

This week we facilitated activities for children to explore the ways that people can come together to form communities and share friendship, joy and play. At the start of the week we built a 'Cardboard City' with the children, and it was lovely to see even the youngest children getting involved and designing their own buildings on cardboard which we then assembled on our van. This was a great collaborative activity whereby the children could all work together, respect and trust each other.

We also used potatoes to print our own wrapping paper which children then used to wrap up a present specially chosen to give as a gift to someone else. This was a great activity to work on fine motor skills.

At the end of the week we continued this theme at Secours Catholique's 'Talents de Femmes' day where we facilitated a colourful playspace with zine making, carnival games and the chance to make a 'Swing in a Box' to take home!



*Our cardboard city, creatively constructed on the side of our van!*

## Magic

This week we explored the wonderful world of magic through enchanting and spellbinding activities. We started the week by creating magic wands with an array of materials. These wands were later used as dance parties and potion making accessories. The children followed a recipe to concoct their own potions and it was lovely to see them amaze at the wonder of their creations as they bubbled and fizzed.

Then we put our creative skills to test and created enchanted fairy gardens using old cardboard boxes which were decorated with bursts of colour and carefully constructed fairy cottages. The boxes were filled with soil and contained glittering ponds, tissue paper gardens and sea shell paths!

We finished the week making slime. This is a continuous favourite at our sessions and allowed the children to find magic within the gloopy, shiny and sensory mixture.



^ Slime making is a sensory delight!

v We had great fun making beautiful fairy houses!



# Superheroes

This week we explored the world of superheroes! We started off the week by getting creative making our individual superhero shields, decorated to our own liking and worn around the wrist.



We continued the week with some superhero sticks which we used to fly around with. This was a fun activity where we could get imaginative with colours - one child even wrote a sweet message on the cape of their superhero!



We finished off the week with a beautiful collaborative activity whereby we all created our own superheroes to be added to the collaborative superheroes cityscape.



This was a great activity for creative skills, scissors skills and fine motor skills.



## Circle

This month we have been exploring new circle songs and games as this part of our session has proved very popular in recent weeks! Tug of war has been a very popular game and allows for healthy competition as well as teamwork.



Collaborative music games have been a fun time to be silly whilst shaking instruments whilst going around in circles. Parachute is ever popular, and we were fortunate enough to have good weather on one occasion to play parachute and no one wanted to stop playing!

## Free Play

As well as our themed activities, we also offer a wide range of free play options and set aside time at the end of each session for choice-based, child-led play. Highlights this month have included:

- UNO: UNO is always a hit with children of various ages. They love getting competitive and finding new tactics to win!
- Beanbag target throwing: This was a fun activity to practise target throwing and was a nice healthy competition.
- Toy kitchen: It's always fun to play with the toy kitchen items, the children cook up some delicious meals!
- Sensory box: These boxes are always popular as they are filled with various surprises with children discovering various textures along the way!
- Football: Football is a fun way to move about and use gross motor skills and body coordination. The children always ask to play football. When we played parachute, we used the football in the middle and played a game of don't let the ball fall down. The children had so much fun and were all laughing!



## Updates

- We had an informative First Aid training with FAST which was very useful in being able to understand what to do in medical related situations that we may encounter.
- We have also encountered challenges in Grand-Synthe due to the living site and weather conditions. The police churned up the ground in an area which was used by people and organisations. This means that this area is no longer suitable to set up in. In addition to this, strong winds have meant that at times, we had to cut sessions short. Also, the weather getting colder has meant that at times, children have been shivering.
- Continued inconsistencies of evictions have meant that organisations are making hard decisions about how to respond with their limited stock. Nevertheless, we continue to have sessions on eviction days as we believe it is ever more important to provide a safer space for children after evictions. We facilitate calmer sessions where children and parents can sit down.
- Our wonderful Safeguarding Coordinator Meg and Activities Coordinator Anna have left our team. Both of them have been an integral part of our team this year, and we're immensely grateful for everything they've done for us. We're joined by new Activities Coordinator Tharuni, and are currently looking for a new Safeguarding Coordinator.

**Thank you for reading our updates! Project Play believes in being accountable, transparent and informative. We hope you have a greater understanding of our service and what we have achieved in November 2022!**

