



Monthly Impact Report

JULY 2026



JULY in PLAY



We are a grassroots organisation supporting children and families on the move in northern France through **play**, **parental support** and **casework**. This month:

WE FACILITATED

33

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

263

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

64

HOURS

This month, we ran service at **six locations** across northern France - including makeshift camps, independent safe houses and community centres.



Session Spotlight

This month, we have focussed on **sensory engagement**, including adapting sensory circuits into our session structure. We start with up-regulating activities, using proprioceptive and movement games to build alertness and motivation to engage. For example, we have used activities such as musical statues, wake-and-shake, or follow-the-leader circle-time games. We then introduce physical games to allow the children to meet their sensory needs and channel their activity levels, such as relay races, chase the octopus, or water play. We try to end the sessions on a calming note, using down-regulating activities. We offer a sensory box for children to access soft toys and things they can squeeze, and we provide low-stimulus activities, such as colouring. We are always child-led and try to meet the children's sensory needs where they are in the moment.

Physical and movement activities are important because the children we work with do not have easy access to activities or regulating spaces outside of Project Play; they do not have access to school or sports clubs to support them to be active in a healthy and adaptive way. They clearly get a lot of fun and fulfillment out of a safe and happy space to be children, and we work to meet their physical and sensory needs in some small way.



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NEWS and UPDATES

From the border:

Numbers are very high in living sites across Calais and Dunkirk. We have received more testimonies from families about the creation of new living sites along the coast - these are hard for organisations to reach, and many families have reported a high level of violence experienced or witnessed in these spaces. The border remains deadly, and this month, killed six people. We remember them, and stand in solidarity with their loved ones, and all those impacted.

Key issues:



Police Violence leading to more dangerous journeys - We received testimonies of a boat which crossed the Channel from further down the coast, undertaking a longer route which saw people spend 48 hours at sea. This is the first time we have seen this, and it follows intensifying police violence on the normal departure beaches - illustrating that, whilst safe routes remain inaccessible to so many, crossings will continue. Violent operations only make them more dangerous.



We have also seen an increase in the number of people carried by boats - up to 150 at a time. Research has shown how violent policing leads to overcrowding, which is particularly dangerous for children (see Section 4.1. of '[We Want to Be Safe](#)').



Far-right groups - Far-right groups and far-right journalists on the ground has continued to cause disruption into July. Notably, Reform MP Lee Anderson visited living sites and crossing zones, spreading online misinformation throughout his trip.



Parental Support & Casework



In June, we provided specific casework support to **eight families**.



We **made 62 referrals**, mainly for medical support, tents, sleeping bags, clothes and food, for families in need of these services.



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GALLERY

*some favourite
moments
this month!* 🎨

Tried and tested Project Play activities such as creating wings for storytelling week remain firm favourites!



This month we have made several large murals across our sessions. This allows children to work collaboratively and create something BIG. We have been enjoying attaching these to the van to extend the play space and display finished works.





Thank You!

ENGAGE

[Follow](#) Project Play and our partners in northern France to stay informed, and [sign up to our newsletter](#) to receive our updates.

SUPPORT

We rely on our community of supporters to run our service. [Click here](#) to find out you you can [help us keep playing](#) - and keep fighting for change.

JOIN US

Join our [team of playworkers](#) in northern France, or keep an eye out for opportunities to join our [remote team](#).

