



December

# MONTHLY REPORT

For supporters

2022

## Contents:

Service Impact	1
Activities	
• Circus	2
• Animals	3
• Circle & Free Play	5
Updates	6

## Service Impact

This month Project Play ran a total of **20 sessions**, with a total of **37.5 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. In addition, this month we ran 2 sessions at a safe house in Calais.

*This month we know that we worked with at least **67 children**, though we predict this number to be much higher in reality.*

## Activities

We want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to engage in something that they can 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 **CIRCUS** and **ANIMALS!**





## Circus

This week we explored the theme of circus! We had planned to start off the week by making some paper plate clowns, however, unfortunately we were not able to run our normal sessions on this day.

We were then able to make some cup colouring where the children decorated their cups to their own liking! This was a great activity when children could get creative and use their fine motor skills.



We had planned to animate an activity of making creative and innovative trapeze artists, however, due to a severe and large-scale eviction which took place in Grande-Synthe in the first week of December, we were only able to distribute the materials for this, showing children we met an example of how to make it. This eviction has been very disruptive for our sessions, however, we will continue to provide a safe space for children to express themselves and be children!

We completed the week with some mask and hat making, keeping with our theme of circus and made some masks and hats. This was a great activity where we were able to test our scissor skills, especially when cutting out eye holes for the masks!



## Animals

This week we explored the beautiful kingdom of animals. We started off the week by making stick butterflies which the children decorated to their own liking and carried them to fly them around. This was a great activity when the children were able to get as creative as they wanted.

We continued the week by making paper chain snakes and finished off with beautiful paper plate jellyfish. This was a great activity to practise scissors skills and the results were amazing!



*We had great fun playing with toys near our van when we were not able to do our normal sessions*



*^ Beautiful paper plate jellyfish!*

## Circle

This month, whenever we were able to, we did circle songs and games.

 Our famous watermelon song is always popular with the children, and they know all the lyrics to this simple yet bonding song. Name songs are also popular where children can choose a pose to go along with their names and introduce themselves to everyone in the circle.

We also played duck duck goose which was a nice way to move around and keep ourselves warm in freezing temperatures. Red light green light was also a fun way to engage all the children, no matter the ages!



## Free Play

In addition to our themed activities, we offer various free play options and set aside time at the end of the sessions for child-led play where they can make their own choices and decide what they want to do! Highlights this month have included:

- Musical instruments: We offered musical instruments and created our own little bands where the children led the rhythm of the tunes.
- Painting: This is always popular as children can paint to the limits of their own imaginations!
- Doctors set: This is a very fun set we use when we want to get creative and pretend to be doctors and nurses and treat each other. It is also a nice activity that brings everyone together!
- Sensory box: Sensory boxes offer young children the opportunity to find various items within a box of various sensory objects.
- Sports: Football is always a win with teens and allows for us to run around and kick the ball around together.



## Updates

- This month was about rebuilding after the disruption of the eviction at the beginning of the month, for both our service users and our team. Due to this difficulty, there have been times when we were unable to do our normal sessions and had to rely on distributing activity bags for the children to complete activities from their tents. We have been trying to find a new space to reintroduce ourselves and will be testing out the new space in the new year. Nevertheless, whenever possible, we have set up mini sessions in various spaces. Once, we even played some musical instruments next to our van!
- This month we said goodbye to all of our volunteers who have come to the end of their time with our organisation. We are sad to see them go but are excited for them to do amazing things wherever they are! We will be welcoming a new team in January, including a new logistics and operations coordinator and an advocacy coordinator. We are excited for the work that they will do and for all the new ideas in the new year!
- Sadly, we have had to be shut during the last week of December and the first week of January but are excited to be recharged and to welcome our new team! This will also be a time when we can test out a new space for us to set up and re-establish ourselves after the severe and widespread eviction in December.

**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 December 2022! We look forward to the amazing work we will do in January and thank you for your continued support!**

