



Monthly Impact Report

**MAY 2026**



# MAY

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

# 22

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

# 160

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

# 51

HOURS

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



## Session Spotlight

This month, our highlight was circus week! 🎪🎈

This theme is always popular with the children, and it's great to see them enjoy both energetic acrobatic activities like our circus obstacle course, as well as collaborative and creative activities like crafting hats and clown murals.

Providing this range of activities means we are able to target key developmental skills which children miss out of whilst outside education, and with limited safe space to play - including gross and fine motor skills, social skills and creativity and imagination.



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[project-play.org](https://project-play.org)

[info@project-play.org](mailto:info@project-play.org)

# NEWS and UPDATES

## From the border:

In general, numbers have been increasing as the weather gets better, and we had a **high number of children attending our sessions this month**. Other organisations also made more referrals to us of children being present in different living sites across the area. Increasing rates of crossing attempts also saw a **number of fatalities - including of a 16-year-old child**.

## Key issues:



**Access to shelter** - More and more children are living outside in different living sites in northern France, and not everyone is able to access the community centre in Calais. As the weather gets hotter, a lack of access to appropriate shelter and support places children and families at risk of going without food, water or shade.



**Police violence** - We continue to hear reports of police violence against children both during crossing attempts, and in living sites. Some children reported being scared of the police "kidnapping" them - showing the fear they have in the encounters with the police, and of being separated from their families.



In general, we registered a more violent approach from the police - including someone reporting non-uniformed police using a vehicle to ram a boat, leading to two people being admitted to hospital.



## Parental Support & Casework



In April, we provided specific casework support to **2 families**.



We **made 27 referrals**, mainly for medical support, tents, sleeping bags, clothes and food, for families in need of these services.



# GALLERY

some favourite moments this month! 🎨



Creating moments of calm helps children to relax and regulate their emotions. We loved this cinema day at one of the safe houses we support.

Our collaborative circus mural was a hit with younger and older children alike!

One of the highlights of circus week was the obstacle course - including hoop jumping and tug of rope!

This hand-clown craft was a lovely way for children to get creative and express themselves!





# 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](#).

