

# October 2023



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

**101**  
Children

**51**  
In GS

**50**  
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 101 children, and met an additional 8 children who didn't join our sessions. We expect the total number of children-on-the-move in northern France to be higher.

**67 hours**  
of play

**24 play**  
sessions

## Children on the UK-France border do not have their rights respected.

### Wellbeing



- This month we noticed that many children were struggling with emotional regulation, we noticed lots of tears and episodes of dissociation/spacing out
- Children were often panicked in the presence of police
- Some children struggled to socialise in large groups
- Several children were very tired and one fell asleep on session

**UNCRC Article 24:** I have the right to feel my best mentally



### Sanitation/Health



- This month we worked with many children who had insect bites all over their skin from sleeping outside
- Children had dirt under their fingernails and toenails, and visible dirt on their hands and faces
- Children's clothes often smelled of sweat
- We met children with scabs on their hands, faces, and lips

**UNCRC Article 24:** I have the right to good health and a clean environment



### Clothing



- Despite October bringing colder weather, multiple children had no jackets in the cold and wet weather
- Children's clothes were often wet and dirty
- We met several children wearing inappropriate shoes (e.g. flip flops, shoes that were too small/big, plastic sandals)

**UNCRC Article 27:** I have the right to have proper clothing



### UNACCOMPANIED

We met one **MINOR** who was 14 years old. He had been on his own since he left his country.

**NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD LOOK LIKE THIS.**



[www.project-play.org](http://www.project-play.org)

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