

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

67 hours
of play

24 play
sessions

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.

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 MINOR

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

Contact us:
advocacy@project-play.org