



April

# MONTHLY REPORT

For supporters

2023

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## Service Impact

**This month Project Play ran a total of 16 sessions, with a total of 36.75 hours of play.**

Each week, our aim is to run 6 sessions in the informal camps located in Grande-Synthe. Additionally, we aim to run 1-2 sessions weekly at Secours Catholique's Accueil Social in Calais.

*During the month of April we know that we worked with at least **76 children**, though we predict this number to be much higher in reality.*



*^ Reading is the best!*



*^ Bubbles are a ton of fun!*

## Activities

We aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to take part in something that they can enjoy. Therefore, we make sure to provide a wide range of activities that allow children to exercise agency, make their own choices and to ensure we are able to offer something for children of all ages, from babies to teenagers.

We start each session with a main activity based on our weekly theme. Then, we continue onto collaborative circle songs and games, before offering a range of free play activities to choose from. We finish off with a closing circle time and say bye to the children.

This month, our weekly themes were  
**NATURE, SPRING, ANIMALS** and **THINGS THAT FLY!!!**



## Nature



We started the week by making a beautiful collaborative painting with nature! We used sticks, leaves and flowers to create a beautiful messy artwork!



We then moved around to keep ourselves warm with an obstacle course, we had so much fun crawling inside the tunnels.



We ended the week by painting pebbles. This was a great activity where children could get creative and create an explosion of colours of their choices on the pebbles!



# Spring



We began this week with a beautiful collaborative painting! We had the best time mixing colours and creating something beautiful together. This was a great activity for fine motor skills.



For the rest of the week, we provided free play activities such as blowing bubbles (which is a great way to get children to breathe in and out to relax their muscles), imaginative play with toys (which we sometimes see as a way that children are perhaps dealing with some trauma that they have faced in the circumstances they face in the situations that they are in), play-fighting with bean bags (which serves as a great activity to blow off some steam and work with high energy levels) and playing with musical instruments to create our own little band!



## Animals

At the start of the week, we played whack-a-mole! This was such a fun activity that targets speed and observation. It is also a great activity to have some healthy competition amongst each other.



We continued the week by making butterfly crafts to replicate the beautiful colours of various butterflies!

We ended the week by making masks to pretend we are animals from the endless animal kingdom!

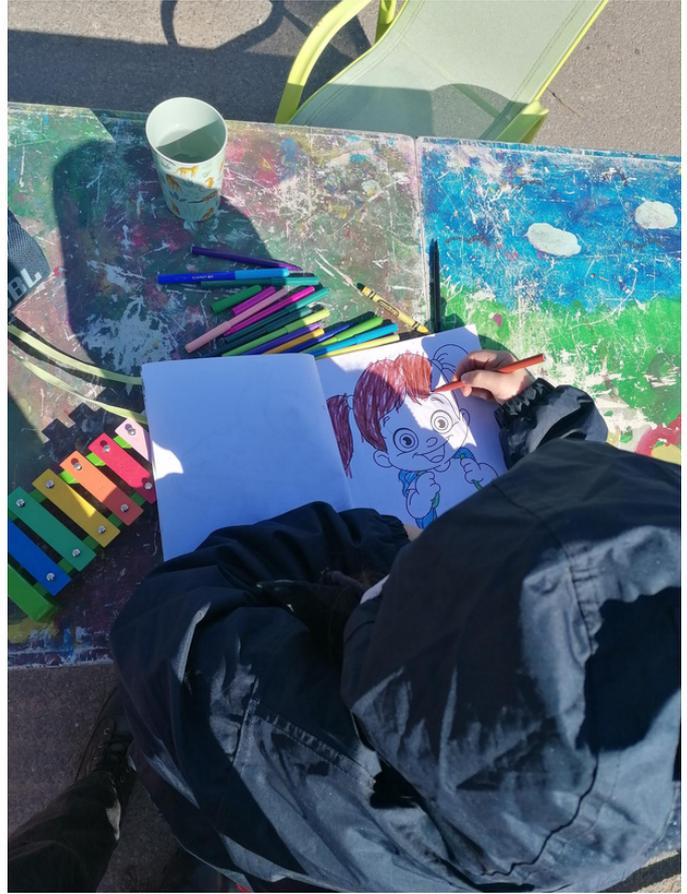


## Things that fly / No theme

This week, whenever we encountered children, we based our activities mainly around freeplay, enabling the children to have more agency in the play that they play. More about our freeplay activities can be found in the pages below.



^ Stamp painting



^ Colouring



^ Play-Doh animals



^ Our band in action!

## Circle Time

During our sessions, we have circle time after our main activity whilst we pack away the items from the main activity and bring out the freeplay. We also have a circle time at the end of our sessions as a way to say bye to the children. This month, we sang a variety of songs and played different games during circle time!

Our famous watermelon song is a great way to get everyone together to follow this simple song alongside us!

Ajooop is also an all-time favourite. We sing ajooop and make different poses and then run around! This is great as it is easy to follow and breaks down language barriers.

## Free Play

Alongside our themed activities, we offer a variety of free play options and set aside time at the end of the sessions for child-led play. This is a great moment when children can make their own choices and decide what they want to do! Highlights this month have included:

*Getting the face paint off >*



- Chess: This game of strategy and observation is very popular amongst the children and was requested on many occasions this month!
- Play-Doh: This is always very popular and is a great activity for children to get imaginative whilst making different shapes.
- Run and chase: This activity allows children to run around and be children. With drier weather, it is possible to run around! This is a great activity for gross motor skills and a way to have some healthy competition!
- Face painting: We had a ton of fun painting each others' faces this month! Our favourite memory was when a child cleaned one of our team members' face after painting it!



*^ Concentration during chess*



## Updates

We are grateful to have been able to facilitate play in April!

We are happy that children recognise who we are and are happy to see them wanting to spend time in our sessions!

Although we face difficulties, spirits remain high! Our new team that arrived in March has been settling in well! We are sad to say goodbye to one of our volunteers and wish them the best in anything they do in the future! We are also happy with all our inter-associative work, specifically within our warehouse, we feel it really shows that we are all part of the same team doing different work!



**Thank you for reading our newsletter! At Project Play, we believe in being accountable, transparent and informative. We hope you have a greater understanding of our service and what we have been up to in April 2023.**

