



March 2024

Monthly Report



Introduction & Contents

Project Play is a grassroots NGO that aims to provide safe spaces for children on the move in northern France to play, learn and be themselves.



In this report:

Updates, News & Observations

- Key figures: number of sessions run, children worked with and hours of play facilitated.
- News relevant to the UK-France border, and our observations relating to the impact of border policies on children's rights.

Our Activities

- Update on our service: our monthly themes
- Activities spotlight! Our favourite activities from this month and how we design sessions to support key developmental outcomes for the children we work with.

What Can You Do?

- Further information, contact details and avenues to support us / get involved.



March 2024



Updates, News and Observations

WE CARRIED OUT

34

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

77

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

89

HOURS

Both France and the UK have signed and ratified the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, meaning they have the obligation to **respect, protect and fulfill** the rights within it. Instead, they **pursue hostile border policies** which prevent children on the move from accessing their rights.

Impact of Hostility on the Border

Evidence of **violent and fatal "pullback" tactics** being used in the channel came to light this month. This has a very real impact on the communities we work with.

We have observed an unprecedented increase in **children discussing police violence** they had experienced, and instances of **children re-enacting violence** through play.

A.19: Freedom from violence

A.6: Right to Life

Hostile border policies are deadly. This month, Roula, an 8 year old girl, was killed as she and her family tried to reach the UK to claim asylum. We remember Roula. **Every life taken in border spaces is a tragedy.**

A.24: Mental & Physical Health

Wellbeing

1 in 3 children that we met this month were displaying visible signs of poor mental wellbeing. Children were exhausted, struggling to regulate their emotions, and suffering from episodes of dissociation. We have also observed an increase in physical injuries.

Living Standards

The state does not provide sanitation facilities for people on the move. This month, we regularly observed children forced to remain in dirty and wet clothes for long periods of time. We also observed children forced to go to the toilet outside, with no privacy.

A.27: Adequate Living Standards



www.project-play.org/take-action

Contact us:
advocacy@project-play.org

Our Activities

We endeavour to create a safe space for children in which we facilitate free and imaginative play, with a focus on cooperation and collaboration. Our aim is to minimize the impact of toxic stress within children on the move and to foster a sense of identity, agency and increased self-worth for the children we support.

This month, we explored:

Science



Spring



Storytelling

Our activities are designed to support **key developmental outcomes** for the children we work with. Some of our favourite activities this month:

Frog Day!

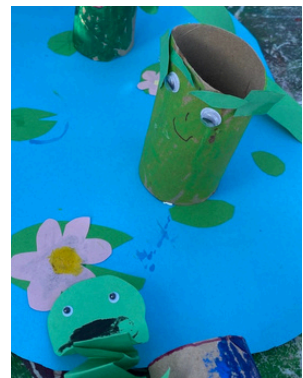
We explored the life cycle of a frog, with some fabulous sensory activities to help us learn.

Frog spawn in a bog

Springy paper tadpoles

Cardboard tube frogs and collaborative pond!

All of these activities were great for our **fine motor skills, communication, collaboration and creativity.**



Our Activities

Our giant space ship!

We worked as a team to construct and decorate a giant cardboard space ship! Plus, with a little imagination, we were able to fly together and explore the stars.

This was fabulous for our **gross and fine motor skills** and our **collaboration, listening and communication skills**.



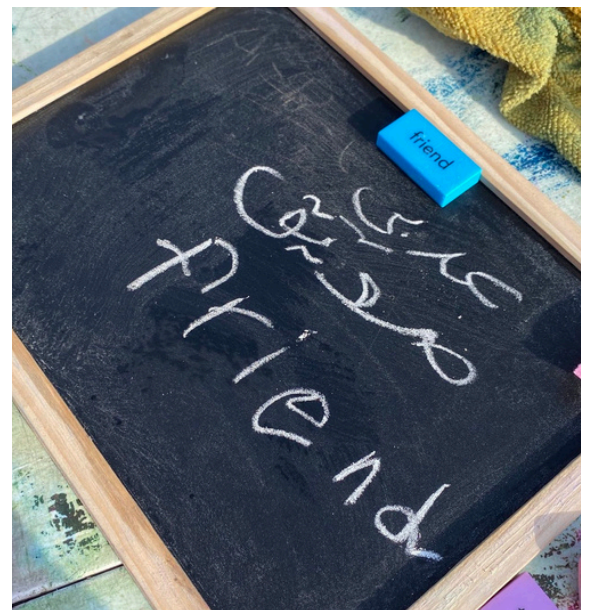
Gardening...in a jar!

Following up on the spring theme, we planted some lentil and cress seeds in jars. Then the kids personalised them. It was great practice for **fine motor skills**, with lots of fiddly bits, textures and shapes. Plus, the children got creative and made bracelets for themselves - exercising **autonomy** and practicing **self-expression**.



Language learning

The children we work with don't have access to education, and many ask us for learning materials and tell us how excited they are to go to school soon. We had lots of fun doing some language learning this month - sharing each other's languages was great for our **cognitive development** and our **social development**, helping us learn about other words, sounds and cultures.



March 2024



What Can You Do?

Thank you for reading our monthly updates! We couldn't do what we do without the support of amazing people like you. If you'd like to get involved:



Stay in Touch!

Follow us on social media:



@projectplayfrance



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@projectplay7

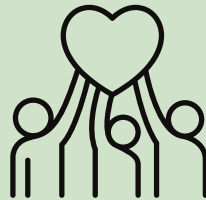
[Sign up to our newsletter](#) to receive these updates straight to your inbox each month.

Donate

We rely on donations to keep playing. If you can, please consider:



[Making a one-off donation](#)



[Joining our community of monthly donors](#)



Engage



Your voice counts. If you'd like to learn more about life for children on the move, and how you can take action, [click here](#).



Would you like to **join our team**? We're always on the look out for motivated people to help us with our work! [Click here](#) to find out more.



www.project-play.org

[Sign up to our mailing list to receive this updates.](#)



Thank You!

On our news, updates and observations:

Visit:

project-play.org/our-advocacy-work

Contact our advocacy team:

advocacy@project-play.org

On our activities:

Visit:

project-play.org/our-work

Contact our ground team:

info@project-play.org