



May

MONTHLY REPORT

For supporters

2023

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✓ Facepainting



✓ Football



Service Impact

This month at Project Play we ran a total of 15 sessions, facilitating 34.5 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 May we know that we worked with at least **89 children**, though we predict this number to be much higher in reality.*

Activities

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

Each of our sessions begin 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
CIRCUS, STATES OF MATTER, SENSES,
MY BODY and STRENGTH!!!



Circus

This week we explored the theme of circus!!



We had a few difficulties this week, however, whenever we could, we played various circus types of games.

We started off with a horse game where we pretended to be horses and galloped around!

√ Galloping around!



We then played with hoops and had ring tossing competitions! Healthy ways to compete amongst each other are great ways for children to learn about cooperative play.

This week, there was a large-scale eviction in the informal living site in Grande-Synthe. The entire living site was dismantled. This meant that we were not able to go to the living site for sessions after this.



States of Matter

This week we explored states of matter: liquids, gases and solids!

We started off by making oobleck, a non-Newtonian fluid that we created by mixing cornstarch and water. We then used food colouring to make our preferred colours! We had a blast watching the oobleck act like a liquid and a solid depending on how much pressure is applied to it!



^ It's a liquid!



^ Now it's a solid!!

We continued the week by making sugar crystals, by mixing boiling water with sugar and food colouring to make our own personal colourful crystals.



◀ Waiting for our crystals



We then had a volcano eruption! We used vinegar, baking powder and food colouring for this amazing science experiment! We also had individual balloon experiments! We put vinegar in small bottles then filled the balloons with baking powder. After this, we tipped the content on the balloons into the bottles and watched as the balloons inflated by themselves!!



^ Eruption!!



^ Balloon experiment

We ended the week by participating in the 'Journée Talents des Femmes' animated by the Secours Catholique! We animated various activities so all children could do something they enjoy. We had a station of face painting where we transformed ourselves into tigers and butterflies. We did an experiment where we filled balloons with vinegar and baking powder and then watched them and inflate. We had an obstacle course and had a ton of fun competing amongst each other. We also made masks that we decorated with drawings, stickers, feathers and pom poms. We got our creativity on and did some colouring and drawing. We also had a ball pit and had the best time throwing the balls in and out of the ball pit! Meanwhile we had a treasure hunt and hid many small toys and puzzle books for children to find!





^ Our various play stations during Journée Talents des Femmes

Senses

This week was all about our senses!!

We started off by making shakers! We filled cups with rice and decorated them with stickers, drawings, pom poms and feathers before taping them together and shake away!



^ Shake shake!



^ What's the mystery item?

We then had a big mystery box!! We put various items of different textures, sounds and shapes into this box. Then one by one, the children closed their eyes, felt and heard the item they picked, then put it back. They then guessed which item they felt! This was a fun activity as everyone was involved in saying "yes" or "no" to the guesses of each player!





^ Our beautiful texture collage

We then had a big texture collage! We brought along various items of different textures and stuck them onto a big paper! We also drew on this paper and it became a big colourful mess!



My Body

This week we explored the theme of my body!!

We started off the week with little competitions in twister! We did some body stretches to prepare for this game and had a ton of fun together! At the same time, we also did some hand tracing and created fun little hand animals.

We then had games of body balancing! We tried to balance ourselves on skipping ropes that were laid out on the floor and used little hoops to skip into!



< Body tracing painting



^ Twister fun!

After this, we got creative! We did some body tracing paints and tried to replicate our bodies' outlines. We then painted our figures with our favourite colours! This was a great collaborative activity where we all got involved together!

We ended the week with play-doh portraits. We used play-doh to replicate the features of our faces!



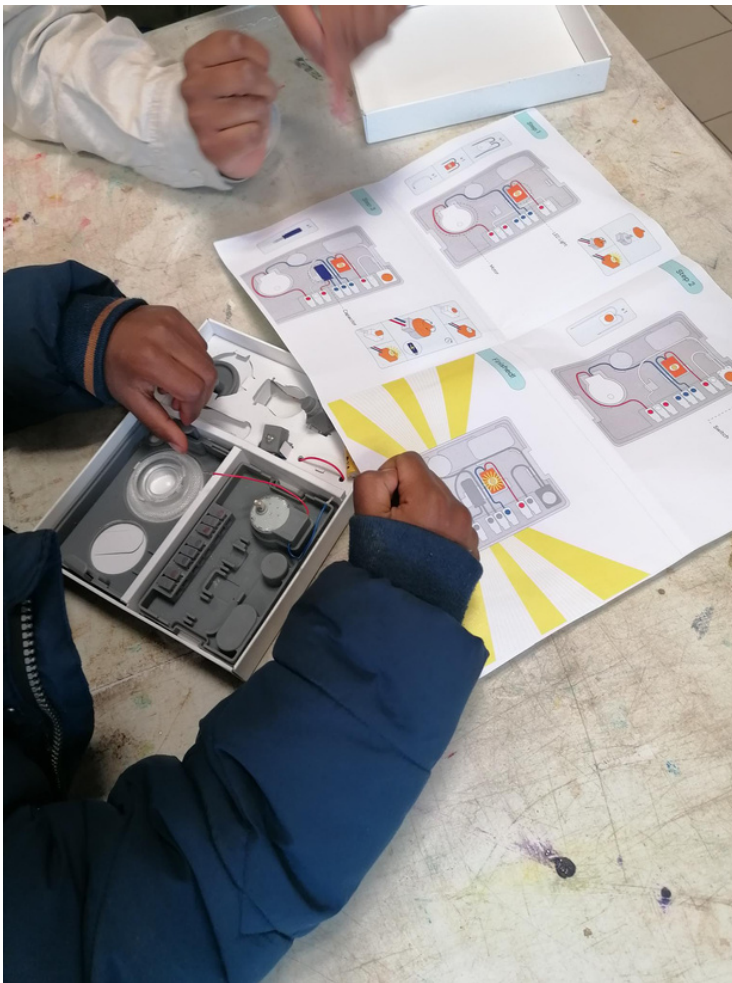
Strength

This week we explored strength - the strength within ourselves and the strength of community!

We played various games together to reinforce the strength of us playing as a team. We played charades so that children could feel confident to go up and act out various animals and objects. We had a blast doing this!

We then had a tug of war! We did this activity to reinforce the strength of the team. It was a good way to let off some healthy competition! The children were much stronger than us and we fell on the grass and laughed!!

At the end of the week, we were joined by Ambessa Play! Ambessa Play creates toy kits and workshops for children globally. We had the best time assembling the flashlights and seeing the end product: a working wind-up flashlight!!



^ Assembling flashlights with Ambessa Play



^ Tug of war!



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!

Ajoop is also an all-time favourite. We sing ajoop 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:



^ Train tracks



^ Parachute

- Sensory box: We had a lot of fun playing with a sensory box filled with soil! We had little games where we hid toys and other little items in the soil and gave each other magnifying glasses to find all the items in a short space of time!
- Parachute: Parachute is always popular and SO much fun! We had a blast playing parachute this month!
- Art: We always have colouring books and paper for children who would like to have some quieter time drawing and colouring! It is always very popular and we love all the artwork made by the children!
- Train tracks: This activity is great for children to learn about cooperative play, building something together to then see it work to its full potential because of the strength of our team!



Updates

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

The beginning of the month was challenging, as there was a mass eviction in one of the informal living sites in Dunkirk. This resulted in a complete dismantlement of the living space and left many without anywhere to go and without tents, blankets or food. This violence is notably traumatic for children as they are especially exposed and vulnerable in this hostile environment without any access to sanitation, shelter or play.

Although we face difficulties, spirits remain high! This month, we said goodbye to a volunteer, we wish them the best in the future! We welcomed a new volunteer and we are excited to hear all their new ideas! 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!



^ Children always help us bring things from our van, and we are so grateful!

Thank you for reading our updates! 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 May 2023.



Potato heads! >



^ Jenga



^ Exploring and finding items!



^ Play doh football!

