



February

MONTHLY REPORT

For supporters

2023

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Service Impact

This month Project Play ran a total of 12 sessions, facilitating 22.5 hours of play.

Every week, we aim to run 6 sessions a week in the informal camps located in Grande-Synthe. In addition to this, we aim to run 1-2 sessions a week at Secours Catholique's Accueil Social in Calais.

*During the month of February we know that we worked with at least **31 children**. This number is not reflective of the total number of children on the move in northern France.*



^ Two princesses sitting on our makeshift goals



^ Ambessa Play joined us this month!

Activities

We want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to take part in something that they can enjoy. Therefore, we make sure we 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 all children, from babies to teenagers.

Within each of our sessions, we start off with a main activity which is based on our weekly theme. Following this, we move 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 **SCIENCE**, **THEATRE**, **SUPERHEROES** and **ABOUT ME!**



Science

This week we explored the wonderful world of science!



We started off with making robots by wrapping foil around toilet paper rolls and pieces of wood (which were provided by the amazing volunteers at the Woodyard who are also based within our warehouse space). We used colourful pom poms, googly eyes and tissue paper to make the robots our own!

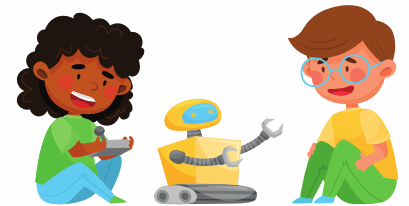
We then continued with a collaborative universe drawing which turned into a colourful mess. This was a great activity for our creative skills. During this, some children requested to play football and we had a lovely time using one of the fences as a makeshift goal.



Then, we warmed ourselves up with an obstacle course laid out in the shape of a robot and had fun jumping into the hoops. In addition to keeping us warm, this was also a great way to work on our gross motor skills!



^ Robots obstacle course

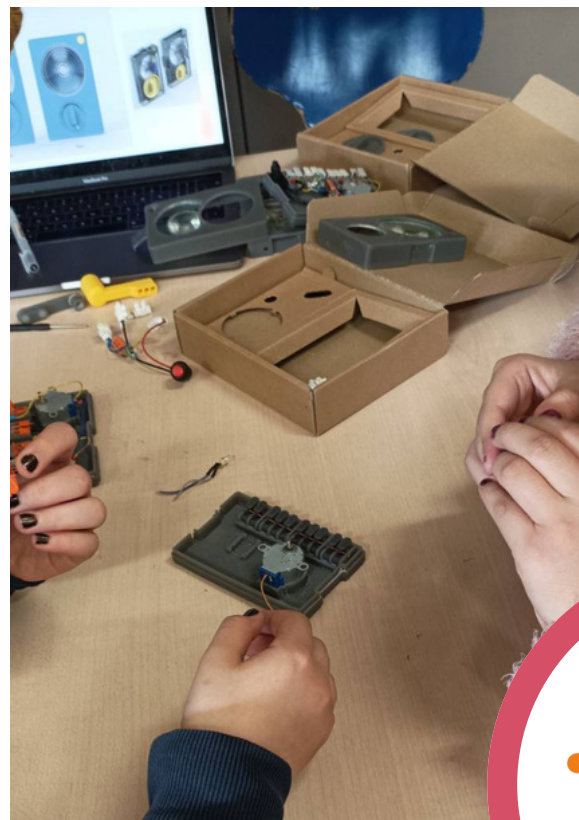
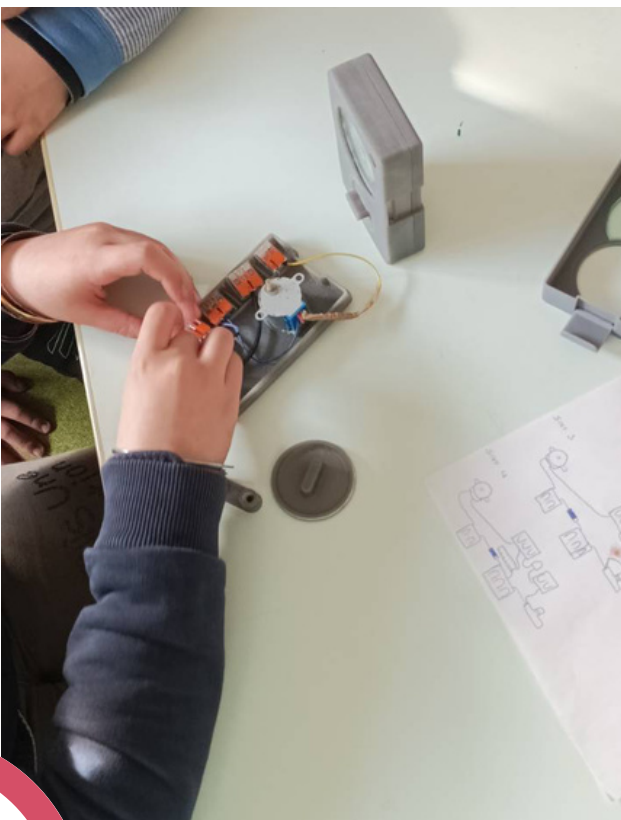


We continued the week making robots out of tin cans. We stuck googly eyes and pipe cleaners to make colourful little robots.





We finished off the week with Ambessa Play [<https://ambessaplay.com/>]. Ambessa Play create toy kits and animate workshops for children globally. They aim to enable children to build the worlds they want to live in through STEM toy kits and workshops. During their time with us, we assembled flashlights which were so exciting!!! We also made big bubbles outside and had a blast!



Theatre



^ What are we going to mimic?



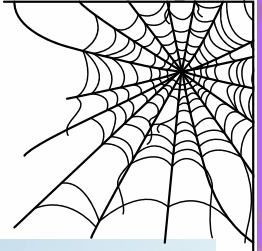
^ Dress-up football!

Then we had a dress-up party!! We had initially planned a little puppet show but as we did not feel there was much engagement, we decided to continue dressing up and having a party. We had a blast under the February sun and played party songs at the request of children! Meanwhile, we also had football going on. One child also dressed up whilst playing football!



Superheroes

This week we were all superheroes!



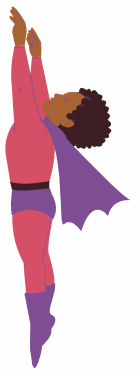
We started off the week by tapping into our Spiderpeople and practised our target throwing with a spider web that we made out of tape and stuck onto the legs of our gazebo. We had so much fun with this activity whilst working on fine motor skills!!



Then we put our superhero capes on and had a superhero party! We had so much fun running around and seeing our capes fly!



We continued the week with a collaborative superhero city drawing, it was a beautiful and colourful little city.



We ended the week with a superhero miniature world. We printed out different landscapes and used superhero toys to get imaginative and make our superheroes fly through various spaces!



About Me



We ended the month by exploring the theme, about me!

We started off by drawing self-portraits of ourselves whilst looking at ourselves in the mirror! This was a great activity to recognise ourselves and have a sense of self-identity.



We then used play-dough to replicate our features. We had fun using different colours to make portraits of ourselves!

This week was quite tough as we were not able to facilitate play on as many days as we had planned due to security incidents.



Circle Time

Circle Time comes after our main activities which are based on our weekly themes as seen above and before freeplay. We also do a circle time at the end of our sessions in order to say goodbye to the children. This month, we sang a variety of songs and played different games during circle time!

We sang our famous watermelon song. It was great to see the children knowing the lyrics to this song and singing their hearts out!

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:



- Potato head: We had a blast putting together different eyes and mouths onto our potatoes!
- Colouring: We were happy that children requested colouring themselves and glad we had this to provide!
- Sports: Football and also simply passing the ball amongst ourselves is always a hit! It is a great way to work on gross motor skills and keep ourselves warm amidst freezing temperatures.
- Jenga: This game of strategy is a very fun way to have some healthy competition amongst each other and it's always funny when the tower topples!
- Kitchen set: We always have a blast pretending to cook and make food to eat!



Updates

We are grateful to have been able to facilitate play this month!

We have felt that we have been able to re-establish ourselves this month with children knowing where we usually set up! We love seeing the children run to our orange gazebo, knowing who we are and what to expect from us, we are happy to provide some consistency in an ever unpredictable environment.

However, it has been quite a difficult month due to various security related incidents; including a fire at a nearby chemical plant that resulted in the release of a fog of a toxic gas, believed to be chlorine, into the atmosphere near people's living sites. The chlorine in the air caused people to experience various symptoms including burning eyes and respiratory difficulties. This has meant that we were not able to facilitate play on as many occasions as we had planned. In addition, on several occasions, we did not encounter children in other spaces. We hope this meant children were within a warmer space.

Although we face difficulties, spirits remain high, and our new team that arrived in January has settled in well! We are also happy with all our inter-associative work, specifically within our warehouse, as 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 February 2023.

