



Monthly Impact Report

**APRIL 2026**



# APRIL in PLAY



We are a grassroots organisation supporting children and families on the move in northern France through **play**, **parental support** and **casework**. This month:

WE FACILITATED

29

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

109

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

70

HOURS

This month, we ran service at **four locations** across northern France - including makeshift camps, independent safe houses and community centres.



## Session Spotlight

For the last two months, we've started running activity trips for the families living in safe houses. We facilitate outings for one family at a time - such as a visit to an aquarium, a museum, or a farm. The aim of these outings is to allow children to experience new things, and for parents to reconnect and relax - having a break from the stress of parenting in the violent and unstable environment of the border.

The challenges of life at the border can make these difficult to run, and we have had to cancel a few planned trips as families have returned from failed crossing experiences exhausted and in shock. We will always adapt our service to best meet the needs of children and families on different days.



# April Impact Report

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# NEWS and UPDATES

## From the border:

April was marked by some significant policy changes, that we expect to have devastating consequences for people on the move in northern France. Crucially, UK funding for border securitisation was not only renewed, but increased. This will lead to more violence, including against children. We are continuing to [call for a public inquiry in the UK](#) into the use of this funding, and for it to be redirected to politics of welcome, not violence.

## Key issues:



**Mental wellbeing** - We saw an increase in failed crossing attempts this month. For many children who experienced this it was hard to go back to play and think about something different than the crossing - showing the profound impact on their wellbeing. Without access to safe routes to asylum, families will be forced to make dangerous journeys to reach safety.



**Police violence** - this month, we heard reports of the police forcibly separating families during crossing attempts, using children to prevent parents from crossing. We will be following this development closely.



**Education** - We have started to run education sessions in safe houses, with children who have spent long periods outside of formal education. These have been really popular, but we cannot fill the gaps in state provision.



## Parental Support & Casework



In April, we provided specific casework support to **3 families**.



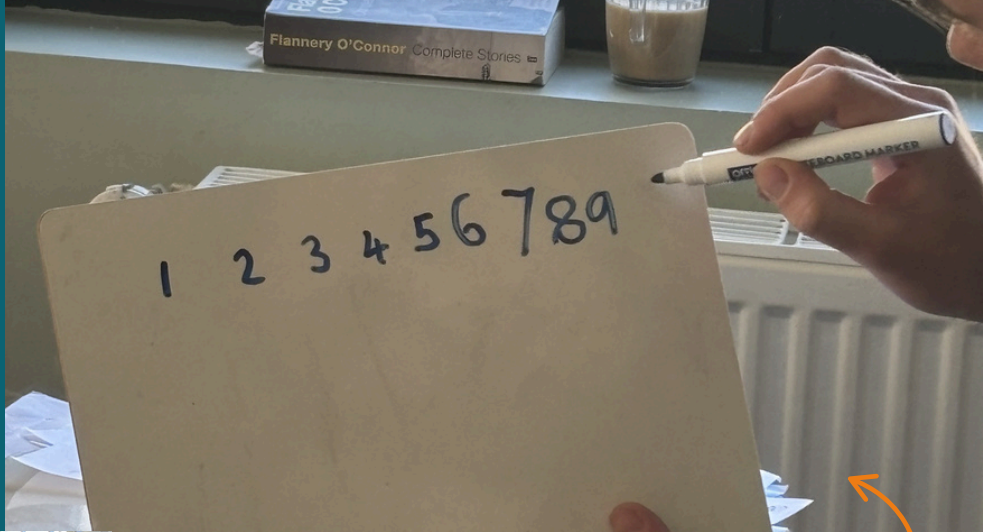
We **made 12 referrals** for clothes, baby food and psychological support - supporting families to access essential services.



# GALLERY

some favourite moments

this month! 🎨



The children LOVE painting the faces of our playworkers - an opportunity for creativity and silliness!

Our education sessions create spaces for learning - including counting - but you can't escape "6-7"!



Creating a safe and delineated space for child-led play is fundamental to each of our sessions - but can be particularly challenging at informal living sites.

Family trips - including to the aquarium - have been a real highlight recently! The children loved seeing the colourful fish.





# Thank You!

## ENGAGE

[Follow](#) Project Play and our partners in northern France to stay informed, and [sign up to our newsletter](#) to receive our updates.

## SUPPORT

We rely on our community of supporters to run our service. [Click here](#) to find out you you can [help us keep playing](#) - and keep fighting for change.

## JOIN US

Join our [team of playworkers](#) in northern France, or keep an eye out for opportunities to join our [remote team](#).

