



January

MONTHLY REPORT

For supporters

2023

Contents:

Service Impact	1
Activities	
• Nature	3
• Space	4
• Friendship	5
• Circle & Free Play	8
Updates	9

Service Impact

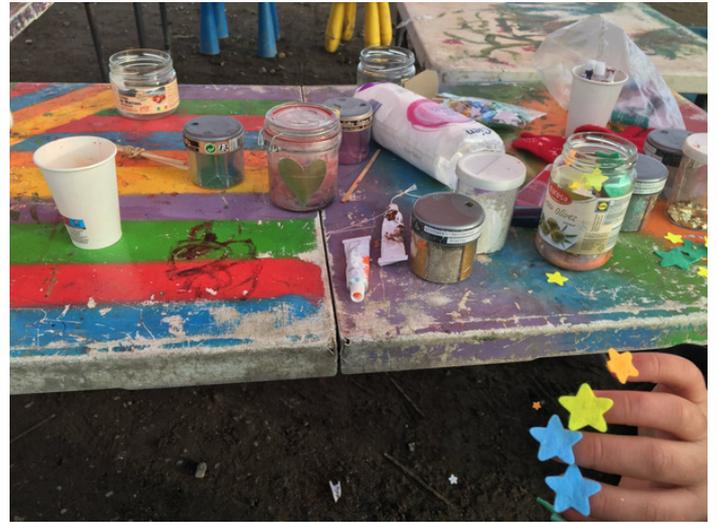
This month Project Play ran a total of **14 sessions**, with a total of **36.3 hours of play**.

On a weekly basis, we aim to run sessions 6 days a week in the informal camps at Grande-Synthe. Additionally, we aim to run sessions 1-2 times a week at Secours Catholique's Accueil Social in Calais.

*This month we know that we worked with at least **70 children**, though we predict this number to be much higher in reality.*



^ Patiently waiting whilst we set up



^ Fun with stars!

Activities

We want to make sure that every child has the opportunity to take part in something that they can enjoy. Thus, we ensure we provide a 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.

During each of our sessions, we begin with a main activity which is based on our weekly theme. Then, 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 **NATURE**, **SPACE** and **FRIENDSHIP!**



√ Our beautiful collaborative friendship around the world painting and drawing!

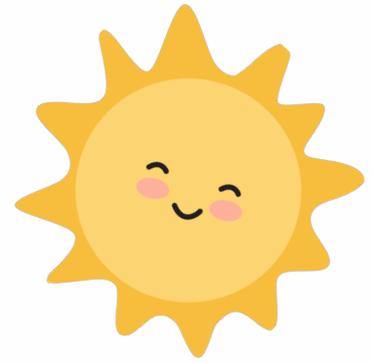


^ Hula-hooping



^ Shiny galaxies

Nature



This week we explored the theme of NATURE!



^ Our collaborative sun!

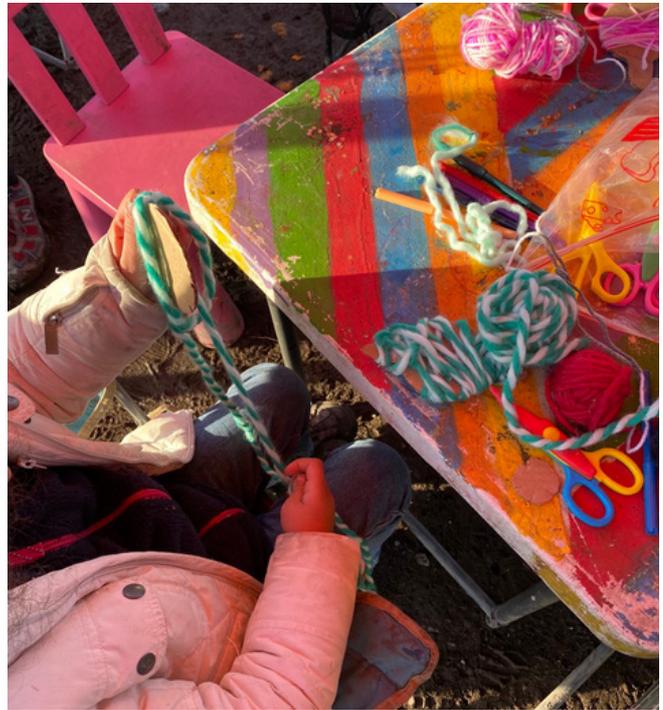
While exploring nature, we created a big collaborative weather painting, we all came together to replicate the beautiful colours of a rainbow and the sun. We also used tissue paper and shiny paper which was great to improve on scissors skills.



Space

This week we went to SPACE!

We had an amazing time exploring infinite space! In the beginning of the week, we made yarn-wrapped cardboard cutouts of planets. This was a good activity to improve fine motor skills. We then used more yarn to hang them in our collaborative cardboard solar system.



Then, we got creative whilst mixing acrylic paints with water and explosions of glitter and stars to make beautiful swirly galaxies in jars! This was a nice activity that was enjoyed by all ages.



To finish off the week, we used different kinds and colours of papers to make space silhouette art. We finished them off with stickers of stars!



Friendship

This week we explored the theme of FRIENDSHIP!

We started the week with children asking us to play football, which we did and turned into a big game of football with a lot of teens joining too! Usually, it is always difficult to engage teens as we often come across to be for younger children, however, this is something we understand and are working to overcome to have everyone join us! So we were very happy to have this big game of football. It was lovely as volunteers from other organisations, who we work closely with, joined in for the fun! One of our volunteers is a professional player and she has been teaching everyone new moves and tactics. We are so grateful to have her in our team!



We continued the week by making beautiful friendship bracelets. We used a selection of beads, charms and different bracelet materials to make these. We got really creative with them!

^ Friendship bracelets



We then did a competitive obstacle course and timed ourselves to see who was the fastest at completing the course. We had so much fun laughing whilst trying to throw hoops around cones and bean bags into targets! This was a great activity to have some healthy competition and it was fun as we all got engaged!



We also made a smaller obstacle course for the younger children and had fun matching the colours of the hoops with the cones and jumping into hoops! This was a good activity for gross motor skills.



After this, we made a big collaborative friendship around the world drawing and painting. We made a semi-circle at the bottom of the paper and drew people holding hands. We then coloured the semi-circle to look like the Earth and drew faces and clothes for the people! This was a great activity for getting very creative and coming together for a big collaborative effort.



We finished off the week by decorative pieces of wood (chopped for us by the lovely volunteers of Woodyard) around the theme of friendship! This was a great fine motor skills activity.



Circle

This month, we sang a variety of songs and played different games during circle time!

A young child wanted to sing turn turn around whilst all holding hands in a circle and we were happy to sing this and one of our team members sang the song in Italian!

We also sang the name song where we all introduced ourselves with a signature move to then be copied by others whilst saying hi!

Our famous song 'Ajoop' was also a winner this month! It is a great song as the only word is ajoop and we can move around and warm ourselves up in the freezing temperatures faced by the children.



Free Play

In addition to 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:

- Doctors set: We had a lot of fun pretending to be doctors and nurses. At one point, we ran away from the toy injection that the doctor was holding.
- Instruments: These have been very popular this month, we pretended to be our own little band and played a variety of instruments together!
- Dobble: This is a great game for speed and observation and we had so much fun playing and having healthy competitions with each other.
- Sports: We played a lot of football this month, which was requested by the children! We had a lot of fun competing with each other and testing out our skills.
- Play shop: We had a wonderful time pretending to be shopkeepers and customers and even pretended to make food with the shop items.



Updates

We are grateful to be back in this new year!

This month was about re-establishing ourselves within a space for Project Play after the severe and widespread eviction that took place in December. We are happy to say that we have been able to find a space for ourselves. We are also happy that children know where we usually set up and come and wait for us whilst we set up!

We are glad to have welcomed three new team members, including a new logistics and operations coordinator and an advocacy coordinator. Our new volunteer is a professional football player and we are so happy to have her as part of our team as she can teach the children new tricks!

January has been a very cold month but we have been grateful for the little spells of sunshine here and there. Everyday, we check the weather for the wind and rain and re-assess whether the planned activities are plausible or whether we would need to rethink these. Additionally, the strong wind means that we have to be careful with our gazebo as it has been known to take off. However, we have been doing more movement based activities (such as the obstacle courses and football) in order to keep a little warmer.

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 January 2023. Thank you for your continued support!

