

### **SEPTEMBER**

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** 

WE WORKED WITH

**WE PLAYED FOR** 

19

14323



**SESSIONS** 

**CHILDREN** 

HOURS

We worked at **five different locations**, including independent safe houses, community centres and informal living sites - reaching a consistently high number of children.

#### **Session Spotlight!**

In our **Space Week** we made alien masks that the children could paint, color, or decorate with stickers - enabling them to exercise creativity, agency and fine motor skills.

We also loved an active dice game - where each number on the dice corresponded to an action to perform - including an astronaut walk, the

UFO, and even imitating an alien! This was fantastic for children's self esteem and collaboration.

## Parental Support & Casework



In September, we handled **two case files** for families in need of specific support.



We made **13 referrals**, mainly for medical care, tents and food.

We also made a number of referrals for **unaccompanied children**, working with our partners at Youth Kaleidoscope.



September Impact Report

project-play.org

# **NEWS** and **UPDATES**

#### From the border:

In September, the number of tragic deaths on the border remained high. Within one weekend in September, four people were killed at the border and ten people in total throughout the month. Our thoughts are with their friends, families and loved ones - and we reiterate our call for an urgent end to violence on the border, and the creation of accessible safe routes to asylum for all who need them.

### **Key issues:**



Alongside an increase in deaths on the border this month, we have taken a **number of** testimonies from children reflecting the intensity of police violence both in living sites and during crossing attempts.



These UK-funded operations by French authorities threaten children's rights to protection from violence (A.19 UNCRC) and to life, survival and development (A.6 UNCRC).

In the light of yet more strict border policies being put in place, we are reflecting on and remembering that **these deaths do not occur accidentally** - they are the result of policy choices made by successive governments on both sides of the Channel.



#### In the News:

This month, the new "one-in-one-out" agreement between the UK and France has continued to take effect.

This scheme centres on the detention and deportation of people. Reports have been made of people in situations of particular vulnerability facing deportation - including the removal of an unaccompanied child.

Whilst the scheme obstensibly creates a safe route to asylum in the UK, not only does it rely on deportation and dehumanisation, but the "in-route" is inaccessible for many of those in need. We have worked with a number of families who wish to access it, but are unable to.

## GALLERY

some favourite moments this month!



Parachute games are a real highlight of our sessions. The children love moving with the parachute and exploring how we can work together on different games.

The colours are also a beautiful sensory experience!

Alien mask making was a true highlight - the children loved the process, and wearing them after!

Our space week "roll the dice" game brought plenty silliness and imagination!





#### **ENGAGE**

Follow Project Play and our partners in northern France to stay informed, and sign up to our newsletter to receive our updates.

#### **VOLUNTEER**

Join our team of playworkers in northern
France, or join us remotely - we're currently recruiting a French-speaking trustee.

#### **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.

