



Monthly Impact Report

JULY 2025



JULY

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

22

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

130

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

62

HOURS

In July, we worked at **five locations**. With a smaller team and lower capacity, we concentrated on running sessions at a key day centre - enabling us to build strong, trusting relationships with the families we saw here consistently. We also ran sessions at safe houses, responding to needs.



Session Spotlight!

We design our sessions to offer children a safe space to regulate and process, whilst including planned activities to support their development.

We loved human body week this month - particularly our "fill out the body" activity! We worked together to place body parts on the right part of our outline - practicing working collaboratively, learning and being silly too! This was a great theme for promoting bodily autonomy and awareness.

Parental Support & Casework



In July, we handled **five case files** for families in need of specific support.



We made **10 referrals**, mainly for medical care, essential items and legal support.

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NEWS and UPDATES

From the border:

Good weather windows in July meant that attempts to cross the Channel increased - leading to a **concurrent rise in traumatic experiences of crossing attempts**. This impacted the children we worked with - we frequently heard disclosures and testimonies from these experiences, and observed both mental and physical health consequences - including chemical burns, injuries and emotional distress.

Spotlight issues:



July saw a significant increase in testimonies and conversations about **boats being stabbed in the water**; a practice that **remains illegal** under maritime law despite ongoing discussions to change this. Across the coast of northern France, reports of police violence have increased exponentially. **Children have both experienced police violence both directly and as witnessing it, including against their parents.**



Many of the families we worked with **spent a long time without a tent** - due to limited resources amongst organisations who work to combat the lack of state provision.



We observed **the impact of these worsening living conditions and increasing violence children faced** - manifest in disruptive behaviour, challenges to emotionally regulate, and exacerbated situations of vulnerability.



In the News:

This month, we published "['We Want to be Safe': The Impact of Violence against Children on the UK-France Border in 2024](#)". Grounded in the voices of the children we work with, this report documents the increasing violence facing them and highlights the urgent need for safe and accessible routes to asylum.

The **UK-France summit** dominated headlines. This meeting failed to spark the change needed - instead, leading to the announcement of a "one-in-one-out" deal. While further clarity is needed, this scheme is not only largely inaccessible but depends on people continuing to cross, and being forcibly removed - thus neither genuinely safe or accessible.

Our report received coverage in the [Guardian](#) and worked to facilitate conversations between families and [Channel 4](#).



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GALLERY

*some favourite
moments
this month!*



Facilitating space for children to explore their creativity is a key part of our sessions. We make sure there's opportunities both for individual creativity (above) and collaborative work (right)!



Loom bands are a free play highlight!

Space week was a true highlight - featuring slime (a delightful sensory experience and great for motor skills!) as well as opportunities for reading and learning.



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VISITOR SPOTLIGHT!



This month we were visited by the awe-inspiring **Spoon Circus**, who treated us to a week of circus magic.

The children absolutely loved learning new skills - one child practiced all week and loved showing us how they'd improved!



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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.

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.