



Monthly Impact Report

MAY 2025



MAY

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

37

SESSIONS

WE WORKED WITH

191

CHILDREN

WE PLAYED FOR

96

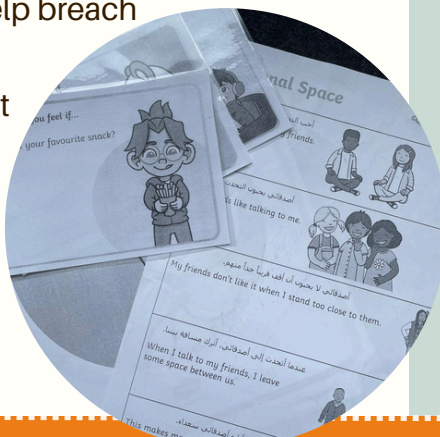
HOURS

In May, we worked at **five locations**, including independent safe houses, community centres and informal living sites. We saw child numbers continue to rise and we were busy across all our locations.

Session Spotlight!

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

Last month we were able to run a few extra sessions specifically dedicated to **safe touch**, **social interactions and autonomy**. We use 'social stories' to help breach language barriers and encourage kids to point out unfair behaviour when they see or experience it.



Parental Support & Casework



In May, we handled **three case files** for families in need of specific support.



We made **22 referrals**, mainly for accommodation and medical care.



We also referred **two unaccompanied children** to dedicated services run by ECPAT & Utopia 56.



May Impact Report

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NEWS and UPDATES

From the border:

A **new day centre** has opened in Grande-Synthe, offering vital indoor space and support for women and children. We are grateful to our partners at Refugee Women's Centre for facilitating this space. At the same time, we've **continued to see high numbers of children at the border**. Families continue to face severe shortages of shelter and essential items, especially in Grande-Synthe. This is putting extra pressure on services across the area.

At Project Play:



With no state services and organisations stretched by high demand, many **children are unable to access basic needs** - contravening their right to an adequate standard of living under Article 27 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.



Some parents have been unable to bring their children to our sessions due to urgent needs for food and shelter. Without this foundation, **they cannot meaningfully enjoy their other rights - like the right to play** (Article 31).



This month, **more children told us about police violence** during crossing attempts, including the use of **tear gas** and **physical force** against them. These UK-funded operations by French authorities threaten children's rights to protection from violence (Article 19 UNCRC) and to life, survival and development (Article 6 UNCRC).

In the News:

This month, **a mother and her child were among several people who were killed trying to cross the Channel**, amidst increasing violence on the border. These deaths are **not isolated tragedies** - they are the direct result of policies that deny people access to safe routes to seek asylum.

At the same time, the UK Prime Minister announced new immigration plans, using hostile and dehumanising language. **This rhetoric fuels division and helps normalise the violence children face at the border every day.**

We urgently repeat our call for both the UK and French governments to create safe, accessible routes to asylum that uphold rights and prioritise safety.



GALLERY

*some favourite
moments
this month!*



Free play allows children to exercise agency and autonomy - giving them control and choice over their play - whilst providing plenty opportunities for imaginative, creative play.

Collaborative painting is often a part of our sessions - creating space for children to develop their creativity and social skills. We loved the artwork in sports week, and these happy painted trees from nature week!



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We facilitated a relaxed film screening for the children, providing a calming, grounding space.



"Farm Day" has become a staple at Project Play! Here, children are searching for 'eggs' in the 'nest' - providing learning opportunities whilst developing fine motor skills and teamwork.

Hand-print painting is a true favourite - promoting sensory awareness and fine motor skills while also promoting creativity and collaboration!



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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.

