

PLAY BOX GUIDE

POWERED BY

YODEL







WHAT IS THE PLAY BOX APPEAL?

An unprecedented total of more than 10 million people – mostly women and children – have been displaced inside Ukraine or across its borders due to Russia's unprovoked war. More than 3.7 million people have sought refuge outside Ukraine and in the coming weeks, the UK expects to host up to 200,000 Ukrainian refugees.

UNICEF estimates more than 1.5 million children are among those who have fled abroad. These children have been ripped from their everyday lives. Families have been separated. Mothers and children continue to flee on foot and by rail. Let's make no mistake, the trauma these children are experiencing will have lifelong consequences.

Play is a powerful yet simple way for trauma affected children to process their experiences, express their thoughts and feelings and reduce stress. Play Action International's Ukraine Play Box Appeal, aims to give boxes of toys and play materials to Ukrainian children arriving in the UK over the coming weeks, as well as to Ukrainian children seeking refuge in Eastern Europe. By offering Ukraine's children boxes of toys and play materials, together we can begin to give them a sense of their childhood back.





GETTING YOUR PLAY BOX READY

- Get a medium sized shoe box approximately 35 x 20 x 10 cm (or a box of a similar size). If you don't have a shoe box at home, you can pop in to your local shoe shop who will be happy to give you a box if they have any spare.
- You can cover the box and lid with gift wrap to decorate it (OPTIONAL). If you gift wrap the box, please wrap the lid and box separately as our volunteers will need to open the box to check it.
- Fill your box with age/gender appropriate toys and play materials. We have some ideas to help you on the next page.
- Include in your box a note stating the age (3-5, 6-8 or 9-11) and gender (unisex, male or female) of the child you have prepared the box for.
- If you would like to personalise your Play Box, you can download our poster here and include it in the box (OPTIONAL).





GETTING YOUR PLAY BOX READY

WHAT CAN GO IN THE BOX

- Cuddly toys
- ✓ Dolls
- ✓ Toy vehicles
- ✓ Small musical instruments
- ✓ Yo-yo's
- ✓ Arts and craft supplies (no pencils)
- Skipping ropes
- ✓ Crafting/Make Your Own kits
- ✓ Construction toys i.e. Lego
- ✓ A football and pump/foam ball
- ✓ Imaginative play toys i.e. Playmobil
- ✓ Modelling dough
- ✓ Finger puppets
- ✓ Slinky
- ✓ Small puzzles

WHAT CAN'T GO IN THE BOX

- **≭** Sharp items
- **X** Scissors
- **X** Sharpeners
- **≭** Fragile items
- **X** Any war related toys (soldiers, tanks, toy guns, etc.)

ALL PLAY BOXES WILL BE CHECKED BEFORE BEING GIVEN TO CHILDREN. IF ANY OF THE ABOVE ITEMS ARE FOUND. THEY WILL BE REMOVED.

AGE APPROPRIATE IDEAS

3-5

- Cuddly toys
- Stacking blocks
- Modelling dough
- Foam ball
- Musical instruments
- Dolls
- Toy vehicles
- Finger puppets
- Arts and crafts
- Toy animals/dinosaurs Kinetic sand
- Picture books

- 6-8
- Arts and crafts

• Cuddly toys

- Ball
- Toy cars
- Skipping rope
- Construction toys
- Slinky
- Small puzzles
- Modelling dough
- 'Make your own' kits

9-11

Arts and crafts

- Yo-yos
- Skipping rope
- A football and pump
- Small puzzles
- 'Make Your Own' kits
- Origami kit
- Fidget spinners







SENDING YOUR PLAY BOX

- Once you have filled your box with toys and play materials, you can secure the box with string or a strong elastic band. You can put the finished box in a parcel bag to protect it but this is not necessary.
- Click <u>here</u> to donate £5 to the Ukraine Play Box Appeal. The donation helps to cover key costs including box collection, storage distribution as well as other charitable costs such as volunteer expenses.
- After your donation, you will be directed to Yodel's website to generate your free box collection label.

You can <u>print the label at home or you can generate a code with Yodel</u> to be scanned by the shopkeeper at your local Collect+ Delivered by Yodel drop off point.

LABEL LOOKS LIKE THIS

Drop off your Play Box at your most convenient local Collect+ Delivered by Yodel drop off point. Find your nearest Collect+ drop off point here.







GIFTING YOUR PLAY BOX

When you drop off your parcel, Yodel will collect it and deliver it to us. Our volunteers will carefully check the play box to ensure the contents are suitable for the gender/age of the child you want your box gifted to. We will also include

in your box our 'Supporting Your Child with Trauma' booklet.

Your beautiful box of gifts will be sealed and donated to a Ukrainian child seeking refuge in the UK or in Eastern Europe, where we are linking with partner organisations to ensure we are making the biggest impact possible for these children.

Don't forget to regularly check back on our website homepage and social media channels to get updates and see how the appeal is progressing.



If you need help, please contact playboxappeal@playactioninternational.org/







WHO WE ARE

At Play Action International, our mission is to create opportunities for disadvantaged children to learn, develop and heal through play

We are an award-winning UK registered charity (No. 1172875)whose services have already impacted the lives of over half a million children in sub Saharan Africa. Working in partnership with organisations such as FCDO UK Aid, UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and World Vision – we deliver play-based programmes that enable vulnerable children to learn, develop and heal through the power of play.

In 2020, we began adapting our international expertise of working with child refugees to support disadvantaged children in the UK and Europe. Our aim over the next 3 years is to develop a network of volunteer Playworkers to provide play opportunities for all refugee children and other children at risk of social exclusion in the UK and now, European nations hosting Ukrainian refugee children.

