



PARS™

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Our first PARS conference!

On 19th October 2020 we held our first ever PARS playwork conference. 12 hours and online, it may have been the world's first 'open access' playwork conference! This exciting new playwork conference showcased PARS practice in Hong Kong, Australia, mainland China, Belgium, UK and The Netherlands. It also featured leading international academics talking about PARS methods and theories. Over 100 participants from Spain, Hong Kong, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Ethiopia, USA, The Netherlands, UK, Belgium, China, Turkey, Sweden, Singapore and Taiwan met, listened, discussed and networked over the 12 hour period and many have told us what a wonderfully welcoming and friendly event it was! Several people have already asked us to run a similar event again.

Please sign up to our mailing list to be kept informed of future events.



www.commonthreads.org.uk



PARS FUNDING FOR HONG KONG

The PARS model of playwork practice was originally piloted in Hong Kong. In the last few years PARS has supported thousands of children in Hong Kong to enjoy their free time on their own terms. This is all due to our fantastic HK training team (pictured above), who have worked hard not only to deliver PARS training, but to develop an infrastructure which will support the professionalisation of PARS playwork practitioners for years to come. Their latest achievement has been to secure substantial funding to develop a training model that combines PARS training with curriculum integration strategies which will meet the requirements of the Quality Assurance of Education Bureau. An introductory PARS course will also be embedded in the Early Childhood Education Programme of the Education University in Hong Kong, building on the success of previous face-to-face and online courses there. This will mean that children in kindergartens across Hong Kong will experience ‘free play’ sessions as part of their school day.

PARS IN PRACTICE

Over 1000 PARS playwork practitioners have now been trained in Australia, Belgium, Hong Kong, mainland China, The Channel Islands, The Netherlands and UK. New participants are already registered for training in 2021 from Canada, U.S.A, Ireland, UK and Japan, with ongoing training continuing in Australia, Hong Kong and mainland China. Our practitioners are putting PARS into practice in a wide range of settings, including adventure playgrounds, childcare centres, hospitals, zoos and community projects. Read more about the diversity of PARS practice in our blogs by practitioners from around the world, including Lucas Devolder from Belgium (pictured below), whose presentation was a huge hit at our conference in October!

Fire and Fish Soup

