

## Welcome to **PARS** Playwork !

### PARS Practitioners say...

*"The PARS model provides systematic guidance and offers practical techniques at a working level. It feels like I have a toolkit at hand when working with children, and strong theoretical as well as terminological support when presenting the concept to parents."* Li Ding, Beijing, China

*"I loved participating in the PARS training. It was a fantastic introduction to playwork; providing great tools to help in our important work with children. It translates beautifully to the Outside School Hours context in Australia and I can't wait to attend the master class!"*

*Rarni Rothwell, Brisbane, Australia*

*"After attending the PARS Masterclass course, I was blown away by how much it would improve my practice. It has really helped me in the ways I reflect on my own practice and shed a light on my observation skills. I have found this whole experience to be very rewarding in regards to my professional development and practice. I feel that the children have also benefitted from myself and other staff attending this course."*

*Steph Loughray, Jersey, Channel Islands*

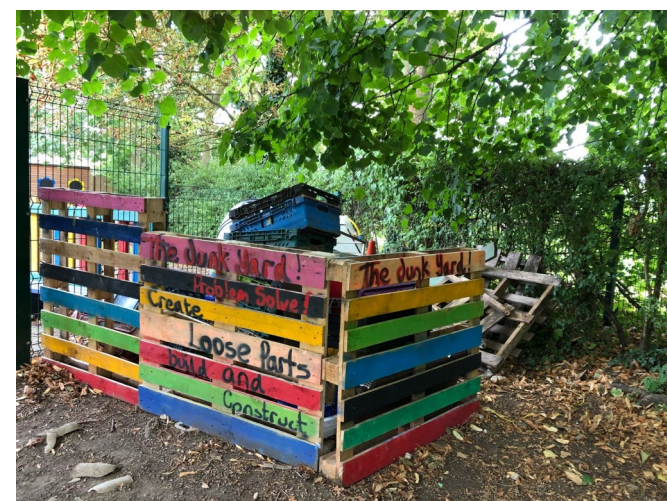
Playwork was invented as a unique way of working with children on the adventure playgrounds set up in the UK just after the Second World War. Since the 1960s, playwork has been used in an increasing number of diverse settings around the world, including earthquake disaster zones in Japan, working with children with disabilities in Fiji, orphanages in Romania and kindergartens in Hong Kong.



Historical research by Dr Shelly Newstead found that the practice of playwork was originally invented to compensate children for the presence of adults on adventure playgrounds. Grounded in the original philosophy of the adventure playground pioneers, the **PARS** model enables practitioners working in any setting to make decisions about whether and how to compensate children for the presence of adults in their time and space. **PARS** playwork practice is an ideal response for practitioners working in supervised settings who are concerned about shrinking childhoods and the loss of children's freedom.

### **Focus on... Smartkidz Cambridge, UK**

Smartkidz has embedded the PARS model across its three after school clubs through training and mentoring for its whole staff team. One manager currently holds the record for the most **PARS** Masterclasses attended - three so far! Smartkidz is developing policies based on the PARS model and planning training for parents to help them understand the **PARS** approach in their settings.



**PARS**™

#### Common Threads

Wessex House, Upper Market Street,  
Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9FD, UK

E: [pars@commonthreads.org.uk](mailto:pars@commonthreads.org.uk)  
W: [www.commonthreads.org.uk](http://www.commonthreads.org.uk)

Registered Company Number 4500413

Common Threads trades as a social enterprise.

# PARS Training



## PARS TRAINING

### PARS Masterclass

A **PARS** Masterclass is an intensive course delivered by Dr Shelly Newstead, founder of **PARS** playwork practice. The Masterclass covers...

- A brief international history of adventure playgrounds and playwork
- The original philosophy of the adventure playground pioneers and how this is applied in **PARS** playwork practice.
- An overview of the **PARS** model and explanation of how it can be used to articulate, develop and evaluate playwork practice
- In-depth exploration of **PARS** theories, methods and techniques and how to apply them
- Discussion of case studies and 'real-life' video clips to enable participants to apply the whole **PARS** model to their work with children
- A field trip (where possible) to enable participants to reflect on their understanding of the **PARS** model.



### PARS Practicals

**PARS Practicals** is a one day training course for all staff working in settings where managers have completed a **PARS** Masterclass. **PARS Practicals** embeds the **PARS** model across the whole staff to ensure consistency of practice in the setting.

### Focus on... PARS Shanghai

**PARS** Licensed Trainer Caron Qian (钱铮) first learnt about **PARS** in Hong Kong in 2015. Since then, Caron has been working to introduce **PARS** to mainland China, working with local NGOs to deliver training workshops in many different parts of China, including rural kindergartens. Following a **PARS** Masterclass in December 2017, Caron supported some of the new **PARS** Practitioners to run a Play Day in an outdoor woodland setting in Shanghai - much to the children's delight!



[www.commonthreads.org.uk](http://www.commonthreads.org.uk)

**15<sup>th</sup> September**  
HKCS Kwun Tong Nursery School, Hong Kong  
**Foundation Training for all staff**  
In-house training course for kindergarten staff.

**23rd September**  
Po Leung Kuk Mrs Tam Wah Ching Kindergarten, Hong Kong  
**PARS Training Workshop**  
In-house training course for kindergarten staff.

**27<sup>th</sup> September**  
Long Ping Estate Chan Kwong Kindergarten, Hong Kong  
**Foundation Training for all staff**  
In-house training course for kindergarten staff.

**6th October**  
YWCA Cheung Ching Nursery School (Ching Yee), Hong Kong  
**Foundation Training for all staff**  
In-house training course for kindergarten staff.

**6th October**  
Cambridge Kids Club, UK  
**PARS Masterclass**  
In-house training course for staff of Cambridge Kids Club.

**30th October**  
University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
'Risky Play: Professional Attitudes and Role towards facilitating Children's Risk-taking in Play'  
**PARS Workshop**  
This workshop will explore how the PARS model of playwork practice can help adults who work where children play to make decisions about appropriate levels of risk in children's play.  
<https://www.uvh.nl/actueel/agenda/research-seminar-risky-play>

**October 2018**  
Bouwspeeltuin De Kameleon, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
**PARS Masterclass**  
Open course for anybody who works with children in their leisure time to learn how to use the PARS model in their settings.  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pars-masterclass-utrecht-tickets-50650530099?aff=ebdssbeac](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pars-masterclass-utrecht-tickets-50650530099?aff=ebdssbeac)

**5 & 6th March 2019**  
National Playwork Conference, Eastbourne, UK  
**Introduction to PARS Workshop**