



# PARS™

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## PARS 2021 Conference - the story so far...

*Every new PARS playwork initiative comes from creative discussions between members of the PARS community. In 2019 two PARS practitioners came up with the idea of running a conference 'to bring playwork into the 21st century', showcasing PARS theory and practice around the world to an international general audience. That first experimental conference was a huge success, attended by over 100 participants from 17 different countries. The fantastic atmosphere and feedback inspired us to be even more ambitious with this year's conference taking place on 20th November (International Children's Day). The theme this year is*

### **PARS - the pro-child profession.**

John Bertelsen, the first playworker at Emdrup, talked about the importance of adults being 'pro-child' on adventure playgrounds. In many ways this theme reflects the PARS journey over the last twelve months. Spurred on by the amazing energy and support generated by our first PARS conference, the growing international PARS community has spent the last 12 months working on the professionalisation of PARS playwork on a global scale.

This has involved developing and maintaining a coherent set of shared values, methods, knowledge and practices across the international PARS playwork community. So far we have;

- achieved NCFE Award Centre status
- launched our new PPP4 NCFE accredited qualification
- set up administration and assessment teams to support trainers and learners
- developed our PARS CPD programme
- expanded our international training team to 19 PARS Licensed Trainers

PARS playwork training is now available worldwide online, and in person in 9 different countries and 5 different languages. Nearly 3000 adults working in a wide range of settings, from daycare to parks and hospitals to zoos, have already taken part in PARS training from 13 different countries. Our consistent approach will help adults who are not familiar with a playwork approach to working with children to understand and value our practice.

**PARS 2021 is the start of the next chapter in the PARS playwork story.** We've invited academic and practitioner experts from around the world to help us explore two key questions;

- What does it mean to be 'pro-child'?
- What does it mean to be a profession?

Over 30 speakers will contribute their knowledge and expertise to help us to develop PARS playwork as an internationally recognised form of professional practice.

**PARS 2021** is 12 hours of fascinating approaches to these two questions from diverse practical and theoretical perspectives, from Iceland to Mongolia, from China to Russia, from USA to Australia, and an awful lot of places in-between!



## PARS - the 'pro-child' profession

November 20th - International Children's Day

Join academics, policy makers and PARS practitioners from all around the world to consider what it means to be a 'pro-child profession' from a wide range of different contexts, disciplines and perspectives.

**Online: 8am - 8pm UK time**

**Bookings now open**

## Join us!

We welcome anyone interested in the PARS playwork approach to working with children to join us for a fascinating day of...

- Presentations from PARS practitioners and trainers around the world on how they are putting PARS into practice
- Round table discussions on our key questions with expert academics, practitioners and policy makers
- Presentations on the theory of being pro-child by international scholars in areas such as children's rights, childism and historical perspectives on childhood.
- Presentations on the practice of being pro-child by international scholars in areas such as reflexivity, risk-taking and the Play Cycle...

...and much more! We are excited to find out what new ideas and connections which will come out of this year's conference to develop the PARS playwork story - do join us!

### ***Feedback from the first PARS conference.....***

*"I found the first conference very informative, exciting, and I came away with new ideas which reaffirmed my belief in children's play."*

Helen Stephenson, Devon County Council, UK

*"My first PARS playwork conference absolutely blew me away! To be a small part of a large team of extraordinary people who are so passionate about the role they play within the playwork sector left me completely hooked to my laptop for almost the whole twelve hours."*

Nicola English, WASPS Club, UK

*"The first conference last year was really impressive and wonderful!"*

Dr He Min, Normal University, China

