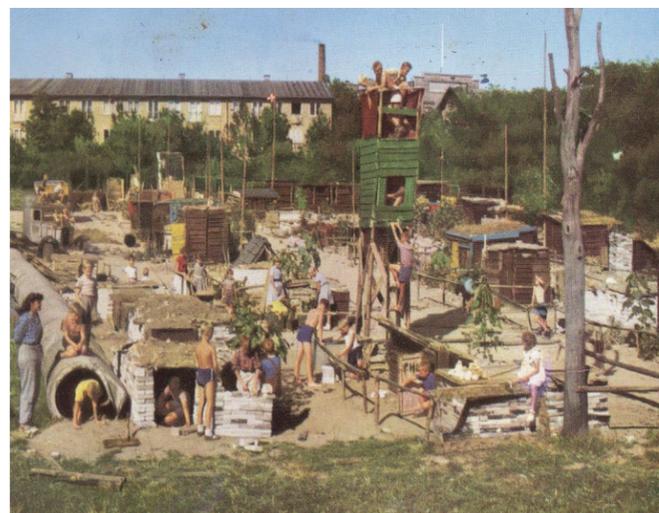


# PARS Newsletter

## Welcome to **PARS** Playwork!

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. Grounded in the original philosophy of the adventure playground pioneers, the **PARS** model of playwork practice enables adults to make decisions about whether and how to compensate children for the presence of adults in their time and space. **PARS** is a unique form of practice suitable for any adult concerned about shrinking childhoods and the loss of children's freedom.



### Exciting new **PARS** job: part practitioner, part trainer!

Join the dynamic team at Smartkidz out of school care. Manage their adventurous after-school club in Girton, Cambridge and deliver **PARS** training locally and beyond! [Apply here](#) before 8th November.



### Take part in the first ever International Playwork Census!

Dr Pete King (Swansea University) and Dr Shelly Newstead have just launched the first ever International Playwork Census. The aim of this research is to find out who is involved in playwork across the world and what that means. The research has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee, College of Human and Health Science at Swansea University. If you have playwork in your job title or use playwork practice in another job role, please complete the survey which should take about 15 minutes to complete.

[https://swansea.ac.uk/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_82qrXGLp3Mwqpb7](https://swansea.ac.uk/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_82qrXGLp3Mwqpb7)

If you want to discuss any aspects of the research, you can email Pete at [p.f.king@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:p.f.king@swansea.ac.uk) or telephone 01792 602314.

## Focus on...**PARS** Mainland China

### 'PLAY IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD'

In October 2019, Shanghai Haichang Neighborhood Committee turned an abandoned semi-outdoor public space in their neighborhood into a **PARS** playground for the local children. Local residents volunteered to be trained as **PARS** practitioners to support children to play in their own neighborhood. This is the first government-sponsored **PARS** playwork project in Shanghai.



Follow and share  
**@parsplaywork** on social  
media!

### PARS Diary 28th November 2019

Cambridge, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: **Rebekah Jackson**

2nd December  
Utrecht, The Netherlands  
**PARS NL Kerngroep meeting**

23rd January 2020  
London, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: **Rebekah Jackson**

11th February  
Cambridge, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: **Rebekah Jackson**

21st February  
Watford, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: **Shelly Newstead**

18th March  
Sheffield, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: **Rebekah Jackson**

23rd April  
London, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: **Rebekah Jackson**

23–25th April  
Hong Kong  
**PARS Masterclass**  
Open course for anybody who works with children.  
Trainer: **Shelly Newstead**

28, 29 April & 1st May  
Brisbane, Australia  
**PARS Masterclass**  
Open course for anybody who works with children.  
Trainer: **Shelly Newstead**

#### Common Threads

2, The Sackhouse, Jicklings Yard,  
Wells-next-Sea, Norfolk, UK NR23  
1AU

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.

**13th May**  
Cambridge, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: Rebekah Jackson

**17th June**  
Sheffield, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: Rebekah Jackson

**7th July**  
London, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: Rebekah Jackson

**17th July**  
Somerset Grove  
Adventure  
Playground, London  
**Introduction to  
PARS - in Chinese**  
A one day open  
course for anybody  
working with children  
Trainer: Caron Qian

**24th September**  
Cambridge, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: Rebekah Jackson

**14th October**  
London, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: Rebekah Jackson

**17th November**  
Cambridge, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: Rebekah Jackson

**9th December**  
Cambridge, UK  
**PARS Practicals**  
Trainer: Rebekah Jackson

For more details  
about our 2020  
**PARS** Training  
Programme, visit  
our [website](#).

Find out about  
new training  
courses on  
social media  
[@parsplaywork](#)

To book a place  
on any of these  
courses, please  
fill in the  
[application form](#).

Or [contact us](#) to  
organise **PARS**  
in-house training  
in your setting!



## 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 appropriate) to enable participants to reflect on their understanding of the **PARS** model.



[www.huis-de-b.nl](http://www.huis-de-b.nl)

*Huis de B is an afterschool childcare organization for children from 2-12 years old. Every week 350 children come to our place. We offer an inside playground, an environment with several workshops and lots of space to play. Our vision is to combine a prepared programme with free choice for children to do what they are really up for. Our core values are: freedom, respect, growth and a homely environment.*

## PARS TRAINING

### PARS Practicals

**PARS Practicals** is a one day training course for anybody who wants to use the **PARS** model to help them to articulate, develop and evaluate their playwork practice. **PARS Practicals** introduces the **PARS** model and enables participants to put it into practice in their setting.

### JOIN A LAST-MINUTE PARS PRACTICALS COURSE!

**We have been asked to squeeze in an extra PARS Practicals before the end of the year. There are just a few spare places for other settings, so book now!**

*28th November*

Girton Glebe Primary School, Cambridge, UK  
9.30am – 4.30pm. Cost £50 per person.

### Haunting for Playwork Vibes!

*Judith Lechner, Managing Director, Huis de B, Groningen, The Netherlands*

Well, what delightful days we had in the north of The Netherlands! Shelly visited us for a two day training programme. Four people from our after-school childcare organization had already done **PARS** training before - it is so tremendously fitting for our organization, as our mission statement is: *Play Together, Learn Together and Experiment However You Like!* So we decided to train all our staff members. Our team is in transition at the moment from being unconsciously skilled towards being consciously skilled. So of course this **PARS** training thrilled and excited our team! It provided words and food for thought about what we are trying to attain with the children.

We are now two weeks on from the training and last week we had a fall vacation. O my, I saw a lot of neophilic activities: ropes to climb the walls outside or a group heading off to a glass exhibition in the museum. And I noticed staff members trying to be unobtrusive during a cooking activity. All the boys and girls were enjoying themselves with pots and pans on the stoves, where normally the adults would be first in line. So last week I went home so very happy! In the meantime, we decided to appoint two 'play coaches' - two staff members who can train new people and who can keep this alive and kickin'! The playwork vibes are dwelling through our house. We will haunt them and catch them as if it was Halloween every day!