

Wild Kids

The title 'Wild Kids' is written in a playful, hand-drawn font. Each letter is a different color: 'W' is yellow, 'i' is red, 'l' is green, 'd' is blue, 'K' is orange, 'i' is green, 'd' is blue, and 's' is yellow. Below the text is a gray silhouette of a wolf pack running to the right.

An ethogram is a catalog of animal behaviors. Here at the International Wolf Center we use an ethogram as we observe our wolves because it helps us understand the reason for each behavior, and tells us what the animals are communicating. We see play behaviors, dominance behaviors and confidence behaviors in our wolves.

On this page we are looking at play behaviors: the play bow, the chase, and wrestling. You may have noted on page 18 that “play behaviors also serve as practice for catching prey or establishing rank order within a wolf pack. Each word has an abbreviation—a shorter way of writing the word. For example, CS is an abbreviation for the word “chase.” These abbreviations make it easier for observers to write down what the wolves are doing. It would be very hard to write down every single behavior using the full words, because sometimes wolves move very quickly or do more than one behavior at a time. Wolves play even when they are adults, so visitors and staff members very often see play behaviors at the International Wolf Center. ■

Play Bow (BW)

In a play bow, the wolf lowers the front part of its torso while keeping the hind part upright. This behavior is used to invite chase and play from another wolf. In this photo Grayson is demonstrating a play bow behavior.





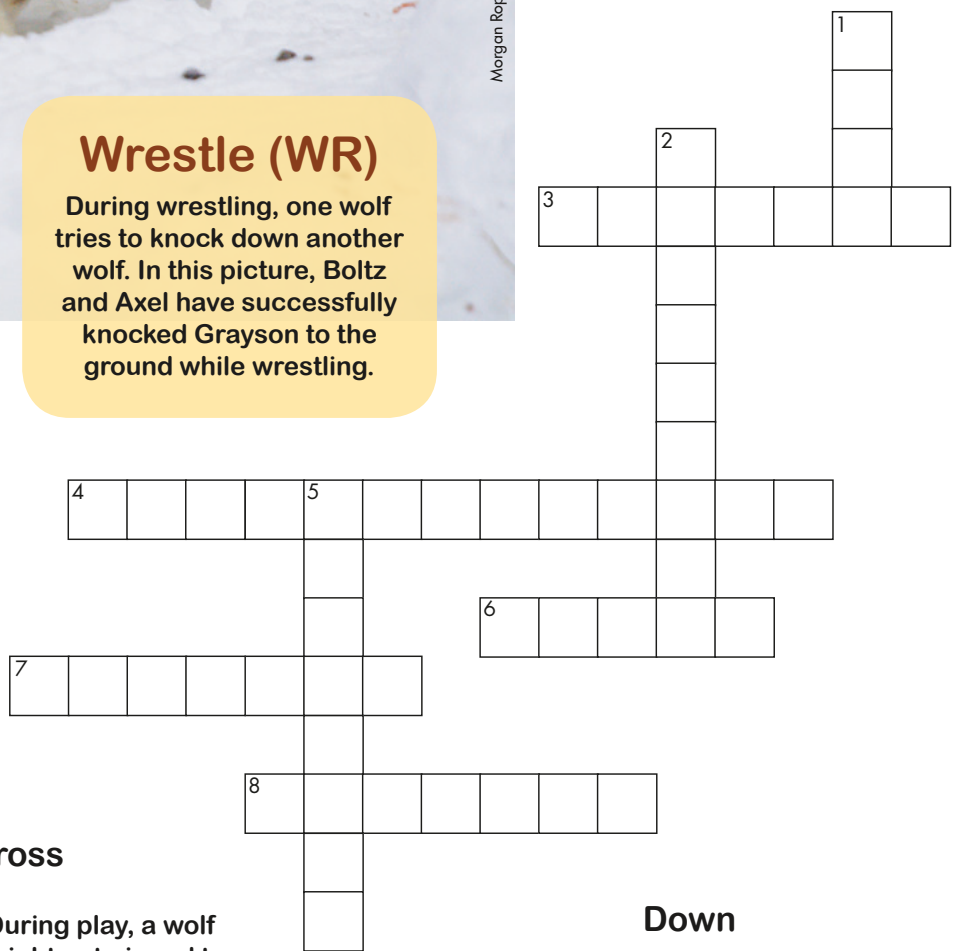
Morgan Roppe

Wrestle (WR)

During wrestling, one wolf tries to knock down another wolf. In this picture, Boltz and Axel have successfully knocked Grayson to the ground while wrestling.

Chase (CS)

In a chase, the wolf tries to catch another wolf. Wolves may also chase ravens, leaves, or squirrels. Here, Axel and Denali chase Grayson.



Across

- 3 During play, a wolf might get pinned to the ground while doing this
- 4 Writing down all of a wolf's behavior would be difficult without these
- 6 If a chipmunk gets into the enclosure the wolves will _____ it

- 7 When Luna wants to play with Grizzer she approaches him in this posture
- 8 This wolf is play bowing on the opposite page

Down

- 1 This wolf has joined Denali in chasing Grayson
- 2 There are many types of play _____ that wolves can demonstrate
- 5 A catalog of behaviors observed in an animal