

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## Morning Play Club for Prescott Students

### 1. What is Play Club?

Play Club is a **before-school opportunity for students in grades K–8** to engage in outdoor, unstructured play with peers. It's a space for students to move, explore, and connect—setting a joyful tone for the school day.

### 2. Where and when does Play Club happen?

Play Club takes place at **Prescott's Playground for grades K-2** and **Wrightwood Park for grades 3-8th**, directly across from our school.

- **Drop-off begins at 8:15 AM.**
- If your student is in grades K-2nd, they will enter Prescott's playground area through the parking lot gates on Wrightwood ave at the school.
- If your student is in grades 3 and 4, they enter Wrightwood Park at the northwest gate by the corner of Ashland and Wrightwood Ave. If your student is in grades 5-8, they enter the main park entrance on Wrightwood Ave.
- Please kiss your student goodbye outside the gate, letting them come in independently.
- At **8:40 AM**, students from Wrightwood Park will walk to school with their supervising staff members in time to start the day.
- \*Note\* Kiss and go is for kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students at the school building **ONLY**.

### 3. Is Play Club required?

No, Play Club is **completely optional**. Families may choose whether or not to have their child participate. If you do **not** want your child to participate, you may **drop them off at school at the regular time at 8:45am**. Staff will be on campus beginning at 8:45 AM to welcome students who are not attending Play Club.

### 4. Who supervises Play Club?

Multiple **school staff members** will be present each morning to supervise Play Club. They act like "lifeguards"—observing and ensuring safety while giving students the freedom to lead their own play. The ratio of supervisor to student is the same as our recess supervision.

### 5. What does "free play" mean?

Free play is **child-led and unstructured**. That means students decide what and how to play—whether it's kickball, building with natural materials, imaginative games, or just relaxing and chatting with friends.

## 6. What are the benefits of free play before school?

Research shows that unstructured outdoor play boosts focus, social-emotional development, executive function, creativity, and stress regulation. It helps students **arrive at school more centered and ready to learn.**

## 7. How is student safety ensured while crossing Ashland Avenue?

Around 8:40 AM, students will **cross Ashland as a group with staff supervision.** Staff members will use the crosswalk and follow strict safety protocols, including headcounts and clearly communicated expectations. We've contacted the City of Chicago and they sent out a safety engineer to do an evaluation. They're extending the length of the lights and the countdown. The city is going to re-construct Ashland Avenue over the next year to improve safety measures such as a countdown light and bump-outs at corners.

## 8. What happens in bad weather?

- If weather is unsafe (e.g., lightning, heavy rain, extreme cold), Play Club will be **canceled for the day.**
- Families can note the weather and drop off at the school main entrance at 8:15 am for indoor student arrival.
- In light rain or colder weather, Play Club will still take place—please **dress your child appropriately for the weather.**

## 9. How will it be communicated to parents that Prescott Staff will not be receiving children at the park on inclement weather days? The main entrance of the park does not have a clear sightline to the school to see if kids are going directly in?

By **8:15 AM**, it will be clear if Play Club is canceled—there will be **no supervisors stationed at the park.** In that case, please bring your child to the **main entrance of the building.** Another indicator will be that there will not be students on the Prescott playground.

## 10. Can families stay and watch?

To help students develop independence, we ask that families **drop off and go.** Staff will be fully present and prepared to support students as needed. If you would like to volunteer on a daily basis, please contact Interventionist Ms. Lindsey at [paraman@cps.edu](mailto:paraman@cps.edu) for training and background checks.

## 11. What if my child attends Right At School?

If your child attends RAS, supervisors will escort them to their **grade-level designated Play Club area at 8:15 AM.** After 8:15, **Play Club will be the only supervision option available** until the school day begins at 8:45am.

## 12. What should my child bring?

- Their backpack
- Their lunchbag
- A **refillable water bottle** labeled with their name
- Weather-appropriate **clothing and shoes** for active outdoor play
- Please **leave toys and electronics at home**

### **13. Will there be a sign in process or head count to keep track of students entering Play Club?**

Yes. There will be a **sign-in process**, a **head count** as students leave the park, and **attendance taken** upon arrival at the school. In addition, a staff member will be assigned to “**sweep**” the park after students leave to ensure all are accounted for.

### **14. How will parents know that the adult in the park is associated with Prescott? Will they be in a uniform shirt or be wearing something to let parents know that a Prescott staff member is there to supervise?**

Yes, supervisors will be wearing bright colored vests with “Prescott Supervisor” on it.

### **15. What is the strategy for unleashed dogs who use the park in the morning?**

We also have protocol for this that is stated in the staff handbook. We have been using this process and it has been effective.

### **16. How can I help?**

- **Clear Traffic Congestion:** Identify a meeting point for your 3rd-8th-grade students to meet you daily that is outside the major Prescott Intersections. [\(MAKE A PLAN USING THIS MAP\)](#)
- **Do not send toys or sports equipment to school with your student.** The purpose of play club is to explore play in new ways through exploration and communication.
- If you would like to volunteer on a daily basis, please contact Interventionist Ms. Lindsey at [paraman@cps.edu](mailto:paraman@cps.edu) for training and background checks. We could use the extra hands!