

Risk Assessment – Escape Rooms

Area of Operation: escape rooms

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Enclosed Spaces	Risk of anxiety, distress, or panic due to confined space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAISE-AP staff assess each child's suitability for the activity, considering their comfort in enclosed spaces. - Staff clearly explain the escape room experience and encourage students to opt-out if they are uncomfortable. - Identify and communicate the emergency exit to all participants before beginning.
Emergency Exit Accessibility	Risk of delay in evacuation if students or staff cannot locate emergency exits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff confirm with the provider that all emergency exits are accessible and clearly marked. ○ Conduct a briefing on the emergency exit location and ensure it remains unlocked for quick access. ○ A RAISE-AP staff member remains close to the exit in case an emergency evacuation is necessary.
Dark or Low Lighting	Risk of tripping, disorientation, or distress due to low visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage students to move slowly and be cautious, especially in dimly lit areas. ○ Staff ensure students understand where any light switches or accessible lighting are located.
Physical Obstacles	Risk of minor injuries from tripping, bumping into props, or interacting with furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff conduct a quick walkthrough to identify any potential obstacles or trip hazards. ○ Advise students to avoid running and encourage careful movement through the room. ○ Staff position themselves in the room to observe and intervene if necessary.
Potential Behavioural Issues	Risk of disruptive behaviour leading to unsafe actions or distress for other participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff assess each child's behavioural suitability for the activity, ensuring they understand and can follow escape room rules. - Maintain a high staff-to-child ratio for close supervision, ready to intervene if necessary. ○ Reinforce positive behaviours, encouraging cooperation and problem-solving.

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Emotional Distress	Risk of frustration or distress if students are unable to solve puzzles or feel pressured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff encourage a “teamwork over competition” mindset, emphasizing that it’s fine not to complete every challenge. - Remind students that they can ask for clues or assistance at any time. Staff provide positive feedback, emphasizing the fun and cooperative aspects of the activity.
Locks and Small Spaces	Risk of distress if students feel “trapped” or overwhelmed by locked or small spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff explain in advance that they will never be truly “locked in” and can leave at any time. If the room includes confined spaces, only allow students to enter if they are comfortable. Encourage students to use the buddy system, always remaining near a peer or staff member.
Sensory Overload	Risk of overstimulation from loud noises, visual effects, or complex puzzles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff discuss with the provider if any rooms have sensory elements (e.g., sounds or flashing lights) that may cause distress. Select rooms without intense sensory input if needed, or brief students on what to expect. Allow students to step out for a break if they feel overstimulated.
Emergency Situations	Risk of confusion or delay in response to an emergency inside the room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff review escape room emergency procedures with the provider before the activity begins. Ensure a trained first aider is on hand and that staff carry mobile phones for immediate contact. Staff provide a pre-activity briefing on evacuation procedures and safe exits.
Separation from Group	Risk of becoming separated from the group, particularly in larger escape rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff implement a buddy system to ensure students always remain with a peer or staff member. Conduct regular headcounts, especially when moving between rooms. Staff position themselves at key points in the room to monitor group cohesion.
Use of Props or Puzzles	Risk of injury from improper use of props or puzzle items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff remind students to handle props gently and avoid forcing items that don’t seem to fit. Ensure all puzzle items are age-appropriate and safe to handle. Supervise interactions with props, encouraging safe and respectful use.



To be read in conjunction with the following:

- Student's Risk Assessments
- Participant Consent / Medical Information
- Emergency Action Plan Flow-Chart
- Provider Site Rules / Guidance

Reviewed: September 2025

Approved by: **RAISE-AP** Educational Directors, September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2027