

## 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"> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul>
Emergency Exit Accessibility	Risk of delay in evacuation if students or staff cannot locate emergency exits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff confirm with the provider that all emergency exits are accessible and clearly marked.</li> <li>○ Conduct a briefing on the emergency exit location and ensure it remains unlocked for quick access.</li> <li>○ A RAISE-AP staff member remains close to the exit in case an emergency evacuation is necessary.</li> </ul>
Dark or Low Lighting	Risk of tripping, disorientation, or distress due to low visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Encourage students to move slowly and be cautious, especially in dimly lit areas.</li> <li>○ Staff ensure students understand where any light switches or accessible lighting are located.</li> </ul>
Physical Obstacles	Risk of minor injuries from tripping, bumping into props, or interacting with furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff conduct a quick walkthrough to identify any potential obstacles or trip hazards.</li> <li>○ Advise students to avoid running and encourage careful movement through the room.</li> <li>○ Staff position themselves in the room to observe and intervene if necessary.</li> </ul>
Potential Behavioural Issues	Risk of disruptive behaviour leading to unsafe actions or distress for other participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Reinforce positive behaviours, encouraging cooperation and problem-solving.</li> </ul>

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



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