March 5th, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

The After School Escape Room: Providing Engaging Activities for ALL Students

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THE AFTER SCHOOL ESCAPE ROOM: PROVIDING ENGAGING ACTIVITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS

Pam Leinberger, Operations Specialist

Fayette County After School Program
Sharon Walters, Director

Lindsey Moore, Operations Specialist

DESKRIPTION
Are you looking for an activity that incorporates problem-solving and student collaboration?
Are you looking for a way to develop a flexible activity that incorporates the 4 C’s?

COMMUNICATION  COLLABORATION  CRITICAL THINKING  CREATIVITY

Follow along to learn how to design an escape room activity which can fit into multiple environments.

PURPOSE
1. To design an activity that is flexible and can include students of differing ages and abilities as well as ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
2. To provide other professionals with a guide which allows them to create their own Escape Room.

WE USED:
- STEM Activities
- Math Problems
- Pictographs
- Riddles
- Puzzles
- Assorted Containers
- Lockable Containers
- Key Locks
- Combination Locks
- Timer

CREATE YOUR STORY
Write a story about a problem that your students need to solve.
Examples would include a missing or hidden item or a locked room in which students are “stuck.”

Let’s pretend that you are planning a party in Mr. Smith’s room. As the last person walks in the door, a gust of wind slams the door shut and it locks.
Ms. ASP Director knows you will be okay for a little while because there are snacks and water in the room. While she tries to find a key to open the door, all the kids begin searching the room for tools that will help them find a way out.

DEVVELOP INSTRUCTIONS
Explain that students will need to explore everything in the room.
Tell them what the time limit is.
Encourage students to work together.
Give them an idea of what kind of problems they will need to solve.
Explain that students will need to explore everything in the room.

FINDINGS
- The children were enthusiastic about the activity and claimed to have a fun experience.
- The escape room was easily set up (about 15 min.)
- Students of differing ages, abilities, and ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds participating in the activity.
- Students actively communicating, collaborating, and sharing information as a team.
- Several leaders emerging as the children engaged with each other.

COMMUNICATION
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- The escape room was easily set up (about 15 min.)

COLLABORATION
- Students of differing ages, abilities, and ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds participating in the activity.
- Students actively communicating, collaborating, and sharing information as a team.
- Several leaders emerging as the children engaged with each other.

CRITICAL THINKING
- Students of differing ages, abilities, and ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds participating in the activity.
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CREATIVITY
- Students of differing ages, abilities, and ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds participating in the activity.
- Students actively communicating, collaborating, and sharing information as a team.
- Several leaders emerging as the children engaged with each other.

OUR PLAN IN ACTION

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
- Lindsey Moore, Operations Specialist
- Sharon Walters, Director
- Pam Leinberger, Operations Specialist
- Fayette County After School Program
- The Atlantic

WRITE A STORY ABOUT A PROBLEM THAT YOUR STUDENTS NEED TO SOLVE.

OBJECTIVES:
- To develop in school.
- To design a story which can fit into multiple environments.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES:
- The Rise of Educational Escape Rooms.
- MacGregor, M. (Fall 2018).

OUR PROCESS:
- Campus Clue, Habittraning Students to the Information Search Process via Gaming.
- The Use of Educational Escape Rooms.
- The After School Escape Room: Providing Engaging Activities for All Students.

ABOUT US:
The Fayette County After School Program operates in fourteen elementary school sites within our school district. Each day, we care for approximately 1200 students across our district. The Fayette County After School Program’s philosophy contends that out-of-school time activities can be as important to children’s growth and development as the time they spend on the playground. Our “neighborhood” environment fosters opportunities for children to interact with both siblings and friends and allows them to choose a variety of enriching activities. Our activities are designed to support and expand the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive skills development experienced in school. Our After School Program is an awesome place for students to “Play, Learn, and Grow Together!”