



Easy
Boredom
Busters for
Kids



Escape Room

Need a way to keep the kids busy for a bit? How about an escape room? You can create a puzzle for them to solve, or better yet, let them do it! All they need is a little guidance and some time to plan.

How to get started:

1. Come up with a simple story.

- Your story should have a mystery or something to solve.
- Examples:
 - The fridge has been locked by a snack bandit. You must solve the clues to unlock the fridge, or no snacks!
 - A favorite stuffed animal has been hidden, and to find it you must unlock the phone to see a picture of its location.

2. Find a lock with a combination or a key. If you don't have a lock, a safe or an electronic device like a phone or tablet can be a great substitute. The code can be changed for more fun later!

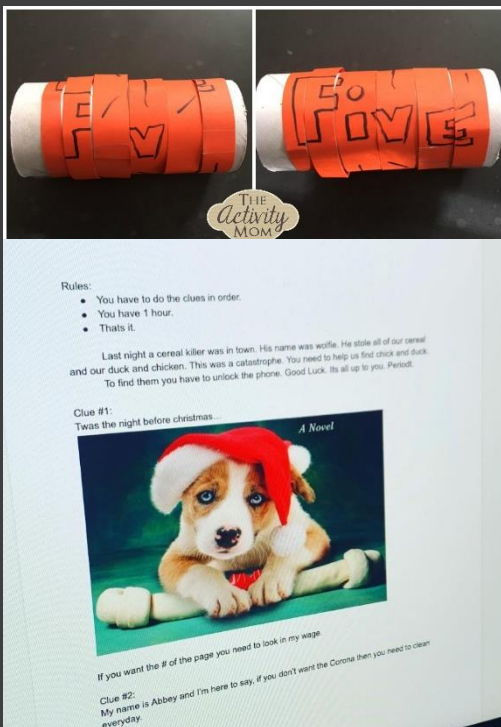
3. Create clues and puzzles to solve.

- Depending on the ages of kids participating, you can decrease or increase difficulty.
- Use 5 to 7 clues for an easier game and 10 to 15 to increase difficulty. Mix up the level of difficulty for the clues.
- Link each clue to a puzzle, word game, or other activity.
 - Think about using existing items like puzzles, books, games, letter or dry erase boards, video games, or other available items. (Clue examples on the next page)
- Give scratch paper to write down notes and answers to clues.

4. Set a timer and have fun!

Escape Room Puzzle Ideas

- Use an existing puzzle with only a few pieces or a section of a larger puzzle, and make each piece available when clues are solved. Putting the puzzle together will put combination numbers or other clues in the right order.
- Clues that refer to different parts of the room or house or things within the room such as a page in a book or cabinet where a clue is hidden.
- Create a puzzle using cut up paper, a toilet paper roll with paper wrapped around it like the one below from activity-mom.com, or a written word jumble.



- Set up a game where the next move gets them to the clue or the set up of the cards is the number they need.
- Create a code using symbols that stand for each letter of a word.
- For more difficulty, have the first few clues open an iphone or computer that contains only the first half of the answer needed to finish.
- Kids are great at coming up with creative ideas! Set a few boundaries if things are off limits, but otherwise, let them be creative! They might surprise you.

Other resources for puzzle ideas

<https://escaperoomtips.com/design/escape-room-puzzle-ideas>

<https://5thstreetescaperoom.com/make-your-own-at-home-escape-room/>

<https://lockpaperscissors.co/escape-room-puzzle-ideas#padlock>

In the example above: The dog picture referred to the cover of a book that was on the bookshelf. The page number was in the child's piggy bank, and the next clue was hidden on the book page. It sent us to a clue on her bulletin board.

Have Fun!!