

Lessons from Escape Room Procedures that can be Applied to the LEGO Serious Play Lab Workouts

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2024-10-17

The LEGO Serious Play Lab at Corporación Universitaria Remington seeks to foster creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork through innovative and interactive simulations. Drawing insights from successful Escape Room procedures, we can enhance the effectiveness of LEGO Lab workouts and general simulations by adopting similar methodologies that promote engagement, collaboration, and critical thinking. This document outlines key takeaways from Escape Room practices that can be strategically applied to the LEGO Lab.

Key Lessons and Strategic Applications:

1. Role of the Facilitator

- **Escape Room Insight:** The facilitator explains game mechanics and closely monitors participants, providing hints when players deviate from paths leading to solutions.
- **LEGO Lab Strategy:** Facilitators in the LEGO Lab should take on an active yet observational role, offering timely, subtle guidance when participants diverge from constructive exploration. This ensures that creativity remains the focus while nudging participants towards productive outcomes.

2. Optimal Group Size and Participation

- **Escape Room Insight:** A group of around five players is optimal. Each player is encouraged to individually explore for clues and solutions, but they must share insights immediately upon discovery.

- **LEGO Lab Strategy:** Limit group sizes to approximately five participants. Each individual should be encouraged to explore and innovate independently, while fostering a collaborative atmosphere where sharing ideas as they arise is critical for collective problem-solving. This approach can also be applied to simulations and team-based projects in the Lab.

3. Pacing and Task Segmentation

- **Escape Room Insight:** Gameplay is structured as a series of puzzles, each solvable within approximately 10 minutes.
- **LEGO Lab Strategy:** Divide LEGO Lab activities into a sequence of short, focused tasks or challenges, encouraging participants to think in stages. Each challenge should build on the previous one, allowing incremental progress towards a larger goal.

4. Physical Setup and Constraints

- **Escape Room Insight:** Initial setup confines participants to one room or specific areas within that room, promoting focused interaction.
- **LEGO Lab Strategy:** Create well-defined workspaces or zones within the LEGO Lab, ensuring participants remain within their designated areas during certain stages of the activity. This promotes concentration and structured collaboration, enhancing the flow of the exercise.

5. Verbal Instructions and Cue Systems

- **Escape Room Insight:** Instructions are provided verbally, while in-game cues include auditory signals and short visual hints displayed for 30 seconds on a screen.
- **LEGO Lab Strategy:** Facilitators should deliver clear, concise verbal instructions to start each session. Throughout the activity, use sound cues and brief on-screen hints to keep participants focused and engaged. Limiting the display of hints to short intervals encourages attentiveness and responsiveness to guidance.

6. Continuous Monitoring and Feedback

- **Escape Room Insight:** The facilitator monitors the game remotely, providing continuous feedback via on-screen hints.
- **LEGO Lab Strategy:** Similarly, facilitators should monitor participants from a distance using video cameras in the game play room to monitor player progress during LEGO Lab exercises. Facilitators should provide feedback through digital platforms or screens can ensure that participants remain autonomous in their problem-solving while still benefiting from structured support when needed.

7. Focused Attention on Hints and Information

- **Escape Room Insight:** The brief appearance of hints on the screen, combined with sound cues, compels players to focus and internalize critical information.
- **LEGO Lab Strategy:** Adopt a similar mechanism for delivering critical instructions and hints. Using timed visual aids and auditory alerts will help keep participants engaged, ensuring they do not overlook important cues during the exercise.

By integrating these Escape Room-inspired methodologies into the LEGO Serious Play Lab, we can enhance the experience and learning outcomes for participants. The combination of structured facilitation, collaborative exploration, and strategic use of feedback mechanisms ensures that simulations remain engaging, effective, and educational. This approach will contribute to a more dynamic and responsive learning environment in the LEGO Lab, fostering innovation and teamwork across all exercises and simulations.