

Risk Assessment – Arts and Crafts

Area of Operation: local events, art and craft activity centres, within RAISE-AP provision

Who is at risk?

- Staff
- Students
- Members of the public

Hazards	Risks	Safety Measures to Control Risks
Students's Potential Behavioural Issues	Risk of disruptive behaviour leading to accidents or unsafe handling of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAISE-AP staff assess each child's suitability for arts and crafts based on behaviour and ability to follow instructions. - Maintain a high staff-to-child ratio, with staff trained in deescalation techniques and positive reinforcement. - Set clear behavioural expectations before starting each activity, with close supervision.
Dealing with Sharps (Knives, Needles, Scissors) and Chemicals Around Students with Behavioural Issues	Risk of injury from improper use of sharp tools and exposure to chemicals, particularly around students who may act impulsively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use child-safe tools where possible and limit the use of sharp objects and chemicals. ○ Staff supervise closely during use of knives, scissors, needles, or chemicals, or handle these items themselves. ○ Store all sharps and chemicals securely and out of reach when not in use.
Food (Ingestion or Allergies During Arts and Crafts Activities)	Risk of allergic reactions, choking hazards, or ingestion of non-food items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review allergies before food-based crafts (e.g., potato stamps). ○ Supervise closely to prevent ingestion of non-food materials. - Provide handwashing facilities and encourage students to wash hands before and after handling materials, especially if food is involved.
Painting with Watercolours / Canvas Painting	Risk of spills, skin irritation from paints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use non-toxic, water-based paints, with table and floor protection. ○ Supervise closely, clean up spills immediately, and ensure handwashing after painting. ○ Provide aprons and set a “no running” rule in art spaces.
Clay Modelling and Sculpting	Risk of skin irritation or ingestion if clay is accidentally ingested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use non-toxic, air-dry clay suitable for students. ○ Remind students to keep clay away from face and mouth, with close supervision to prevent ingestion. ○ Ensure handwashing after clay handling, especially before eating.

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Tie-Dye Fabric	Risk of stains, reaction to dyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide gloves, aprons, and table coverings. ○ Use non-toxic dyes, working in a well-ventilated area. - Supervise dye handling and remind students to avoid face touching.
Pottery Painting	Risk of paint spills, breakage of pottery pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use washable, non-toxic paints and provide aprons. ○ Instruct on careful handling of pottery to prevent breakage. - Clean spills immediately and supervise closely to prevent trips and falls.
Making Friendship Bracelets	Risk of entanglement with threads, choking from small beads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use child-safe, non-toxic materials and avoid small beads for younger students. ○ Supervise bead handling and instruct on safe cutting techniques. ○ Monitor to avoid choking and entanglement risks.
Paper Mâché Sculptures	Risk of skin irritation from glue or paste, messy surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use non-toxic glue or paste, with aprons and table coverings. - Encourage handwashing afterward and supervise closely to prevent slipping hazards.
Beadwork and Jewellery Making	Risk of choking on small beads, cuts from wires or tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use age-appropriate beads and materials. ○ Supervise closely, especially when using wires. ○ Teach safe handling, with designated disposal for sharp or broken pieces.
Rock Painting	Risk of skin irritation, injury from rough rocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use smooth, non-sharp rocks and washable, non-toxic paints. ○ Provide aprons and instruct on safe rock handling. ○ Ensure handwashing after rock handling and painting.
Nature Collage with Leaves and Flowers	Risk of skin irritation from plants, potential allergens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inspect natural materials to ensure they are allergen-free. ○ Encourage handwashing after handling natural materials. ○ Supervise closely to prevent ingestion or irritation.
Stamp Printing with Potatoes or Sponges	Risk of slips from paint spills, skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use washable, non-toxic paints and provide aprons. ○ Clean spills immediately and remind students to move carefully on wet surfaces.
Handmade Greeting Cards	Risk of paper cuts, choking on small decorations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide child-safe scissors and supervise cutting and decorating closely. ○ Avoid small decorations for younger students to prevent choking hazards.
Flower Pressing and Framing	Risk of allergens, minor injuries from pressing tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inspect flowers beforehand and use gloves if needed. ○ Use child-safe frames and supervise pressing activities closely.
Stencil Art on Canvas Bags	Risk of skin irritation from paints, mess on clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use non-toxic paints, with aprons and ventilation. ○ Ensure handwashing and clean spills immediately.

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Decorating Picture Frames	Risk of choking on small decorations, glue-related skin irritation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervise use of glue and small decorations. ○ Use non-toxic glue and monitor closely to avoid ingestion or choking hazards.
Creating Wind Chimes with Beads and Shells	Risk of cuts from sharp shells, choking on small beads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inspect shells for sharp edges, using only safe pieces. ○ Use larger beads for younger students to avoid choking. ○ Supervise closely to encourage careful handling of materials.
Pyrography (Wood Burning)	Risk of burns from hot tools, fire hazards, inhalation of fumes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff to directly supervise students using pyrography tools. ○ Staff to be in control of the temperature setting at all times. ○ Work in a well-ventilated space with protective equipment, including gloves and eye protection. ○ Explain fire safety, and ensure no flammable materials are nearby.
Pewter Casting	Risk of burns from hot metal, fumes from melted pewter, and fire hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only trained staff handle the melting and pouring of pewter; students can participate in designing or finishing cooled castings under supervision. ○ Use a well-ventilated space with access to a fire extinguisher or fire blanket or method of putting out fire. ○ Burn first-aid kit nearby ○ Heat-resistant gloves for any staff handling molten pewter. ○ Clearly explain safety rules to students, including the importance of remaining a safe distance from molten metal and avoiding touching castings until fully cooled. ○ Staff monitor students closely, especially around heated areas and tools.

To be read in conjunction with the following:

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



Reviewed: September 2025

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

Next Review Date: September 2027