

Biggest Fuck Ups Game

... another side, for someone else

Backwards Law
The fear of failure becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"Fucking up is not just part of the process - IT IS THE PROCESS!"

"Fucking up is human. So is our vulnerability. Let's be more vulnerable, creative humans who don't give a fuck about fucking up."

How to play

Share your own experience in relation to one of the areas. How did you feel? Why? The one who shares chooses the area. Rotate the board so you can read.

When I... so I felt...

Continue to share you failures with each other.

- What did you fail at?
- How did you solve it?
- What did you learn?

My biggest fuck up...

Ideas to build psychological safety



What can you do to build up more psychological safety? Make a list with actions you can start or stop doing.

What is the Biggest Fuck Ups Game?

This is a place where we own our failures. Talk about them without fear of being criticised or getting in trouble, in order to learn lessons that turn us into a badass. A place of risk taking, experimentation, and thinking differently are essential. A place where we take the drama out of failure and make it a part of our well-functioning culture.

What the Biggest Fuck Ups game is not

This is not a place where we revel in failure, feel like a failure, feel sorry for ourselves, whine about our misfortune, or blame ourselves.

You have two choices:

- Do nothing and let failure eat you from the inside.
- Set yourself free and own your failures to become a real creative badass

To fail is human; so is our vulnerability. So, let us be more vulnerable, creative, fellow humans who build psychologically safe teams and environments. If we're the ones failing, we can use curiosity to learn from our experiments and failures, and then share them with each other. Who cares? That's the only way to succeed.

Good and bad fuck ups?

Not all fuck ups are equal. Some are better, some worse, and some are really bad.

Good "fuck ups"

- When you take curry powder instead of cinnamon and discover something really good
- When you make a decision no one likes, then change it based on feedback
- When you enroll in a Puppet course, thinking you will make marionettes... but you end up learning about software for configuration management

Bad "fuck ups"

- When you need to book flights to give a guest lecture, but you book the wrong dates
- When you left chocolate on the coffee table and accidentally kill the office dog

Psychological safety

Psychological safety is the biggest contributing factor to the most high-performing teams at Google, Apple, Pixar and Tesla.

Leaders and managers showing they're human and talking openly about their failures can help build a culture of safety and innovation, where employees can dare to take risks without fear of punishment.



Biggest Fuck Ups Game



One side...

Biggest Fuck Ups Game

References

Psychological safety contributes to motivation

Kahn, W.A. (1990) Psychological conditions of personal engagement and disengagement at work. *Academy of Management Journal* 33.4, 692-724.

May, D.R., Gilson, G.L., & Harter, L.M. (2004) The psychological conditions of meaningfulness, safety and availability and the engagement of the human spirit at work. *Journal of occupational and organizational psychology* 77.1, 11-37.

Psychological safety enables greater learning in teams

Edmondson, A.C. (1996) Learning from mistakes is easier said than done: Group and organizational influences on the detection and correction of human error. *The journal of applied behavioral science* 32.1, 5-28.

Tucker, A.L., Nembhard, I.M., & Edmondson, A.C. (2007) Implementing new practices: An empirical study of organizational learning in hospital intensive care units. *Management Science* 53.6, 894-907.

Psychological safety predicts team performance

Edmondson, A.C. (1996) Learning from mistakes is easier said than done: Group and organizational influences on the detection and correction of human error. *The journal of applied behavioral science* 32.1, 5-28.

Psychological safety, together with high standards, leads to learning

Edmondson, A.C. (2008). The competitive imperative of learning, HBS Centennial Issue. *Harvard Business Review* 86.7/8, 60-67.

Psychological safety increases employees' self-confidence in their knowledge

Siemsen, E., Roth, A.V., Balasubramanian, S., & Annand, G. (2009) The influence of psychological safety and confidence in knowledge on employee knowledge sharing. *Manufacturing & service operations management* 11.3, 429-447.

Psychological safety leads to more continuous improvements and higher quality

Hallbesleben, J.R.B. & Rathert, C. (2008) The role of continuous quality improvement and psychological safety in predicting work- arounds. *Health care management review* 33.2, 134-144

Psychological safety increases innovation's effect on company results

Baer, M. & Frese, M. (2003) Innovation is not enough: Climates for initiative and psychological safety process innovations, and firm performance. *Journal of organizational behavior* 24.1, 45-68.

High psychological safety leads to resolving conflicts in constructive ways

Bradley, B. H., Postlethwaite, B.E., Hamdani, M.R., & Brown, K.G. (2012) Reaping the benefits of task conflict in teams. The critical role of team psychological safety climate. *Journal of applied psychology* 97.1, 151-158.