

#### Risk in the Context of Your Goals



#### What Feels Risky?

- Offering feedback
- Proposing an idea
- Conflict
- Taking a stand
- Learning a new skill
- Presenting to a higher level
- Managing ambiguity
- Speaking up





# What Keeps Us from Taking (More and Better) Risks?

- Amplifying what could go wrong and minimizing our ability to manage, influence or control the outcome.
- Exaggerating the consequences of failure.
- Emphasizing what we might lose by taking the risk (versus what we can gain).
- Failing to consider the cost of doing nothing.
- Fearing failure, looking foolish, making a mistake or being wrong.

Skills are built over time, with practice.

Micro-process risks.

Focus on outcomes you desire.
Celebrate (even the smallest)
risk victories!

Risking is a Skill



#### Be Aware of Your Anchors

Anchoring is a term used in psychology to describe the human tendency to over rely or 'anchor' on one piece of information when approaching a risk or decision.

We bring our 'bias' to situations by valuing one aspect over other information available.

It is important to be mindful of our anchors because if we allow them to, they will establish the terms and create the trajectory. Safety

Relationship

Convenience

Credibility

Cost

Results

**Appearance** 



What 'Anchors' You?

#### Where are Your Risk Opportunities?

- What costs too much?
- What takes too long?
- What is poor in quality?
- What keeps falling through the cracks?
- Where are we missing an opportunity?
- In what ways are we falling behind?
- How are we getting in our own way?

#### Develop a Risk Strategy

Define the Risk	Determine the Goal	Build a Plan
What is the risk? Why does this feel risky for	What will you gain by taking this risk? (What are	What do you influence or control inside of this risk?
you?	the benefits?)	What do you need to be
Why is it important for you to take this risk?	What value does this risk drive or create?	mindful of? (What could go wrong, and how can you
What could happen if you avoid this risk? (What do	How does this risk impact your priorities?	prepare for that?) What actions, skills and
you risk through inaction?)	What is your goal? (How	strategies will you use?
	do you want this to turn out?)	Who do you need to involve?
	How will you measure success?	

Keep a 'Risk Journal.' Gather your artifacts.

### **Grow through Risk Taking**

Turn your risk experiences into learning opportunities with questions like these:

- Did you achieve the desired result?
- What did you overlook or miss?
- What worked well?
- What didn't?
- Did you involve the right people?
- Were there negative side effects you didn't anticipate?
- What did you learn through this experience?

## Tips and Strategies

- Develop a keen sense of an awareness for the risk potential around you.
- Take risk on purpose and with purpose.
- The best risk takers operate in the context of the big picture.
- As you step in to risk, you probably won't have all the answers.
- We profit greatly from risks that fail if we own the outcomes and learn from them.

#### **Action Ideas**

- 1. Scan your environment.
- 2. Reach for feedback from your manager.
- 3. Profile famous risk takers.

