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### **Run with Safety Scissors:**

Creative expression is quickly becoming the top skill in the workplace. In our connected world, it is easy to lose our creative edge. However, many people consider themselves “not creative” or think of creativity as visual arts, only for artists or kids.

Creative problem solving is one of the top needs for skills in the workplace today. In a world that has prioritized productivity, efficiency, and analytical problem solving since the industrial revolution, many workplaces have become irrelevant due to technological advancements and AI. Consequently, many analytical skills have become unnecessary for the average worker. However, this culture in the workplace has led to many people feeling challenged to express their creativity at work, and many workplaces discourage individual thought and innovative approaches. The biggest barrier to creative expression is judgment, both by oneself and others. Learning to express ourselves despite our fear of judgment is crucial to overcoming this barrier and fostering innovation at every level.

Our habit of converging while diverging is another obstacle that hinders creative expression, which results in incremental, sub-par improvements on existing ideas rather than disruptive approaches. The tendency to think “that’s a bad idea” before expressing the idea and allowing further exploration stifles creativity.

To explore unique approaches, we need to practice facing failure, taking small risks, and creating safe environments for everyone to feel comfortable expressing themselves. By embracing creative expression and exploring new possibilities, we can unlock untapped potential and drive innovation in the workplace.

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