

## FINE POINT

### Safety and Autonomy

Thinking Environment

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## SAFETY AND AUTONOMY

The Thinking Partner's face looked preoccupied, even worried. I was coaching the demonstration. When we broke out to talk about the session so far, I said to the Partner, 'How are you?'

'I am aware of the huge responsibility I have here,' she said. 'He is into such important and beautiful territory in his thinking, and I don't want to mess it up.'

Then we talked about this wonderful paradox:

As the Thinking Partner you matter profoundly because you do not matter at all.

You are essential, because you are irrelevant.

This paradox insures that you are a force producing the Thinker's autonomy; and so you are a force of safety. No other process I know of is as safe as this one. It recognises that the core of safety is autonomy.

Because as the Thinker we are solely in charge of the session, we are in our own hands only. And so as a Thinking Partner you cannot mess up the Thinker's thinking; and you cannot mess up the Thinker.

It is for these reasons that the Thinker experiences dependable autonomy in the session:

1

The Thinker agrees before the session that it is their own finest independent thinking that is the objective.

2

They know that the Partner will not inject thinking of their own without invitation, and that they will not interrupt the Thinker unless there is a fire.

3

The Thinker knows what the next question will be, and agrees to it before it is asked.

4

The Partner uses only the Thinker's words when referencing their thinking, keeping the Thinker as sole architect of the content of the session.

5

Both know that the point of each question is to get thinking, not to get answers; and so the questions stop until the Thinker has completed their thinking at each stage.

6

When the Thinker determines that the session is over, it is over, even if it seems incomplete to the Partner.

So, as the Partner we can relax, increasing our internal ease and becoming a dependable embodiment of the Ten Components. Our attention and our delivery, by agreement, of a few naturally catalytic questions, are irreplaceable as a generative force. But they are not the commander. Only the Thinker is in charge of their very own journey.