



Small children facing parental illness and death: Shield or include?

Ingrid Johnsen Hogstad

PhD-fellow



Parent severely ill,
incurable disease

Current knowledge:

- Open communication ^{1,2}
- Mutual shielding ^{3,4}
- HP as facilitator? ^{4,5}

1. Ellis, J., Dowrick, C., & Lloyd-Williams, M. (2013)
2. Finch, A., & Gibson, F. (2009)
3. Kennedy, V. L., & Lloyd-Williams, M. (2009)
4. Bugge, K. E., Helseth, S., & Darbyshire, P. (2008)
5. Semple, C. J., & McCaughan, E. (2013)

Discourses⁶ of the child among HPs?



6. Parker, I. (2014)

Health professionals (HP) in palliative care

Nine qualitative interviews



Shield or include?



HPs arguments for inclusion

- Evidence from research
- Possible future reactions
- Bereavement and preparation for death
- Honesty

HP's arguments for shielding

- Bad memories
- Exclusion from normal everyday life

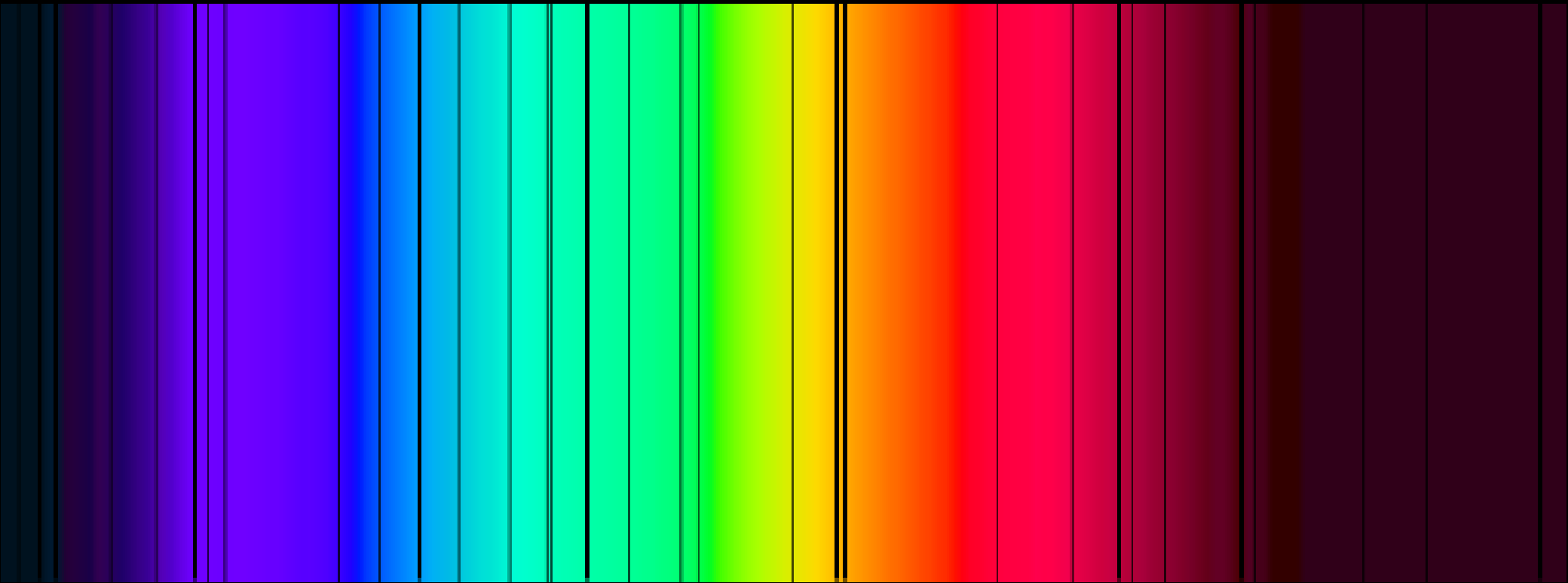
Ethical dilemma

Children's
needs

Confidentiality



Continuum of strategies



backing off

breaching
confidentiality

Further analysis

- Systematic analysis
- Broader child discourses
- HP's positioning

- Practices of shielding or inclusion might be linked to discourses of the child
- HPs have to handle ethical dilemma between meeting the child's need and the rules of confidentiality

References

1. Ellis, J., Dowrick, C., & Lloyd-Williams, M. (2013). The long-term impact of early parental death: lessons from a narrative study. *Journal of the royal society of medicine*(106), 57-67.
2. Finch, A., & Gibson, F. (2009). How do young people find out about their parent's cancer diagnosis: A phenomenological study. *European Journal of Oncology Nursing*(13), 213-222.
3. Kennedy, V. L., & Lloyd-Williams, M. (2009). Information and communication when a parent has advanced cancer. *Journal of Affect Disorders*, 114(1-3), 149-155.
4. Bugge, K. E., Helseth, S., & Darbyshire, P. (2008). Children's experiences of participation in a family support program when their parent has incurable cancer. *Cancer Nursing*, 31(6), 426-434.
5. Semple, C. J., & McCaughan, E. (2013). Family life when a parent is diagnosed with cancer: impact of a psychosocial intervention for young children. *European Journal of Cancer Care*, (22), 219-231.
6. Parker, I. (2014). *Discourse Dynamics (Psychology Revivals) Critical Analysis for Social and Individual Psychology*. E-book. ISBN 0415050170. Routledge.