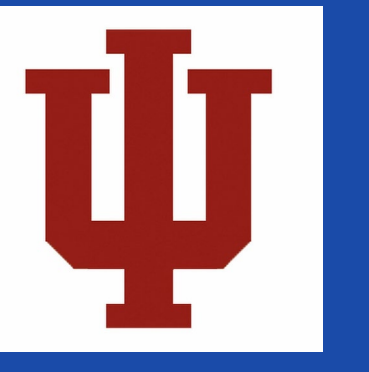




# Double Protection in Childhood Cancer: A Concept Analysis

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## BACKGROUND

- The diagnosis of cancer in a child or adolescent (hereafter we will use child to refer to child and adolescent) thrusts family into a challenging trajectory of biopsychosocial stress (West, Bell, Woodgate, & Moules, 2015).
- Double protection refers to the parent-child communication process of avoidance of certain topics in order to protect each other from the stress and emotions resulting from talking about the cancer, its treatment, and thoughts about the future (Last, 1992).
- Since double protection was introduced in 1992 (Last, 1992), there are few advances in understanding the meaning of the concept and it has received scant attention in the research literature.

## OBJECTIVES

- The purpose of this paper is to clarify the concept of double protection as applied to parent-child communication in the context of childhood cancer.
- We present defining characteristics, applicability, utility, and related concepts



Retrieved from <https://www.cbtdbassociates.com/blog/overcoming-adolescent-anxiety/>

## METHODS

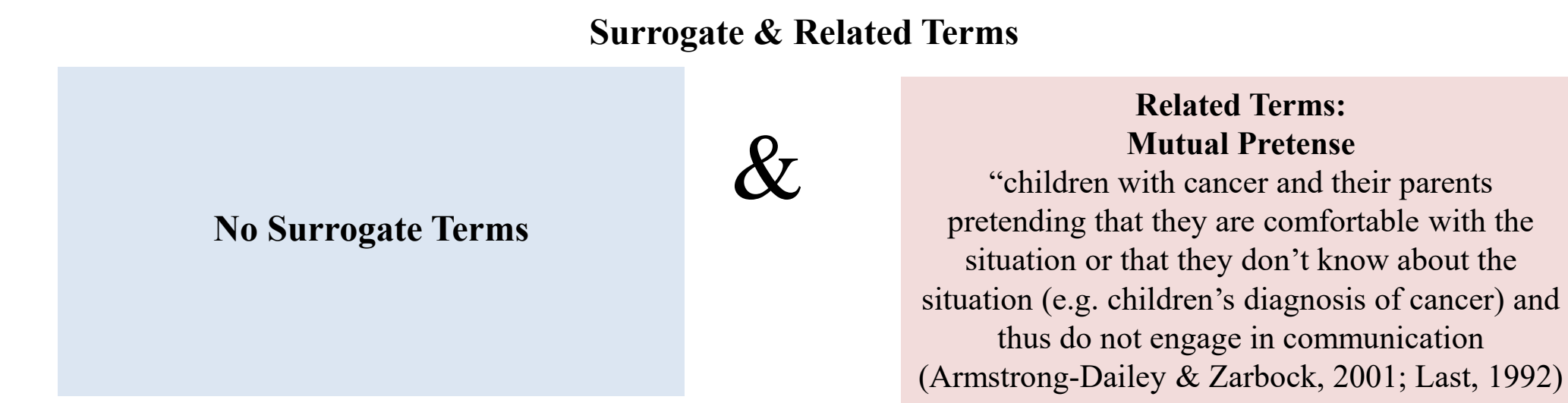
### Rodger's Evolutionary Concept Analysis Method

- Defining double protection and associated expressions, including surrogate and related terms.
- Identifying the realm (setting and sample) for data collection.
- Presenting antecedents and attributes of double protection
- Analyzing the characteristics of double protection.
- Identifying an exemplar model of double protection.
- Identifying implications, hypothesis, and providing implications for further development of double protection (Rodgers, 1989, p. 85; 2000, pp. 91-92).

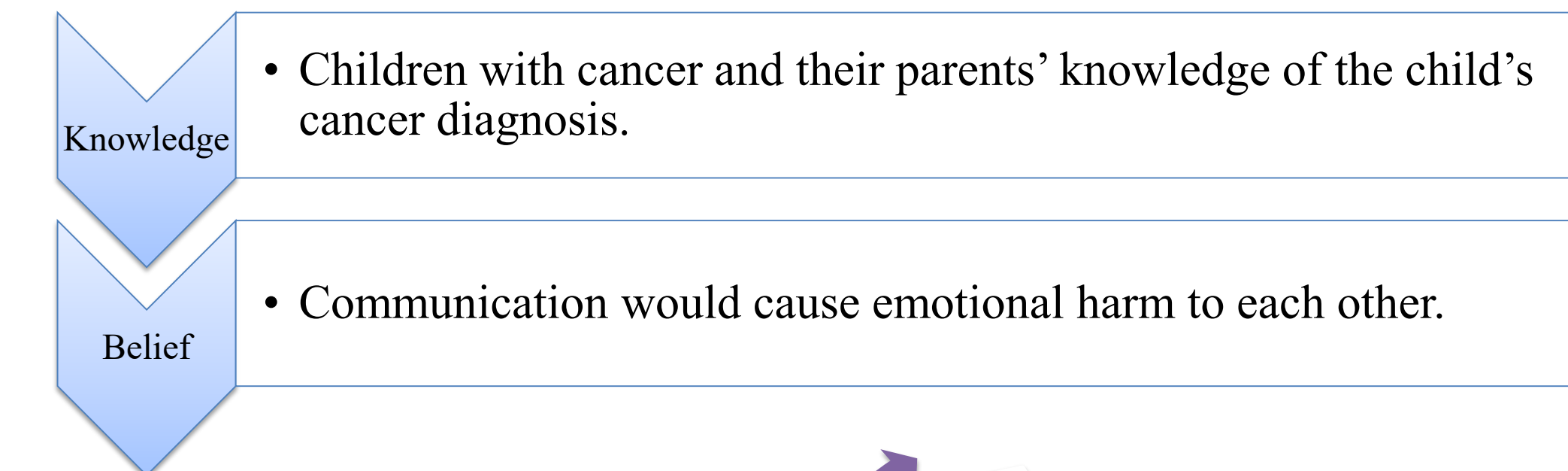
## RESULTS

### Phase 1: Defining Context and Related Terms

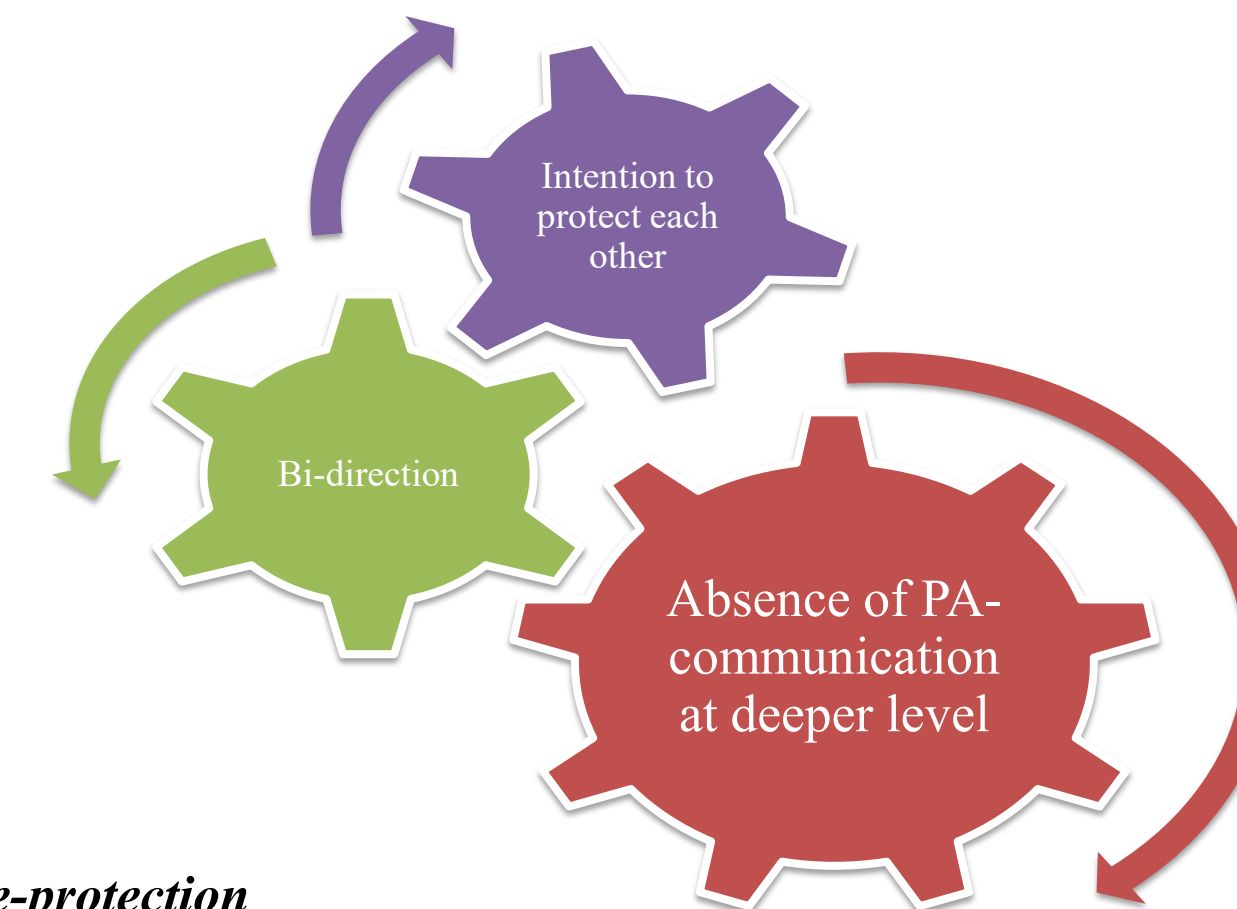
- Context refers to the cultural or social group and how the concept is applied within a specific discipline, time period, or theory (Rodgers, 2000).
- Double protection has been used in a couple of unrelated ways in variety of context (e.g., applying sun cream and life insurance)



### Phase2: Antecedents



### Phase2\_1: Attributes

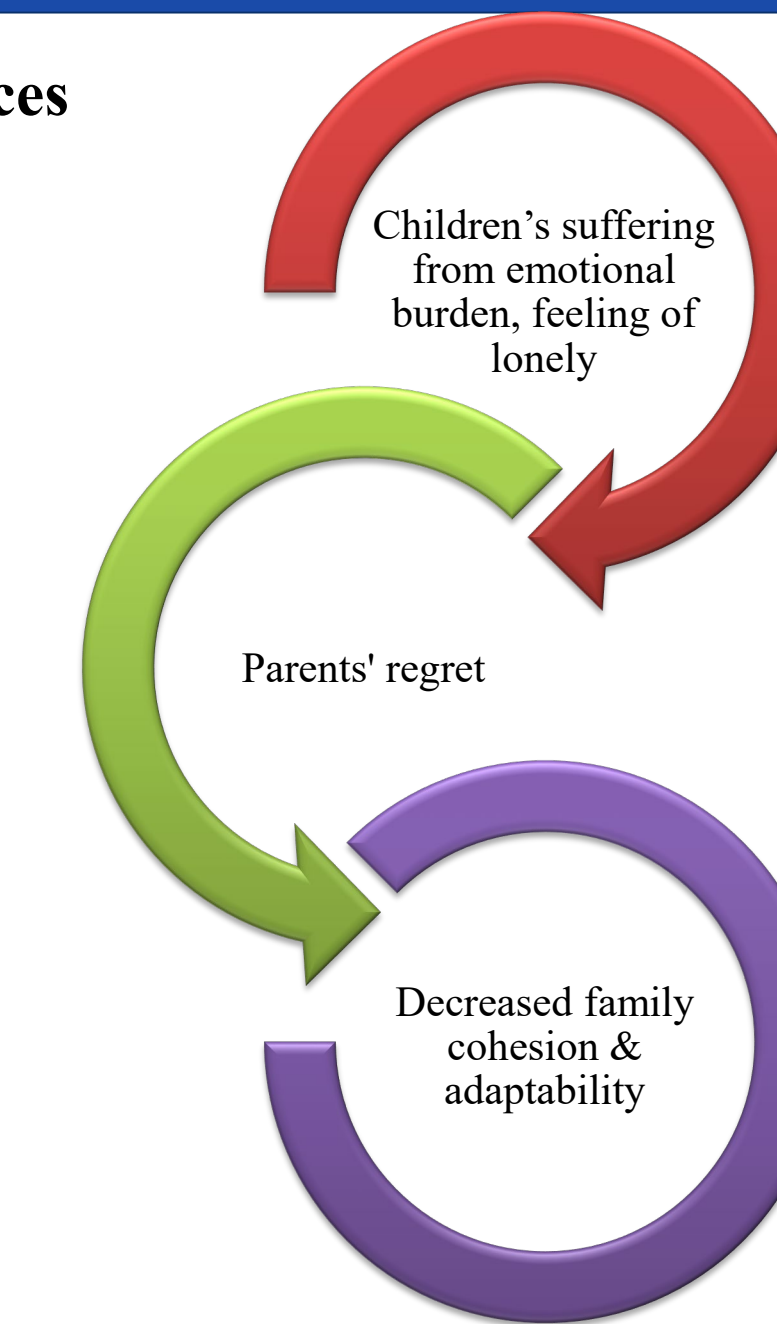


### Example of NO Double-protection

I: So, in your case, do you tell your emotions or feelings to your mom or dad? Like I'm scared of having this therapy, or, I like that, whatever is inside you, you know  
 A: I don't talk about it much  
 I: You don't think you talk much?  
 A: No,  
 I: Why?  
 A: Um, I never really talk about my emotion, or things like that. Never have.  
 (14 years old boy with ALL)

## RESULTS

### Phase 2\_2: Consequences



## RESULTS: MODEL CASE

The model case of double protection includes antecedents, attributes of and the consequences from double protection. Both the adolescent and their parent were aware of the diagnosis of cancer, and they thought that sharing their emotions and feelings related to their sufferings might cause worry or sadness to the other. They avoided communicating with each other at deeper levels, involving self-disclosure, resulting in a sense of having depth that they could not share.

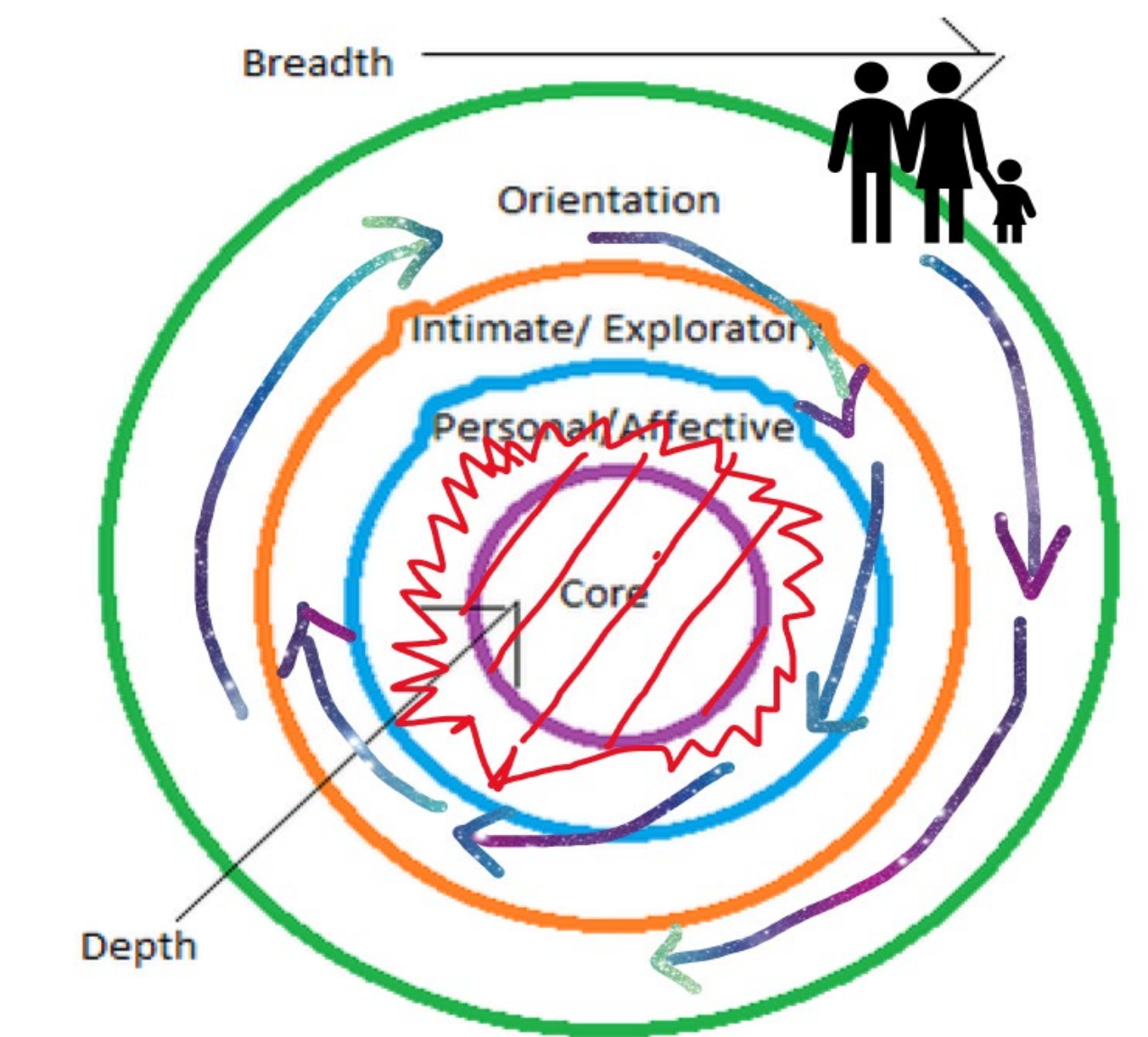
Parent: Yes... we like to talk to each other, but you know how *there's this depth that you can't share*. I try to, we both try to, but I think in part she avoids talking deeply because I might worry, I hear about that through my oldest daughter and her sister. **She doesn't talk about her problems (cry) ... The only part that I've left out was that there's no specific treatment plan or method, so you are basically waiting for the day it all ends...**  
 (Mother of adolescents aged 17 years old, Unknown Diagnosis)

Adolescent: But seeing how she is so sorry, I couldn't talk about my pain any more. But I kept holding it till I couldn't anymore, so she tells me to just say it hurts when it does. We haven't really had a deep talk about the disease; when I say it hurts, she would give me the medicine and some massage...haven't gone into the details.  
**I want to talk, but mom and dad would only be sorry. It's better being me the only one to have to go through such difficulties. So I didn't talk.**  
 (17 years old girl with Unknown Diagnosis)

**KEY:** Attributes= **bold text**; antecedents= underlined text; and consequences = *italicized text*.

## CONCLUSION

- Findings support Last's (1992) conclusion that double protection in parent-child communication is avoidance of engaging in parent-child communication on certain topics in order to protect each other against causing emotional and psychological harms.
- Double protection still exists and persists
- Double protection is global & not isolated to any specific culture.
- Double protection has received limited attention in the research literature and this analysis underscores the urgency of addressing family communication in the context of childhood cancer
- Double protection is a major barrier for children with cancer and their parents to engage in parent-child communication.
- Double protection also applies to a broader context of life-threatening chronic illness:



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