*SLO IV. Professionalism*

*Students will engage in professional behavior appropriate to the discipline in professional contexts.*

Before attending Chico State as a Child Development Major, I feel that I had a fair amount of professionalism with regards to my own actions, and was aware of ways to appropriately act in a professional setting; however I have improved immensely in the area of professionalism when communicating with others in a professional context. I used to be very shy, and while confident in my skills, not confident enough to share my opinions. As I became more educated, and had great experiences with sharing my thoughts, and getting feedback, I grown to be a more efficient at communicating effectively in a professional setting.

With my time spent as a practicum student in Child Development 392 I improved upon my communications skills. During the group inquiry project, my group and I were able to successfully communicate our needs to the staff members and other practicum students. We were in charge of our project and needed to be able to properly share information and ask for assistance when needed. Through professional communication we were able to implement a developmentally appropriate project which all of the children participated in.

Once our project was complete we had our inquiry presentations in which each inquiry group set up their projects and shared them with other student and staff members from the Associated Students Child Development Lab (ASCDL). In this presentation we were asked a variety of questions. We were seen as the experts on this topic, and it was up to us to properly formulate adequate responses instantly. This made me accountable or the information that we had implemented, and also forced a need for confidence in the data we had gathered. This was a very important step in my growth of engaging in professional behavior.

The growth I have had in professionalism during my Supervised Internship is far more than I would have expected. My internship site has allowed me to take on a more significant role in the entire classroom. I am now communicating with parents on a daily basis, which requires me to uphold a very high level of professionalism. I feel that with this new responsibility, I am able to build appropriate and stronger relationships with parents.

I also have a new role with other staff members, when directing them and offering suggestions on how to appropriately interact with children. I am learning when it is appropriate to address different things with staff members. Many of the people in my internship are my close friends, and I have learned to differentiate work appropriate relationships from outside the classroom friendships. I think that each of these roles has allowed me to engage in professional behaviors appropriate to the discipline in professional contexts.

In order to be a lifelong learner, I will continue to have successful interactions with a variety of people in the professional setting. The best way to be effective in communicating, and to have appropriate behaviors in a professional setting is to continue to be a leader in the classroom. I think it is important to reflect on the ways I practice professionalism, and change my approach when I see fit. Being a professional is will constantly change depending on the context, and I feel it is something that will evolve constantly over time.