**SLO IV. Professionalism Narrative Reflective Narrative**

*SLO IV. Professionalism*

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

Through my class work and internships at California State University Chico I have gained a lot of knowledge about how to engage in professional behavior that is appropriate in many different professional contexts. When I first arrived at California State University Chico I was ready to learn about how to work with children. I didn’t realize how important it was to learn about how to be professional with the staff, parents, and children. Through my internships I have gained knowledge about how beneficial it is to have appropriate professional behavior and how important it is.

I believe my most valuable experience when it comes to learning about professionalism was through my internship at the Associated Student Child Development Lab. Every week we had staff meetings where we would talk about the type of assessments we would be doing, how to work as a team to better improve our program, and how we were going to collaborate with each other every day in order to accomplish all tasks and make sure all children were getting the appropriate amount of attention. This helped me learn how to work as a team and collaborate, communicate with staff, children, and parents, and how to better assess children.

I would like to work on communicating with parents in a more professional role. I am still young and at times feel awkward when communicating with parents about what their child has excelled in or needs to work on. I am hoping in the future I will become more comfortable with my interactions with parents and it will start to feel natural to me.

I believe the best of what I have achieved in this area is my teamwork and collaboration skills. In the past it has been very difficult for me to work with other individuals because once I come up with an idea of how I want to do a project or handle a situation I want to stick with it. If someone comes up with a better idea I am open to it but besides that it was my way or the high way. I have had so many bad experiences in the past when working with individuals that I wasn’t interested in collaborating anymore. But through this major and the group work that has been required in class, I have grown to really enjoy working in a group and want to be part of a team. Other individuals in my major and career path are full of knowledge that I may not have and hearing their ideas is beneficial to the families I work with as well as helping me gain new knowledge.

As a life-long learner, I am going to continue to learn and try to excel in my field. I believe one of the best ways to continue to learn is to observe other employees and collaborate with them. When I observe another employee I learn a new way of working with a child or way of doing something. I believe being open to new ideas from other co-workers and collaborating with them on how to handle different situations is the best way to continue to learn new and better ways on how to handle situations. I also realize that my field is constantly changing; new research, new techniques, new theories, and new disorders are always coming out that relate to the child development field. I think the best way to continue to stay up to date is to keep reading research that comes out. Registering for research journals and buying new books is a good way to continue to keep up to date.

Through my jobs and class work I have seen myself start to excel in my professionalism. I think one of the most eye-opening assignments was for my Senior Seminar in Child Development where we completed the Strong Interest Inventory. Part of the results talked about if we enjoyed working with teams or by ourselves. In the past, my Strong Interest Inventory would have suggested I like working by myself but my results were skewed a little to the side of working with teams. This is huge for me since in the past I hated working with a team. It showed me how far I have come in the past few years and how my teamwork and collaborating skills have improved.

Another assignment for my Senior Seminar in Child Development was to create a resume. I haven’t worked on my resume in a long time since I have had the same jobs for the past three years. I have realized that I have been promoted in both of my jobs working with children. Both promoted me to being in charge of other leaders/coaches, handling all behavioral issues, doing assessment, and all contact with parents. This really showed me that both employers saw my development in my professionalism and promoted me into a job requiring more skills.