*Student Learning Objective IV Professionalism: Students will engage in professional behavior appropriate to the discipline in professional contexts.*

Professionalism is built upon honesty, responsibility, and ethical practices that provide support for improving the quality of life for children and their families. Through my higher education at Chico State as a Child Development major I learned about professionalism and skills such as; team work, time management, respect for all people, and confidentiality. Professionalism is very important when working with children and families.

Through the code of ethical conduct I learned professional behavior. These are standards of practice expected of professionals that work with children, families, and colleagues. They provide guidance for what professionals should do when working with children, and how they should handle conflicting obligations or responsibilities. Through the code of conduct I learned how to behave professionally and how to approach difficult scenarios while working in the classroom. I also learned to recognize diversity and inclusion and how to appropriately incorporate it into the classroom. As a professional you should respect family, community, and cultural contexts. It is also important to respect families and children by keeping everything you learn confidential. As a professional you shouldn’t talk about the family outside of the job because the family isn’t there to defend them self and someone could be listening that knows the family. As a general rule as a professional leave everything at the door of your place of work or internship.

From my internships, I have gained hands on experience with professionalism. I took what I have learned about professionalism in the classroom and applied it working with children and families in my internships. In my internship for the class developmentally appropriate curriculum for children I recognized the children’s developmental level and wrote developmentally appropriate curriculum. In my internship for the class Child Development practicum I learned about the guides to speech and action which are important to know as a professional working with children. I also sat in on professional staff meetings and a parent teacher conference. All four of my internships taught me about professionalism. I learned how to apply professional knowledge, how to demonstrate professional responsibility and integrity in an internship, that professional behavior and attitude are necessary when working with professionals, clients, and other members of the community. I have also learned how to model high standards for ethical practice, how to dress appropriately, and how to have a positive demeanor.

Professional development is an ongoing process. Being a life-long learner, I will continue to participate in professional development training and opportunities to enhance my knowledge and skills. As a professional working with children and families I will make decisions based upon knowledge of child development theories and practices that recognize the diversity of ability, developmental level, and family characteristics. I will continue to be an advocate for excellence in professionalism in child development.

One assignment that documents my progress in the area of professionalism is a self-reflection for Child Development practicum. In this self-reflection I talk about the progress I have made over the course of the semester and goals that I have mastered. This shows my progress of professionalism by showing skills that I have mastered to help me be a better professional in the classroom. It shows that I know how to set goals and attain them. It also shows future employers what skills I already have and the experience that I have.

Another assignment that documents my progress is my resume. My resume provides a number of important characteristics that show my professionalism. My resume provides information about my competence and the skills I have acquired to become a professional. My resume is an accurate measure of my professionalism.