*SLO IV. Professionalism*

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

When reflecting on the ways I have engaged in professional behavior within the Child Development major, I find myself in awe of all that I have learned. How the classes, internships, assignments, and professors have pushed me to grow and learn in the area of professional growth. There are three internships and one course in particular that I see as the major catalysts in my development of professional behavior.

The first of the three internships was my Child Development 282 course, Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum for Children: Theory to Practice. This course required that I have an internship three hours a week, I chose to intern in an afterschool program run by fellow students, held in a low income housing development. There are three ways I learned professional development within this internship. I learned to be on time to my internship and develop relationships with the students running the program as well as the students who attended the program. During my internship there was a tragic event in one of the family's lives, I learned how to communicate with my supervisors about the event and sought advice on how to interact with the children in their time of need while also maintaining a professional environment. This was an experience that taught me how to work effectively with those around me to meet the needs of the child, I gained valuable experience in this internship.

My second internship was for my Child Development 392 course, Child Development Practicum. In this course I was placed into an onsite classroom for toddlers, ages twenty four to thirty six months, eight hours a week. There are two ways in which I grew in my professional behavior within this internship. The first is in my experience in working as a team within a classroom environment, as well as creating and reaching personal and classroom goals. I participated in weekly staff meetings where we would discuss classroom and personal goals and engage in group discussion as well as personal reflection. Through these meetings I was to make goals to work towards in the classroom and be held accountable by the staff. Within the classroom I learned to work with a team and had many experiences where I asked for help from fellow staff. This helped me to reach my personal goals as well as the classroom goals with the help of a supportive staff.

My third internship was for my Child Development 492 course, Child Development Internship, at a social services center for pregnant women. In this internship I went once a week for five hours, shadowing the client services director. The two things that I learned from this experience where, how to be on time for work and how to act and dress professionally within a workplace. I made it my goal to work on my timeliness for this internship as well as my professional attire. I took extra time each Monday to look professional and make sure I was on time for my internship. When I dressed professional I was taken seriously by clients and staff, I also felt more confident to take risks within the professional environment. Being able to step out of my comfort zone and learn how to interact in a professional environment has been valuable to my education at Chico State.

Being a lifelong learner I will continue to push myself professionally and personally. After being pushed out of my comfort zone in all of the internships, I now have experiences that I would have never had if I had not been pushed myself and faculty, to try new things and take advantage of these opportunities. I now have a wide range of experiences that make me confident that I can adapt and learn in whatever environment I am in. I think it is important to push myself to set goals within the workplace as well as push myself to learn new things that can widen my experiences to make me a more valuable employee. I am forever grateful for all of the experiences I have gained during my time at Chico State.