*SLO III. Developmental Context*

*Students will demonstrate knowledge of the multiple environmental contexts in which children grow and develop, and will be able to analyze systems that support children’s well-being.*

The experience I’ve had that which has facilitated my growth in understanding the multiple environmental contexts in which children grow and develop were through a variety of different courses taken at Chico State. I have learned about the how children grow and develop by observing them in a classroom environment, implementation of curriculum, hands on experience through a minimum of 230 hours of internship placed at a preschool and an infant’s learning center.

One of the things that I have learned the most about children is that each child develops at their own pace and their own way. Before taking any Child Development courses I thought all children developed, learned, and grew at the same pace. I was very ignorant when it came to the early development of children. Through the completion of the Desire Results Developmental Profile, I learned that children develop through eight different domains. The eight different domains reflect on the child’s behavior and skills.

Of all the things I learned in this area, the subject that gives me the biggest challenge is knowing how to keep supporting a child’s gender development. Children should be able to explore their gender preference. Another challenge that I face is when a child whose sex is male has their fingernails painted and he gets made fun of. When this happens I try to have a fast responds in order to protect the child from being made fun but, my brain freezes and I don’t exactly know what to say.

By being a life-long learner I will be able to learn how to overcome my challenge of knowing the right words to say when a child is being made fun of because of the experience I will be able to obtain working with children. I will also learn how to distinguish what is too low or too high for a child’s developmental level. By being a life-long learned I will continue to ensure that children get the quality and appropriate high quality education from me, no matter what center I am working with.

I am grateful for the opportunity of learning about the variety of theorists. Those theorists include a few such as Sigmund Freud, Maria Montessori, Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, and Erik Erikson. The theorist I enjoyed learning about the most is Erik Erikson because his eight stages of psychosocial development made the most sense in the way children develop.

One of the assignments I have completed at Chico State that has documented my growth in the multiple environmental contexts in which children grow and develop was completed in my Child Gender and Sexual Development class. I learned that we should not stereotype children’s toys. That is best that children get to choose the toy that attracts them because it will not affect their development in a negative way if they were to get the opposite gender toy.

In my Developmental Appropriate Curriculum for Children class that I took at Chico State documented my growth in the multiple environmental contexts in which children grow and develop was by creating curriculum on a measure for my preschool internship. Once I had completed and implemented my curriculum place I was able to reflect on what worked and what didn’t work. For example, something that would work is the children were engaged and being safe. Compared to something that would not work during the implementation would be, children had a difficult time doing the activity. Through both of these assignments I was able to learn about how children grow and develop through the multiple learning environments.