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

When I hear the word professional, I think of bring on time for either work or class, being courteous of others around you, and being appropriate depending on the setting. Working at the ASCDL, (Associated Students Child Development lab) I have to arrive on time and usually a little early for my shifts. As soon as I arrive, another student staff leaves and I take their place. If I don’t arrive before my shift, it messes up the ratios and makes others have to stay longer than they should. I have to plan my school schedule accordingly and make sure I can make it to work on time. Wearing the correct clothes at work is something I always try and do. I’m usually sitting on the floor or in a tiny chair with the preschoolers and it’s really hard to do that in the wrong clothing. Swearing is another big one in the work area. Watching what you say is very important especially when you’re around children. They remember a lot and usually repeat things so remembering to watch what you say is important.

Being courteous of others around you whether it’s family, friends, coworkers or classmates is always something I try to do. I always try to help with assignments if I can and I try to take other shifts if my hours allow me to. The Child Development major here at Chico State is relatively small so I have a lot of the same people in my classes. These are people you see everyday or at least a few times a week, so being nice and aware of others around you is something I’ve learned to do in my college career. I think I’ve become more aware of my surroundings and people’s feelings after being in this major.

Coming to Chico from my hometown has helped me grow as an adult and as a person who wants to work with children in the future. I babysat almost everyday from the time I was 12 until I graduated high school but actually interning and working in a preschool has helped me grow as a childcare worker. Working for a neighbor a few times a week isn’t as professional as having a job where I clock in and get an actual paycheck.

I think I have grown to understand what it means to be professional by being put in internships where you don’t know what to expect. In all 3 of the internship classes I have taken here at Chico, you are working in an actual preschool or elementary school. These children are learning new things everyday and you are responsible for scaffolding some of that learning. As an intern you are really just helping out others and doing preparation work but its great experience for the future. I learned so much interning and I think it really helped me figure out that I want to work with children in the very near future. Creating an inquiry project and working with another person was a struggle but ended up being a great experience. Our inquiry was on healthy eating habits. The results we ended up with made then entire inquiry worth the time and effort. Working with others on group projects is always stressful, but when working with the right people, it can be rewarding and make the work easier.