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Reflective Narrative SLO 4: Professionalism

Student Learning Objective 4: Professionalism: *Students will engage in professional behavior appropriate to the discipline in professional contexts.*

Our group felt that this objective meant it is important to always behave appropriately and professionally in professional environments. Professional behavior is necessary for success and critical in order to help others effectively and advance professionally. It is also important to display professional behavior in order to maintain good relations in the workplace.

We felt that there are many skills and dispositions that a Child Development Professional should possess in order to be effective and professional. These skills include the ability to communicate effectively and collaborate with others, honesty, a strong work ethic, a strong foundational knowledge of the field of child development, and the capability to display respect and compassion towards others. Child Development Professionals should also be accepting of diversity and differences in others. It is particularly important that people who work in the field of child development behave professionally because they often serve as a role model to children, and have a direct impact on children and families.

We all felt that we grew in our understanding of this objective by taking courses, participating in internships and volunteer experiences, observing role models, collaborating in group work, doing self-reflections on how the days went and what we liked and what we could have improved on, and being given performance feedback. For example, we learned skills necessary to professionalism in courses like Observational Techniques, in which we learned how to conduct observations in an unbiased and professional manner. We also agreed that we have had some amazing role models, such as professors, who have demonstrated professional behavior and allowed us to learn how to behave professionally through behaviors and felt that participating in various internships and settings with reflecting upon goals allowed us to gain professional skills. We have all had many opportunities in the major of Child Development that have allowed us to learn and practice professionalism.

There were a few things that all of us would like to improve upon in this area. Some of us would like to work on improving our leadership skills, and become more authoritative, confident in our decisions, and able to delegate tasks. We also felt like improving both oral and written communication skills would be beneficial.

Being life-long learners, we plan to continue to seek out professional advancement and learning opportunities to grow professionally. We also plan to conduct self-reflections on our own performance, as well as from others, to gauge where improvement is needed and adjust our performance accordingly. We all felt that continuing to gain experience in the field would be beneficial to our professional skills.

The best of what we have achieved in this area includes learning to collaborate with others effectively, even in difficult situations. Additionally, we all gained knowledge throughout our time majoring in Child Development. Some of us felt that this contributed to us gaining more confidence, which is an important achievement.

We all wrote about various assignments and documents that reflected our growth and abilities in demonstrating professionalism. Documents we thought were good reflections of our abilities in this objective included letters of recommendation, including those we had to write ourselves after a practicum experience, as well as assignments involving doing assessments, such as completing a DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile) on a child. We felt that assignments that involved doing assessments were a good representation of our skills in this objective because they demonstrate our ability to remain unbiased and professional. Additionally, we felt that self-reflective assignments about our performances demonstrated our skills in this area.