**SLO 4 Professionalism**

*Students will engage in professional behavior appropriate*

*to the discipline in professional contexts*

Engaging in professional behavior appropriate to the discipline in professional contexts means that in the world of working with children you professionalism is very important because you not only represent yourself, but you represent children, families, programs and the child development field in general. Knowing professional skills is key to children and families receiving the assistance and benefits they need and are seeking to receive.

1. What comprises the skills (e.g., communication, leadership, research, assessment, teamwork, collaboration skills) and dispositions (values, viewpoints) of a Child Development Professional?

The skills and dispositions of a child development professional is to always value children and the families that they come from. Knowing about each child’s background and culture is important when servicing them and building a relationship with them. By knowing about the development of children, a professional can apply the most developmentally appropriate curriculum for them. In an internship class our final was creating our own preschool environment and creating the most developmentally appropriate lesson content and materials as possible. In this course students were expected to apply knowledge to the creating of lesson content. Also knowing how to work with others and represent yourself professionally is very important to our field of work.

2 In what ways have you grown in your understanding of this area? How did it happen?

I have grown tremendously in my understanding of this area due to the amount of work I have done in all of my classes. The classes that have made me grow the most have been my internship courses and my courses where I have gotten hands on experience working with children, families and other professionals. In one course I interned for 45 hours at a local elementary school in a sixth grade class. Here not only did I development in areas of learning about young students but also in working with other professionals. In this course I had to interview the teacher in my classroom in order to complete an assignment. Here I got to truly learn about the teaching field.

3 What would you like to do better in this area?

I am still working on my professional development skills. Working with others in my field is a fun but challenging task. Learning to navigate the professional world and keeping up with my own personal practices is important to my learning and development as a professional in the field of child development. I would like to continue with my education as a professional in the credential program and grow as an individual and become a teacher. I want to expend my knowledge of how to best serve students and their families in the aspect of education.

4 Being a life-long learner, I will continue to....

Being a life-long learner, I will continue to pursue my education and work on graduate studies via the California Credential program. It is my hope that I will become a great teacher and stay in the education system to encourage learning of all children and students of many ages. I believe that I can be successful in being a motivator and even continue to learn about things myself. I believe that we never stop learning and it is always important to make sure that we provide resources to achieve greater knowledge.

5 The best of what I have achieved in this area is...

The best of what I have achieved in this area is lifelong knowledge of the child development field. I see the ways in which I have grown to be amazing and my skills with children are vast. Even more vast then my skills for children is my passion to provide them with the best serves possible and my drive for them to be lovers of knowledge and successful in what they chose to do. To me this is the greatest passion a person can have.

Reflection

In every class and course our professors and peers have guided us in the importance of our professionalism as well as our professional development. I am so appreciative of this because this is one of the most important concepts to have mastered in any field where you represent more than just yourself. In order to give a child, a family, or an organization your best self and assist them in the best possible means, it is crucial you are and remain a professional. Having these skills is a must in the field of Child Development.