

Chapter 1

Introduction

Teachers tend to imitate the way in which they were taught. Ecuadorian teachers are no exception. Teachers in the Ecuadorian educational system have been exposed to traditional ways of teaching as students. Therefore, unintentionally their own educational experiences are transmitted and reflected in their way of teaching. It is important to take in account that teachers do not always have a say in schools policies, nor do they have power in the selection of the material that is chosen for reading, but to some extent they do have the power to change internally, by modifying their actions and attitudes, and creating an inviting environment. Burnaford, Fisher & Hobson (1996) among others assert:

Each teacher brings a lifetime of experience, as a teacher and student in a variety of schooling environments to the present situation. Even if new to the profession teachers, carry their experience of schooling to the present tasks. (p.3)

My teaching career started out very early in life, and just as every new teacher learned how to teach along the way. I have reflected on this throughout my years of teaching. I have been interested in the improvement of my teaching, and focused on adapting and developing creative teaching materials and hands-on activities that would not only help my students learn, but would also help them enjoy learning. It has always been my desire that the materials I created would be not only attractive but would also help my students learn in a stress-free way so that the learning of English would be not be frightening but interesting and also fun.

During the years I have taught I realized that it seemed like I was planning for and teaching my classes in the same way that I considered the old fashioned way