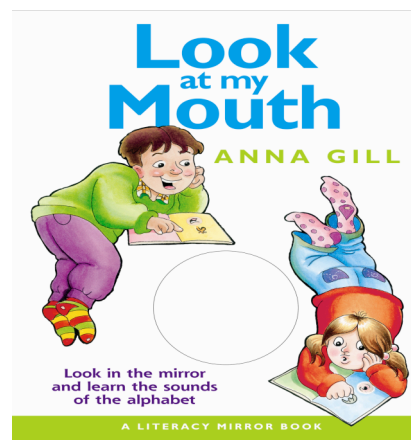




## TEACHER NOTES

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*Look at my Mouth*  
by Anna Gill



This unit is suitable for preschool and kindergarten classes.

Learning to read is a difficult process, usually beginning in the first year of school. *Look at my Mouth* gives children a head start to learning the sounds of the alphabet from the time that they can speak. Building on language skills children already have, *Look at my Mouth* makes learning the alphabet fun and interactive as children enjoy watching themselves in the mirror while they look at the pictures and make the sounds of the words.

The most vital step in every child's early reading is to connect the movement of the mouth with the sounds of the alphabet. *Look at my Mouth* is a world first – a literacy mirror book which shows children this connection. Children enjoy exploring the book and with many readings they will progress naturally through stages developing their language skills to learn the sounds of the alphabet.

Teachers should initially make an assessment of the stage the children are ready for.

This will depend on how many times the children have read *Look at my Mouth*.

As teachers read *Look at my Mouth* to their students, they can help develop the children's knowledge by asking the following questions:

Stage	Teacher
1. Using picture and word cues to complete the sentence	I bite into the: ('apple').
2. Looking at mouth movements in the mirror	<p>Say the name of the picture while you look into the mirror.</p> <p>What can you see in the mirror?</p> <p>Can you see your mouth? Is it moving?</p> <p>Feel your mouth when you are saying the word.</p> <p>Where is your tongue? What is your tongue doing?</p> <p>What are your lips doing?</p>
3. Using the mirror to discover and practise beginning sounds	<p>Say the name of the picture while you look into the mirror.</p> <p>What is the first thing you do with your mouth when you say 'apple'? (Give children time to discover the sound and the movement. You may have to repeat this question.)</p> <p>Say the word. Well done! Try again.</p> <p>Look at your mouth.</p> <p>Look at my mouth.</p>
4. Connecting sound and mouth movements with a letter	<p>Can you show me the word for 'apple'?</p> <p>Say the word 'apple' and look into the mirror.</p> <p>What is the first thing you do with your mouth when you say 'apple'?</p> <p>Teacher points to the first letter of 'apple'.</p> <p>This is the letter for the 'A' sound.</p>
5. Introducing the name of the letter	The letter is called 'A'.

*Look at my Mouth* is also a great way to identify speech difficulties so they can be helped at the earliest stages.

Speech difficulties	Teacher
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Comparing beginning sounds by comparing pages	(This can be used for 'S' and 'Th'. Other comparisons: 'Th' and 'F'; 'W' and 'R'; 'A' and 'U'.) Look in the mirror and say the word. What is the first thing you do with your mouth when you say 'snake'? What is the first thing you do with your mouth when you say 'thumb'? What is the difference?
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### Mirrors: A Preschool Program and Theme

Building a theme in your classroom around *Look at my Mouth* involves children exploring and experiencing mirrors in everyday life. Here is a list of activities that I am sure you will be able to continue!

Subject	Focus	Activity
ENGLISH: Literacy/sound work	Non-fiction/Picture book: <i>Look at my Mouth</i> by Anna Gill	Read and experience <i>Look at my Mouth</i> .
ENGLISH: Listening and reading	Fiction/Fairytale: <i>Snow White</i>	Read <i>Snow White</i> . Role play the wicked Queen looking in the mirror, saying 'Mirror mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?'
ENGLISH: Speaking	Role play activities: Using mirrors	Use a mirror: To apply make-up. After face-paint has been applied. In the bathroom after you have washed your face. To brush your hair. To dress yourself.
HUMAN SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT	Discuss mirrors in your local area and the question: Why do we need mirrors? (E.g.: funny	Read picture books to see mirrors in different places. Children can collect photos of

	mirrors at event parks; hairdressers; clothes shops; dentists; ballet studios.)	mirrors in their local area.
ART: Photography	What can you see in the mirror?	Children take photos of themselves standing in front of a mirror.
ART: Drawing	What do I look like?	Children can look in the mirror and draw themselves.
ART: Craft		Make a wood or plaster frame for a mirror.

### **About the author**

Anna Gill is a Sydney based linguistics teacher who has taught speech development and literacy at several NSW primary schools. Her specialist area is pre-reading and early intervention with speech and reading difficulties. This is her first book.