Early Reading Skills in Nursery

Early Reading Skill	Activity/Prompt
Listening carefully to stories read to them and being able to talk about them	- Read lots of stories to your child every day - Go to the library with your child and choose new picture books - Talk about what is happening in the pictures - Relate the story to your child's life eg 'You've got a teddy bear like the little boy in the story' 'What do you like to eat for your breakfast?' 'Do you remember when we got wet in the rain' - Play with your child to encourage them to concentrate for longer periods and develop their language skills - Help your child make simple puzzles
Joining in with repeated words and phrases	Read favourite stories and rhymes many times and encourage your child to join in with repeated words and phrases
Recognising and enjoying rhymes Know by heart some nursery rhymes	- Ask your child 'Listen for the words that sound the same' - Pause and wait for your child to say the rhyming word in familiar rhymes
Make predictions from illustrations	Encourage your child to talk about what is happening in the picture and wonder what will happen next Ask your child: 'What is happening in the picture?' 'I wonder what is going to happen to…' 'Let's see what happens'
Understand simple terms such as – book, right way up, front cover, upside down, picture, print	Use this language yourself when you are reading to your child eg 'Let's look at the front cover' 'This is the title of the book' 'This book is upside down, let me turn it the right way up'
Understand that the left page comes before the right page	Ask your child: 'What page shall I read first '
Understand the concepts of first and last	When you are playing with your child help them to line up their toys. Ask them: 'Which car is first/last' 'Let's put the dinosaur at the front of the line' 'I think the red car should go last'