Baby’s come early booklet

'Baby's come early' was written and illustrated by Julie and John O'Sullivan after having their premature baby, George. He was looked after by the team at Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea neonatal ward; the book is George's way of helping young children who suddenly find they have a baby sibling in a neonatal unit understand what is happening, and why.
Baby was inside mummy’s tummy.

Now, baby is outside mummy’s tummy and in the hospital.
Baby was born early.
So early, there wasn't even time
to get the cot ready.
But baby doesn’t need to be inside mummy’s tummy to grow.
Because babies can get BIGGER and stronger outside mummy's tummy by being looked after in hospital.
All around the world, some baby animals live outside their mummy’s tummy before they are born.
Baby kangaroos grow outside their mummy's tummy.
The tiny baby joey eats and sleeps in a lovely, warm, snuggly pouch for months before he is fully grown.
Baby hens grow outside their mummy’s tummy.
Their mummy sits on her eggs day and night.
Her baby grows fluffy and chirpy inside.
Baby caterpillars grow outside their mummy’s tummy.

Yawn!
The little caterpillar sleeps in his cocoon until he is born a beautiful butterfly.
This baby born early has a nurse who watches over him day and night.
The nurse is as fussy and as clucky as a mother hen.
This baby gets lovely cuddles from her parents when they visit her in hospital.
Her skin feels warm against her daddy's chest. It's as snuggly as when you get cuddled.
And feels as warm and as safe as a kangaroo’s pouch.
Some babies in hospital sleep in a pretty cot that’s as safe as a caterpillar’s cocoon.
This baby sleeps here. He eats here. He sees his family too.
Soon, your baby brother or sister will be bigger.
You'll be able to talk about their home outside mummy's tummy.
It's as snuggly as a kangaroo's pouch.
As safe as being with a mother hen.
And as cosy as a caterpillar's cocoon.
Draw a picture of you for mummy or daddy to take to baby in hospital.
Why not put a photo of your baby brother or sister here?
This book was created by the parents and staff at Queen Charlotte’s & Chelsea Hospital and with the help and support of the Winnicott Foundation.