Critical Thinking Exercise

Case Study #1

A 4yo child is admitted to the pediatric unit. The parents report a 4 day history of a cold with a barking cough, inspiratory stridor, sore throat, rhinorrhea and decreased appetite. The parents state the child is more sleep than usual but taking fluids and voiding well. The child is sitting in his mom's lap crying and holding onto mom. This is the first hospital admission for the child.

Based on the history, what areas would you include as part of your assessment??

VS are as follows:
T= 100.4 axillary P= 116 RR= 42 br/min BP=98/64

The child is restless. Breath sounds are decreased with rhonci and crackles. Suprasternal retractions are present. There is no drooling or dysphagia noted. Immunizations are up to date.

Based on the initial assessment what priority nursing interventions would be appropriate at this time?

What lab tests are likely to be ordered for this child?

Throat and sputum culture are negative. WBCs are slightly elevated. CXR is clear with no atelectasis.

At this point based of your assessment what illness do suspect?

Identify five Nursing Diagnoses that would priority to include in a plan of care for this patient:

What nursing interventions would be most appropriate based on this patient’s diagnosis and Assessment?

After several days the child’s condition improves and he is being discharged home. What key points should be included in your D/C teaching?