

Conquering Figurative Language

Dear Parents,

Figurative language is a challenge for most children, but especially for children with hearing loss. The next page has an activity that will help your child master figurative language while having fun with you! First, review the definitions and examples of figurative language below:

- Alliteration: the repetition of the initial consonants in a string of words
 - o Ex. the blue-eyed bouncing baby boy
- Hyperbole: an exaggeration to make a point
 - o Ex. he was so little, he could have used a thimble for a hat
- Imagery: rich language that involves the senses
 - o Ex. the scent of roses danced in the breeze
- Metaphor: an inexplicit comparison
 - o Ex. she was a rose among thorns
- Onomatopoeia: words that sound like their meaning
 - o Ex. the sleet pinged on the windows
- Personification: when human traits are given to non-human things
 - o Ex. the dog smiled when he saw the steak
- Simile: a comparison of two things, using "like" or "as"
 - o Ex. the train was as fast as a bullet

Read each nursery rhyme together. First, identify which type of figurative language can be found in each one. Second, choose a type of figurative language and make up your own nursery rhyme to illustrate that type.

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow,
And everywhere that Mary went,
The lamb was sure to go.

He followed her to school one day,
That was against the rule,
It made the children laugh and play,
To see a lamb at school.

Type of Figurative Language: _____



Baa, Baa Black Sheep

Mary had a little lamb,
Baa, baa, black sheep,
Have you any wool?
Yes sir, yes sir,
Three bags full.

One for the master,
One for the dame,
And one for the little boy,
Who lives down the lane.

Type of Figurative Language: _____



Little Suzy

Little Suzy sat by the seashore, sifting
sand and searching for seashells.
Suddenly little Suzy started to shriek,
"There are no shells here, only scads
of soot!"

Type of Figurative Language: _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE YOU WILL USE IN YOUR OWN NURSERY RHYME _____

YOUR NURSERY RHYME: