# Punctuation

## What is my child expected to know and be able to do each year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>First Grade</th>
<th>Second Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Recognize and name end punctuation. | • All kindergarten expectations plus:  
  • Use end punctuation for sentences.  
  • Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series. | • All kindergarten and first grade expectations plus:  
  • Use commas in greetings and closings of letters.  
  • Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives. (e.g., Sarah’s notebook and the two boys’ lunches) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third Grade</th>
<th>Fourth Grade</th>
<th>Fifth Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • All kindergarten- second grade expectations plus:  
  • Use commas in addresses. (e.g., My new address will be 47 North Street, Adams, New York 54321.)  
  • Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue. (e.g., “Let’s go,” she said.) | • All kindergarten- third grade expectations plus:  
  • Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.  
  • Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence. (e.g., I like to swim, and I am going to the pool today.) | • All kindergarten- fourth grade expectations plus:  
  • Use punctuation to separate items in a series. (e.g., the ball, bat, and glove)  
  • Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence. (e.g., After staying up all night, he was very tired.)  
  • Use a comma to set off the words yes and no (e.g., Yes, thank you), to set off a tag question from the rest of the sentence (e.g., It’s true, isn’t it?), and to indicate direct address (e.g., Is that you, Steve?).  
  • Use underlining, quotation marks, or |

Expectations are taken from the [Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards](#) May 2015