

Age- and Stage-Appropriate Conventions Chart

By the end of the school year, most children will . . .

	KINDERGARTEN	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADES 3–4
Capitalize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First word in a sentence ● First letter in a name ● The word <i>I</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Months (may in Grade 1) ● Days of the week (may in Grade 1) ● Greeting and closing of a letter ● Product names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Official titles of people ● Holidays ● Geographical names and places ● Historical periods and events ● Book titles ● Languages and nationalities
Punctuate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Period at the end of a sentence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● End punctuation (period, question mark, exclamation point) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apostrophes in contractions ● Commas in a series ● Comma in a date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apostrophes in possessives ● Commas in compound sentences ● Quotation marks in dialogue
Spell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use letters matching the beginning and ending sounds of a word; spell CVC words and some high-frequency words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most one-syllable words with short or long vowel patterns ● More high-frequency words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most two-syllable words with regular short or long vowel patterns ● Many high-frequency words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many three-syllable words with regular short or long vowel patterns ● Some words with irregular vowels

(Continued)

(Continued)

	KINDERGARTEN	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADES 3–4
Use Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Speak in sentences that include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions● (<i>The little boy climbed up a tree.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Write sentences with subject-verb agreement● Use past and present verb tense● Write sentences that include adverbs, too (<i>My dog barks loudly at the vacuum cleaner.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use future verb tense● Write sentences with compound subjects and predicates (<i>Buzzing bees and colorful hummingbirds are in my garden.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Join sentences to create compound or complex sentences (<i>She is my best friend, but sometimes she invites other kids over to play at her house.</i>)
Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Put spaces between words● Hold pencil correctly● Write letters from top to bottom and left to right● (May mix upper and lower-case letters at times)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Print upper- and lower-case letters correctly using mid-line paper● Write legibly so others can read it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Form upper- and lower-case letters in cursive using mid-line paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Legible writing with spaces between words and lines● Starts to indent to show paragraphs