Mini Lesson: Punctuation

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**Title:**  Pasta Punctuation

**Grade level:** 3rd-4th

**Subject:** Language Arts

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is to teach students how to use punctuation correctly when writing and speaking (commas and quotation marks).

**Goals/Objectives:** As a result of these activities, students will:

demonstrate correct usage of quotation marks, commas and periods when writing dialogue. They will also be able to write sentences that show character traits.

**Resources/materials:**

Sentence strips  
Pencils, markers  
Glue  
Elbow macaroni

**Procedures:**

After the students have learned about character traits, have them write a statement on a sentence strip that tells a trait about them.  
  
*Example: David is friendly.*  
  
Next, the children will write a quote on another sentence strip that tells something David might say that shows he is friendly.  
  
*For example: David said, "Come and sit with me." --* This quote shows the trait of friendliness.  
  
Direct the students to place the commas and quotes in the correct places. After they write the sentence in pencil and the teacher checks it, the students will glue elbow macaroni where the comma and quotes are.

**Extension:**

The teacher can also make various sentence strips with quotes from a book/story being read during class without including the comma or quotes. The children will then be asked to glue macaroni on the correct places to show commas and quotes.

**Accommodations and modifications:**  Students that require extra help with this activity will be able to work in a small group with the classroom teacher while other students are working independently. Allow students to verbally answer questions on activity sheet versus writing the answer to the question.

**ESOL Strategies:** N/A.

**Assessment:**

The teacher will assess students understanding of the material through the activities given. The teacher will make sure that students have a full understanding of the lesson. If the teacher sees that students are not grasping the concepts of the lesson, re-teaching will be necessary.