

# PRAYING MANTIS

## Observation and Release

KinderBeginnings.com  
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### INTRODUCTION

Q&L's family found a praying mantis at their home and brought it to school so that we could observe it for the day.

Q: "Daddy found it on the wall of the garage, and he just really quick put the container over it and waited for it to crawl up."



### THE CHILDREN'S OBSERVATIONS

Although none of the children wanted to hold the praying mantis, they were all interested in watching it and noticed many different things.

L: "BIG bug!"

Q: "Aaah! He's a great climber."

A: "He doesn't have any nose."

V: "Why you can't see him eyes? They so tiny!"

L: "Getting out!"

A: "There's tiny little claws on him."

V: "Him's so tiny!"

MS: Look at its two antennae. See them moving? What do you think it is doing with those?

A: "Probably he's smelling something. Yeah, that's what antennas do."

A: "He's looking at you! He's staring at you!"

V: "Yeah! Them can go EEEEEEE!" (moves her head slowly from one side to the other)

### INQUIRY & RESEARCH

The children asked questions about the praying mantis, so we looked up the answers.

*What do praying mantises eat?*

Mantises are carnivorous. In the wild, they will eat almost anything small enough to catch. While they mostly eat insects, they are also capable of eating small animals such as frogs, newts, and even hummingbirds.

*Can they fly?*

Adults are winged, and males can fly surprisingly well. An individual reaches adulthood in approximately four months, and molts roughly seven times.

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*"When asked to envision the stereotypical praying mantis, many Americans conjure up the image of *Tenodera sinensis*, known also as the Chinese mantis. Impressive size coupled with commonness—at least in the eastern half of the US—have influenced this standing. Yet for a child, common doesn't necessarily equate to run of the mill, and such insects are prized for their otherworldly appearance, fascinating behavior, and endearing mannerisms." -<http://mantidforum.net>*



### STANDARDS MET

- Ask questions about objects and events in the environment.
- Make careful observations.
- Use language to seek new information.
- Understand and use interrogatives. (ie: who, what, when, where, why, how)