

ELINOR'S TOWN

EP 109 Look What I Can Do!
(formerly: Different Kinds of Plants)
By: Dave Dias

Elinor's Question: What am I good at doing?

Logline: While exploring playing soccer, when Elinor sees her classmates excel at different skills, and sees animals in nature excelling at different actions, she discovers an ability of her own that she's great that can help her play the game.

Curriculum Goals:

LS8. - Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different. (Elinor notices that all her friends have different soccer abilities, in the same way that animals with their own different attributes, all excel at different things.

SEP7. Engaging in argument from evidence: a. Engage in discussions before, during, and after investigations. b. Support thinking and argue ideas with evidence. (Elinor discusses her observations with Ms. Mole and through the song she comes to the conclusions that everyone is good at something.)

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FIRST DRAFT: January 21, 2019

TITLE CARD: Look What I Can Do!

1 MS. MOLE 1
All right class, who's ready to
play soccer?

3 MS. MOLE 3

Soccer is a wonderful game where
you play with a ball in all kinds
of different ways.

(she demos)

You can run with it, kick it, or
bounce it off your body, but the
only thing you CAN'T do is use your
hands, unless you're the goalie.

4 ELINOR 4

The goalie's the player who tries
to stop the ball from going in the
net, right Ms. Mole?

5 MS. MOLE 5
That's right, Elinor. (to all) The
goalie can use their hands,
everyone else has to use other body
parts - like FEET!

--and returns to Ms. Mole as if that was her intention.

The kids are wowed.

6 KIDS 6
Whooooaaaa...

7 ARI 7
(aside, to Hazel)
Ms. Mole is a soccer star? Who
knew?!

Ms. Mole strolls up to the various balls she poured out of the bag, and one by one she gently kick-passes the balls around to the various kids.

8 MS. MOLE 8
But the most important thing is to
just have fun and do your best.
Everyone is good at something!

When Ari gets his pass from Ms. Mole, he does a quick swoop through the air and instinctively grabs the ball with his hands before landing back on the grass.

9 MS. MOLE 9
Remember, Ari. No hands.

Ari looks at the ball in his hands. Shocked to realize that he's holding it, he drops it like a hot potato!

10 ARI 10
Ahh! How did that get there? Sorry!

Hazel and Elinor start VERY GENTLY kick-rolling the ball to each other.

11 ELINOR 11
Here ya go Hazel!

12 HAZEL 12
Right back 'atcha, Elinor.

13 ELINOR 13
Ari?

Elinor passes the ball to Ari.

14 ARI 14
Oh, yeah, watch THIS move!

He winds up to kick the ball and connects, slipping at the same moment, causing him to do a little backflip.

15 ARI 15
Whoa!

ON: the ball careening into a nearby CLUSTER OF TREES AND PLANTS behind a SIDELINE BENCH MADE OF LOGS. A few startled BIRDS fly out of the bush.

BACK ON: Hazel is helping Ari up.

16 HAZEL 16
 <giggles> Maybe not *that* move.

17 ARI 17
 Thanks, Hazel.

Elinor races off to recover the ball.

18 ELINOR 18
 I'll get it!

She runs toward the bench and hops over it, but stops before she continues, looking into the forest, unsure.

19 ELINOR 19
 Hmmm, which way did it go?

A BULLFROG makes a big HOP onto the bench, surprising her.

20 ELINOR 20
 Oh!

The frog <CROAKS LOUDLY!> Elinor kneels down to face it.

21 ELINOR 21
 Hello there, bullfrog. Did you see
 where our ball went to?

The frog hops in place on the bench, turning itself around to face the way Elinor was going, but at a slight angle. Elinor looks back into the forest, facing the same way the frog is.

HER POV - we catch a glimpse of the soccer ball within some bushes not too far off.

BACK ON ELINOR - beaming.

22 ELINOR 22
 Ah, there it is! (to frog) Thanks
 for your help. And have a 'hoppy'
 day! <giggle>

Elinor races off toward the foliage.

2. EXT. FOREST BORDERING SOCCER FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Elinor runs up to the ball's location, lodged in the bushes. She goes to pick up the ball -- then freezes in mid-reach.

23 ELINOR 23
Wait. Only goalies are supposed to
touch the ball... (realizing) ON
the field -- I'm off the field!

Smiling, she picks it up. Suddenly: <WHOOSH!> A blur flies by her.

24 Huh? ELINOR 24

She stops. The blur hovers in a couple of mid-air places before her, stopping long enough to reveal:

CLOSER - it's a HUMMINGBIRD!

25 ELINOR 25
A hummingbird! You're soooo tiny,
and you have such a pointy little
beak.

WIDER - the hummingbird zips over to some DAFFODILS nearby.

CLOSER ON THE FLOWERS - the HUMMINGBIRD arrives, sticks its long beak into it, and feeds on the nectar.

Elinor kneels down to take a closer look at the tiny bird.

26 ELINOR 26
Enjoy your nectar. When you're
done, you can come watch us play
soccer if you want. Bye!

She exits, heading back to the field.

3. EXT. SOCCER FIELD BORDERING FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Ms. Mole has moved a bunch of the soccer balls into a bunch at mid-field. The other kids are gathered nearby, ready for her next instruction.

27 MS. MOLE 27
Okay, who's ready to practice?

28 KIDS 28
I am!/Me!/I'm ready!/etc.

Elinor, arriving at the sideline, drop-rolls the retrieved ball over to Ms. Mole, then raises hand up, excitedly.

29 Me too! ELINOR 29

30 MS. MOLE 30
Splendid! Now, soccer's all about
moving fast, so first, let's do
some running...

The kids line up.

31 MS. MOLE 31
Ready?... Go!

The kids start racing across the field, full sprint.

Elinor, Hazel and Ari run as fast as they can -- but to their surprise, Silas Cheetah blows past them (he's really fast!). The trio are amazed.

32 ELINOR/HAZEL/ARI 32
WOW!

At the NET at the other end of the field, Silas arrives first, followed a long beat after by the other classmates, then Elinor, Hazel, and Ari. Ari looks winded but tries not to show it.

33 ELINOR 33
Silas! You're really fast!

34 SILAS 34
Thanks, Elinor!

35 ARI 35
(panting)
Whoo! I love running! I run all the
time. When I'm not flying.

36 HAZEL 36
Which is most of the time.

37 MS. MOLE 37
(calling)
Okay! Come on back!

The kids start racing back, Ari bringing up the rear. Finally, he stops, shrugs, and flies instead.

WIPE TO:

4. EXT. SOCCER FIELD BORDERING FOREST - DRILLS MONTAGE

Ms. Mole has the kids gathered around her. The soccer balls are spaced in intervals along the mid-field line.

38 MS. MOLE 38
Now let's try a few drills that'll
have you moving the ball in
different ways.

SERIES OF SHOTS - Ms. Mole demonstrates actions she wants the kids to try, then one by one, we see various kids try them:

ON A SOCCER BALL - being dribbled forward by a pair of feet...which we reveal are Mrs. Mole's. She's moving the ball along the field, keeping it just ahead of her. She stops, turns back to face the kids, then gestures for them to go.

Elinor dribbles the ball ahead of her with some difficulty. It gets away from her.

Hazel dribbles the ball super slow and cautiously. She smiles -- she's not too bad at this!

Tito Mouse, on his turn, does zig zags along the field with the ball, in a super-agile way.

The other kids look on, impressed.

39 ELINOR/HAZEL 39
Very nice!/Tito's good at that!

It's Ari's turn. He tries to dribble the ball but stumbles, ending up with the ball in his hands again.

40 MS. MOLE 40
(calling good-naturedly)
Arrrrriiii!

Ari smiles sheepishly, puts the ball down, and resumes his awkward dribbling.

WIPE TO:

ON A SOCCER BALL, stationary on the ground. WIDER to see Ms. Mole KICK it, sending the ball OS. She gestures back to the kids for them to go.

Elinor kicks her ball. It goes a moderate distance.

Hazel kicks her ball. It goes farther than Elinor's.

Ari kicks his ball. It goes off at an angle, landing on the BENCH (the bullfrog hops to the other side just in time to avoid the ball), then bounces up and lands just on the other side.

Ari reacts sheepishly to his mistargeted kick.

Sally Beaver steps up to her ball. Instead of kicking it with her foot, she winds up and with a twist of her body, she whacks the ball with her big tail - hard!

The ball goes REALLY far, all the way into the net at the other end!

Elinor, Hazel, and Ari are awed.

41	ELINOR/HAZEL/ARI	41
	Ooooooooooh! Great kick, Sally!	
	/Wow!/That was amazing!	

Sally gives an 'aw shucks' reaction.

WIPE TO:

ON A SOCCER BALL - being BOUNCED lightly on a KNEE. REVEAL that Ms. Mole is now keeping the ball up with her knees.

QUICK SHOTS of Elinor, Ari, and the other kids, all trying to do it. Each one of them struggles amusingly to do it and they all lose their ball quickly.

Hazel meanwhile, is juggling the ball with her trunk -- and she's doing it expertly!

Ari turns to Ms. Mole, skeptically.

42	ARI	42
	Is she allowed to do that?	

43	MS. MOLE	43
	You can use anything except your hands, Ari! So: yes, Hazel can use her nose! (calling out) Well done, Hazel!	

Hazel beams as she keeps juggling the ball with her trunk.

44	HAZEL	44
	Thanks, Ms. Mole! Who knew I'd have a 'nose' for soccer!	

ANGLE ON: Ari and Hazel watch their friends with admiration.

45	ARI	45
	(to Elinor)	
	Look's like Hazel's found what she's good at.	

46	HAZEL	46
	She sure has, Go HAZEL!	

Hazel happily waves. Ari and Elinor walk off the field as they talk.

47 ARI 47
What about you, Elinor?

48 HAZEL 48
I still haven't found my "thing"
yet, how about you?

49	ARI	49
	Nope, not yet. <iiiiigh>	

ON THE BENCH - no bullfrog on it right now. Elinor and Ari both take a seat, looking a little sad. (Not super sad, just a little deflated by Elinor and Ari standards).

Ms. Mole sees them from the field and comes over to them.

50 MS. MOLE 50
What's the matter, soccer stars?

51 ELINOR 51
 <sigh> We're really excited about
 playing, Ms. Mole...

52 ARI 52
We're just not sure what we're good
at.

QUICK CUTAWAYS of the other kids doing what we've seen them do well up to this point, as Elinor mentions them:

SILAS - continuing to run super-fast, around other classmates on the field.

53 ELINOR (O.S.) 53
Silas is a really good runner.

TITO - dribbling the ball dynamically across the grass.

54 ARI (O.S.) 54
Tito can really dribble that
ball...

SALLY - kicking a ball with her tail and sending it flying.

55 ELINOR (O.S.) 55
No one can tail-kick the ball like
Sally...

HAZEL - bouncing the ball above her head with her trunk.

ARI (O.S.)
And there's no way we can bop the
ball on our trunks like Hazel.

BACK ON THE BENCH - Elinor and Ari continue facing Ms. Mole.

57 ELINOR 57
Because we don't HAVE trunks.

[illegible]

Ms. Mole takes it all in.

59 MS. MOLE 59
 Hmm, I see...

She thinks about it for a second, then has an idea.

60 MS. MOLE 60
Well, no one in class is a faster
runner than Silas, that's true. But
why do you think that is?

CLOSER ON SILAS as he continues to run. PUSH IN on his legs as he charges along.

61 ELINOR (O.S.) 61
Well... he's a cheetah. Cheetahs
are the fastest land animals in the
world!

62 MS. MOLE (O.S.) 62
Yes! Cheetahs have strong legs that
help them go VERY fast.

BACK ON THE BENCH - Ms. Mole points to a different OS area of the soccer field.

63 MS. MOLE 63

And when it comes to kicking, what makes Sally so good at it?

CLOSER ON SALLY - lining up a couple of soccer balls, which she then proceeds to kick one after the other with her tail.

64 ARI (O.S.) 64
She's using her tail!

65 MS. MOLE (O.S.) 65
That she is. And what do beavers
usually use their tails for?

66 ELINOR (O.S.) 66
Swimming. Beavers are great
swimmers.

67 ARI (O.S.) 67
Maybe that's why Sally's tail is so
strong!

BACK AT THE BENCH - both Elinor and Ari are starting to come
out of their funk now. Elinor's curiosity is awakened.

68 ELINOR (O.S.) 68
And flat! That helps too, I bet!

69 MS. MOLE 69
That's true, Elinor! Aren't animal
bodies wonderful? We're all so
different. So unique!

70 ELINOR 70
That's soooo interesting.

Elinor jumps to her feet!

71 ELINOR 71
We need MORE observations!

At that moment the hummingbird zooms past Elinor and Ari.

72 ARI 72
Hey, a hummingbird!

73 ELINOR 73
Hello again!
(to Ari and Ms. Mole)
I saw her in the forest - she was
drinking nectar from a flower.

74 MS. MOLE 74
How did she do that?

75 ELINOR 75
Hmmm, I wonder...

Elinor starts mimicking a hummingbird as she 'flies' around
the bench.

76 ELINOR 76
First of all she's so small she
zipped right up close to the flower
and then used her long beak to
drink.

Elinor stops 'flying', her face filled with realization. A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears, replaying the image of the hummingbird inserting its long beak into the daffodil.

77 ELINOR (REALIZING) 77
...her long thin beak! That's why
hummingbirds are so good at
drinking nectar. Their long thin
beaks help them reach it!

The thought bubble vanishes. Elinor turns to Ms. Mole, bursting with enthusiasm.

78 ELINOR 78

That is SO INTERESTING! Different animals have different bodies, and their bodies let them do different things that help them be good at stuff!

Ari watches the hummingbird buzz around him in a blur, awed.

[illegible]

Elinor runs from the bench onto the field, followed by Ari and Ms. Mole.

5. EXT. SOCCER FIELD BORDERING FOREST - SONG SEQUENCE - CONT.

SERIES OF SHOTS - While they sing, they race onto the field to observe the kids doing soccer drills, with an emphasis on seeing what each of their bodies allow them to do well. In addition to Silas and Sally, we focus on Tito's nimble dribbling and Hazel's deft ball-handling with her trunk.

80 ELINOR (SINGING) 80
Some birds' beaks are really long,
And some kids are really quick!

81 ARI (SINGING) 81
Some animals are really small,
And some kids can really kick!

82 ELINOR/ARI (SINGING) 82
Ring-a-ding-ding it's great to sing
of Different Things and what they
bring!

83 ELINOR (SINGING) 83
There's lots of room for all!

84 ARI (SINGING) 84
Whether you're tall or small!

85 ELINOR/ARI (SINGING) 85
Ring-a-ding-ding it's great to sing
of Different Things and what they
bring!
There's always room for you!
No matter what you can do!

At the end, they grab the ball and are excited to go play again.

86 ARI 86
I'm a bat and you're a rabbit. What
can our bodies do that'll help us
play soccer, Elinor?

87 ELINOR 87
Let's play and find out!

6. EXT. SOCCER FIELD BORDERING FOREST - GAME SEQUENCE - DAY

Ms. Mole divides the class into two teams of four, and with a <WHISTLE>, the game playing begins.

Silas Cheetah runs really fast to get the ball.

Sally Beaver gives the ball a big tail kick.

Tito does some amazing dribbling.

All the while, Elinor and Ari and Hazel are enjoying themselves running around going after the ball and occasionally kicking it. Hazel gets the ball and starts bopping the ball on her trunk again.

88 HAZEL 88
<giggles> I LOVE soccer!

[illegible]

OS <RIBBIT!> The sound prompts Elinor to glance over at--

THE BENCH - where the bullfrog makes another big, dynamic leap up onto the bench.

ELINOR - amused.

90 ELINOR 90
Another great hop!

Then: an inspired look appears on her face. She smiles...

Hazel bops the ball with her trunk, up and over most kids.

Elinor sees it go up -- and takes a biiiiiig HOP, getting to the ball, and bouncing it back with her ears.

When she lands, her friends all cheer!

91	HAZEL	91
	Elinor! You're really good at hopping!	

Filled with realization, Elinor beams.

92	ELINOR	92
	Thanks!	

At that second Tito Mouse KICKS a ball

93	ELINOR	93
	Whooooa...	

ANGLE ON: it flies through the air towards the goal near where Sally Beaver is playing (she doesn't see it coming).

94	ELINOR	94
	Uh-oh....	

Suddenly, Ari swoops over there to deftly stop the ball with an extended bat wing.

95	SALLY	95
	Whew! Thanks Ari!	

96	ARI	96
	You're welcome Sally	
	(realizing he has the ball)	
	Ahh! Not again!	

He drops it right away.

97	ARI	97
	Hands!! Leave that ball alone!	

Elinor HOPS right over.

98	ELINOR	98
	Wait a minute, Ari! Ms. Mole says it's okay to touch the ball if you're the goal, right? Well, look!	

Elinor gestures WIDEN TO REVEAL: Ari is standing right in front of the net.

99 ELINOR 99

 You're so good at catching the ball
 with your hands, AND you can fly up
 into the air to do it! Ari! You can
 be our goalie!

Ms. Mole joins.

100 MS. MOLE 100
Great idea, Elinor! Goalies can use
their hands -- AND their wings!

Now it's Ari's turn to beam.

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101          ARI                      101
      Yusss! Game ON!!
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QUICK SHOTS of the various kids continuing to play, doing the actions we've seen them excel at throughout the episode. As they play, Elinor sings the--

SONG REPRISE:

102	ELINOR (SINGING)	102
	Ring-a-ding-ding it's great to sing	
	of Different Things and what they	
	bring!	
	There's always room for you!	
	No matter what you can do!	

SONG ENDS.

Ms. Mole ends the soccer practice with a <WHISTLE BLOW!>

103 MS. MOLE 103
Now who wants some lemonade?

104 ELINOR/HAZEL/ARI/SALLY/SILAS 104
Yayyyyyyy!

As the kids race off the field, the soccer ball rolls in from OS to Ms. Mole -- who does an impressive sequence of ball maneuvers and kicks, winking at the camera as we...

IRIS OUT.