

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: After Elinor observes her classmates excel at different soccer skills she discovers her own ability - and Ari's too!

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 that are related to their bodies.

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.)

OUTLINE: January 7, 2019
FIRST DRAFT: January 24, 2019

1. EXT. SOCCER FIELD BORDERING FOREST - DAY

TITLE CARD: Look What I Can Do!

MS. MOLE, who's carrying a NET BAG FULL OF SOCCER BALLS over one shoulder, and an individual SOCCER BALL in her free hand, leads ELINOR and her CLASSMATES - OLIVE (holding a BOOK), ARI (holding a SOCCER BALL), SALLY BEAVER, SILAS CHEETAH, TITO MOUSE, and the GOAT TWINS - out into a FIELD near the school. * *

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

2 ALL KIDS 2
Me!/I am!/Let's go!/Yeah!/etc.

Ms. Mole drops the ball in her hand and kicks it out towards the field - quite far! Some of the kids race after it as a group. Elinor, Olive and Ari hang back. * * *

3 ELINOR 3 *
I can't wait to start playing! *

4 ARI 4 *
Yeah! Me too, Elinor! I bet I'm *
going to be a super sensational *
soccer star! *

Ari tosses the ball up and attempts a fancy footwork dance, but ends up tripping on the ball when it falls back down. * *

5 ARI 5 *
Oof! Ok, maybe I should learn to *
play first. *

6 ELINOR 6 *
Oh, Ari. What are you reading, *
Olive? *

7 OLIVE 7 *
It's the rule book. It tells you *
all the things you can and can't do *
when you play soccer. *
(pause) *
Reading about the rules is my *
favorite part of ANY game. *

8 ELINOR 8 *
Well, as a rule, I'm excited about *
playing outside. Let's go! *

Elinor runs up to catch up with Ms. Mole and the other kids follow. We're now at the field, which is a clearing in the * *

forest near some trees. The kids gather around Ms. Mole. Ms. Mole empties the bag of balls out onto an area of grass beside her. *

9 MS. MOLE 9 *

Ok, kids! 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.

Elinor looks on excitedly. Olive looks up from her book and points at the nearest NET. *

10 OLIVE 10 *

The goalie's the one who tries to stop the ball from going in the goal, right Ms. Mole? *

11 MS. MOLE 11 *

That's right, Olive. I see you found my rule book! (to all) The goalie can use their hands, but everyone else has to use the other parts of their body - like their FEET! *

Ms. Mole walks up to a nearby ball and does some super duper fancy footwork with it. Then Ms. Mole kicks the ball! *

It flies over the surprised kids's heads--

--bounces off a nearby tree- *

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

The kids are wowed.

12 KIDS 12

Whooooaaaa...

13 ARI 13 *

(aside, to Olive)
That was... AMAZING! *

Ms. Mole strolls up to the various balls she poured out of the bag. *

14 MS. MOLE 14

But the most important thing is to just have fun and do your best.
(MORE)

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)

Remember, everyone is good at
different things!

*
*

One by one, Ms. Mole gently kick-passes the balls around to the various kids, who run up and start playing with the balls. She then passes one to Ari.

*
*
*

15 ARI
Ooh!

15 *
 *

Excited, Ari does a quick swoop through the air and instinctively grabs the ball with his hands before landing back on the grass.

*

16 MS. MOLE
Ah-ah...! Remember, Ari. No hands.

16 *
 *

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

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

17

Ms. Mole passes the last ball to Elinor, and she gleefully goes after it. Olive and Elinor start VERY GENTLY kick-rolling the ball to each other.

*
*

18 ELINOR
Here ya go Olive!

18 *
 *

19 OLIVE
Right back 'atcha, Elinor.

19 *

20 ELINOR
Ari?

20

Elinor passes the ball to Ari.

21 ARI
Ok, watch THIS move!

21 *
 *

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

22 ARI
Whoa!

22

Olive helps Ari up.

*

23 OLIVE
<giggles> Maybe not *that* move.

23 *

24 ARI
Thanks, Olive.

24 *
 *

Elinor bops the ball over to them again and they continue playing. *

At that moment, Ms. Mole calls them in. 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. *

25 MS. MOLE 25
Okay, who's ready to practice? *

26 KIDS 26
I am!/Me!/I'm ready!/etc.

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

27 ELINOR 27
Me too!

28 ARI 28 *
And me! *

29 MS. MOLE 29
Splendid! Now, soccer is all about
moving fast, so first, let's do
some running... *

The kids line up.

30 MS. MOLE 30
Ready?... Go!

The kids start racing across the field, full sprint.

Elinor, Olive (still holding the book) and Ari run as fast as they can, and are having fun running -- but to their surprise, Silas Cheetah blows past them (he's really fast!). The trio are amazed. *

31 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 31 *
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, Olive, and Ari. Ari looks winded but tries not to show it. *

32 ELINOR 32
Silas! You're really fast!

33 SILAS 33
Thanks, Elinor!

34	ARI	34	
	(panting)		
	Whoo! That was a lot of running! I		*
	usually fly when I'm in a hurry.		*
35	OLIVE	35	*
	(consulting the rule book)		*
	Hmm, there's nothing in the rules		*
	that say you can't fly, Ari.		*
Ari perks up.			*
36	MS. MOLE	36	
	(calling)		
	Okay! Come on back!		

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

WIPE TO:

2. 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.

37	MS. MOLE	37	
	Now let's practice playing with 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 passes the ball back to them. *
*
*

Elinor dribbles the ball ahead of her with some difficulty, then tries to pass the ball to Olive, but she doesn't kick it quite right and it goes way to the side. *
*
*

Mary, one of the goat twins, stops the ball. She does a little fancy footwork, then turns her body away from Elinor and Olive. She looks back and uses her hind legs to kick the ball up perfectly. The ball does a graceful arc and lands and rolls exactly where Elinor is. Elinor and Olive are super impressed. *
*
*
*
*
*

38	ELINOR/OLIVE	38	*
	Wow!/Mary and Liv are really good		*
	at that!		

They look on and see the twins expertly pass the ball back and forth using their hind legs. *

It's Ari's turn. He tries to dribble the ball but stumbles. *

39 ARI 39 *
 Whoa, whoa! *

He trips and ends up with the ball in his hands again. *

40 MS. MOLE 40
 (calling good-naturedly)
 Arrrrriiii! Remember, no hands! *

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

WIPE TO:

ON A SOCCER BALL, stationary on the ground. *

41 MS. MOLE 41 *
 Now let's see how far you can kick
 the ball! *

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.

Olive kicks her ball. It goes farther than Elinor's. *

Ari kicks his ball. It goes off at an angle, nearly missing some of the other kids. *

Ari reacts sheepishly to his mistargeted kick.

42 ARI 42 *
 Sorry! *

Sally Beaver steps up to her ball. She thinks about it for a second. Then she has an idea. 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, Olive, and Ari are awed. *

43 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 43 *
 Ooooooooooh! Great kick, Sally!
 /Wow!/That was amazing!

Sally gives an 'aw shucks' reaction.

Elinor tries again with another ball, but her kick doesn't
send the ball nearly as far. *

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.

ON: 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.

44 ARI 44 *
 Whoa, this is hard! *

Elinor struggles to do it, but keeps trying happily. Olive *
meanwhile, is holding a ball and looking at her leg. She *
bends a knee and realizes this is going to be difficult for *
her. She thinks about it for a second, then has a flash of an *
idea. She consults her book and smiles. *

Back on Elinor trying, she hears some steady ball bouncing *
and looks over to Olive, who is juggling the ball with her *
trunk -- and she's doing it expertly!

Ari looks surprised. *

45 ARI 45 *
 Are you allowed to do that? *

Olive continues bopping the ball up with her trunk while she *
opens a page in the rule book with her hands. *

46 OLIVE 46 *
 You can use anything except your
 hands, Ari! So: yes! *

Olive beams as she keeps juggling the ball with her trunk. *

47 ARI 47 *
 Wow... Who knew Olive had a 'nose'
 for soccer! *

Suddenly, Ari has an idea, too. He looks down at his wings *
and is about to grab the ball with them when... *

48 MS. MOLE 48 *
 Ah-ah, Ari! Wings count as hands! *

49 ARI 49 *
 Aww... *

ANGLE ON: Ari and Elinor watch their friend with admiration. *

50	ELINOR	50	*
	(giggling)		*
Go	OLIVE!		*

(giggling)

Go OLIVE!

Olive happily waves. Elinor continues to try somewhat
unsuccessfully.

Ms. Mole walks over and gathers the kids again. *

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51          MS. MOLE                                51  *
    Ok, let's take a break and then...                *
    we'll play a game!                                *

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Ok, let's take a break and then...

we'll play a game!

52	ALL KIDS	52	*
	Yay!/Whoo hoo!		*

Yay! /Whoo hoo!

Elinor, a little winded from trying to juggle the ball (and not quite succeeding), goes to sit in the log bench, joined by Ari.

53	ARI	53	*
	Phew! Training to be a super		*
	sensational soccer star is hard		*
	work!		*

Phew! Training to be a super
sensational soccer star is hard
work!

sensational soccer star is hard

work!

Elinor looks over at her friends playing and doing really well.

54		ELINOR	54	*
	Yeah...			*

Yeah...

She smiles, but doesn't quite look like her usual perky self. *

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

55 MS. MOLE 55
What's the matter, soccer stars?

What's the matter, soccer stars?

56 ELINOR 56

<sigh> I'm really excited about *

playing, Ms. Mole... but I don't *

know what I'm good at. *

<sigh> I'm really excited about playing, Ms. Mole... but I don't know what I'm good at.

playing, Ms. Mole... but I don't

know what I'm good at.

57	MS. MOLE	57	*
	Hmmm...		*

Hmmm...

Ms. Mole thinks about it for a beat, then seems to have an idea.

58 MS. MOLE 58 *
What do you mean by that, Elinor? *

What do you mean by that, Elinor?

59 ELINOR 59 *
Well... *

QUICK CUTAWAYS of the other kids doing what we've seen them do well up to this point, as Elinor mentions them. As she begins to talk, she perks up, happy to be talking about things she knows and noticed.

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

60	ELINOR (O.S.)	60
	Silas is a really good runner. He's	*
	a cheetah, and cheetahs have extra	*
	long legs that help them run fast.	*

Silas stops and we can see he has slightly longer, runner legs. *

GOAT TWINS - dribbling and passing the ball between them *
across the grass. *

61	ELINOR (O.S.)	61	*
	Mary and Liv are really good at		*
	passing the ball. That's because		*
	goats have really strong legs they		*
	use for climbing and kicking.		*

We see Mary using her hind leg to make a backwards kick. *

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

62	ELINOR (O.S.)	62	
	And Sally is really good at kicking		*
	the ball using her tail. Beavers		*
	have really big tails that help		*
	them swim and slap the water.		*

We see Sally wiggle her tail proudly. *

OLIVE - bouncing the ball above her head with her trunk. *

63	ELINOR (O.S.)	63	*
	And Olive is really good at		*
	bouncing the ball using her trunk.		*
	Elephants have long trunks that		*
	they can move in all kinds of ways		*
	to grab and tap things with.		*

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

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64          ARI
Wow! I hadn't noticed all of that
before.
          (MORE)
64  *
   *
   *
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ARI (CONT'D)

I wish I had a trunk! *

(mimicking a trumpet) Tooot! *

65 ELINOR 65 *

Everyone is good at something, but *

what am I good at, Ms. Mole? *

Elinor shrugs and looks puzzled. Ms. Mole takes it all in. *

66 MS. MOLE 66

Well, Elinor, I think you ARE *

really good at something. *

Elinor perks up. *

67 ELINOR 67 *

Really? *

68 MS. MOLE 68 *

Yes, Elinor! You are really good at *

NOTICING THINGS! Not everyone sees *

all the little things that you do! *

69 ARI 69 *

Yeah, you're a sensational noticing *

super star, Elinor! *

70 ELINOR 70 *

(thinks about it for a *

beat) *

I guess I am... But... is that good *

for soccer? *

71 MS. MOLE 71 *

Of course it is! Playing is also *

about helping others. For example, *

I bet you could tell us what Ari is *

good at in soccer. *

72 ARI 72 *

Oh, I don't think I'm good at it. *

Elinor thinks about it for a beat. *

73 ELINOR 73 *

Well, Ari... your wings are really *

wide. And you can fly up really *

high. And I noticed that you are *

really good at grabbing the ball *

with your hands. *

74 ARI 74 *

Yeah, it's a problem. *

75	ELINOR	75	*
	No, don't you see? I think you'd be		*
	really good at being the goalie!		*
	Goalies can grab the ball with		*
	their hands!		*
76	MS. MOLE	76	*
	And wings!		*
77	ARI	77	*
	Hey, I like that!		*
78	MS. MOLE	78	*
	See, Elinor? Everyone is good at		*
	different things.		*
79	ELINOR	79	*
	That is SO interesting! We need		*
	more observations!		*

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

3. 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 Olive's deft ball-handling with her trunk. *

80	ELINOR (SINGING)	80	
	Some animals are really tall,		*
	And others are really quick!		*
81	ARI (SINGING)	81	
	Some animals are really small,		
	And some can really kick!		*
82	ELINOR/ARI (SINGING)	82	
	Ring-a-ding-ding it's great to sing		
	We're all good at different things!		*
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		
	We're all good at different things!		*
	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 MS. MOLE 86 *
Who's ready to play a game? *

87 ELINOR/ARI 87 *
Me!/Let's go! *

4. 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.

The goat twins do some amazing dribbling and passing. *

All the while, Elinor and Ari and Olive are enjoying themselves running around going after the ball and occasionally kicking it. Olive gets the ball and starts bopping the ball on her trunk again. She's still holding her book. *

88 OLIVE 88 *
<giggles> I LOVE soccer!

89 ELINOR 89
Me too!

At that moment, Mary bops the ball with her leg, 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! *

90 OLIVE 90 *
Elinor! You're really good at hopping! *

Elinor looks down at her rabbit feet. Lifting one up, she beams. *

91 ELINOR 91 *
I guess my rabbit feet are good for hopping! *

92	OLIVE	92	*
	And your ears are good for stopping		*
	the ball, which...		*
	(checking her book) You can do!		*

Elinor and Olive giggle. *

At that second, Tito Mouse makes a run for the goal. He gives the ball a good kick. *

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! *

Ari repeats the fancy footwork dance from the beginning of the episode.

97	ARI	97	*
	Oh yeah! Super Sensational <i>Goalie</i>		*
	Soccer Star!		*

QUICK SHOTS of the various kids continuing to play. As they play, Elinor sings the-- *

SONG REPRISE:

98 ELINOR (SINGING) 98
Ring-a-ding-ding it's great to sing
We're all good at different things! *
There's always room for you!
No matter what you can do!

SONG ENDS.

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

99 MS. MOLE 99
Ok kids, now who wants some *
lemonade?

100 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI/SALLY/SILAS
Yayyyyyyy!

100 *

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.