

# ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 151 Baby Steps  
By Katherine Sandford

**Elinor's Question:** Why can't we teach baby Miri to walk?

**Logline:** Elinor and Ari are taking care of Ari's sister Miri but they start to wonder why she can't walk yet, meanwhile Olive gets frustrated when she can't do her roller-skating trick.

**Curriculum Goals:** LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time:

b. Observe the growth in animals and plants

c. Understand that living things grow and change over time (Elinor and her friend observe baby Miri is just still a baby, but she will grow into a big kid like them)

SEP1. Asking questions (science) and defining problems (engineering)

b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena

c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation (Elinor and Ari observe Miri's behavior and ask why she can't walk),

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

b. Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail

c. Demonstrate an ability to make and test predictions based on background knowledge and experiences (Elinor and Ari contrast their abilities with Miri's and predict that she might not be able to stand)

SEP6. Constructing explanations (science) and Designing Solutions (engineering)

a. Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena (science)

b. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena (science) (Elinor and her friends realize that you need to get bigger and stronger before you learn many skills).

**MAIN CHARACTER:** Elinor, Olive, Ari, Ari's Mom.

**SECONDARY:** Miri, Lola

**LOCATION:** Park, Grassy Nook, Skating Area

**PROPS:** Roller skates, stroller, blanket, book, rattle, ball.

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OLIVE (all suited up with helmet and pads) unsteadily roller-skates past ELINOR and ARI. The three friends are making their way through the park with MRS. BAT and Ari's baby sister MIRI (in a stroller). OLIVE basically step-skates along the path.

10 OLIVE 10  
    (calling back)  
Thanks, Elinor.

Elinor and Ari continue walking beside Ari's Mom and Miri in the stroller as Olive step-skates on ahead.

11                                 ARI'S MOM                                 11  
We could have used Olive's  
protective gear for you when you  
were Miri's age, Ari. You fell down  
all the...

At that moment Ari trips on a twig <SFX: WHOOA>, does a flip in the air and lands on his feet. Miri laughs her head off! <SFX: BABY GIGGLES>

12                                 ARI                                 12  
                              (covering)  
I MEANT to do that!  
                              (to Miri)  
Yeah, I know. I'm the best big  
brother ever...

Ari basks in the <SFX: BABY GIGGLES>. (NOTE: Miri is about 10 months old, a real little rug rat, she does lots of cooing, babbling and has a crazy baby-laugh).

## 2. EXT. GRASSY NOOK - PARK

Ari points to a nice grassy spot.

13                                 ARI                                 13  
How about here, Mom? Miri can crawl  
around all she likes.

14                                 ARI'S MOM                                 14  
Good work, Ari, you know what your  
sister needs.

Mrs. Bat gets the kids settled on a blanket, Miri included (out of her stroller). Meanwhile, Olive sees something interesting in the near distance. <SFX: Ohhh>

ANGLE ON: a flat dirt area (designed to be very compact so the surface is solid).

|    |                                   |    |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|
| 15 | OLIVE                             | 15 |
|    | Look at that nice, flat place.    |    |
|    | Perfect for practicing my roller- |    |
|    | skating...                        |    |

She skates off (it's not far).

16                                 OLIVE (CONT'D)                                 16  
Be back soon!

17 ELINOR 17  
Have fun, Olive!

Meanwhile Mrs. Bat takes out her book and eyes a peaceful nearby park bench.

18                               ARI'S MOM                               18  
You kids feel like entertaining  
Miri while I read my book?

19 ELINOR 19  
Do we EVER.

20                                 ARI                                 20  
                              (to Elinor)  
                              There's nothing more fun than  
                              making Miri laugh - WATCH.

Mom goes off to read (bliss!) while we ANGLE ON: Ari who makes a silly face. Miri laughs with delight <SFX: BABY GIGGLES>

21 ELINOR 21  
Oh yeah, I can beat THAT,  
Hey Miri...  
(covers her face with her  
ears, then peeks out)  
PEEK-A-BOO!

Miri thinks this is hilarious!! <SFX: BIGGER BABY GIGGLES>

22                               ARI                               22

Niiice. But laughing isn't the  
only thing Miri can do - Watch  
this! Miri...

Ari waves at Miri - she waves back. <SFX: BABY COOS>

23 ELINOR 23  
Whu? I didn't know Miri could wave.

24                   ARI                   24  
I taught her, I teach her lots of  
things. Like...

Ari blows a raspberry <SFX: BRRR>, Miri does too <SFX: BRRR>. They all <SFX: LAUGH>

25 ELINOR 25  
(giggling)  
AMAZING! What else can she do?

Ari shakes Miri's rattle like a mariachi dancer <SFX: SHUCK, SHUCKA, SHUKA>, then he gives it to Miri shakes who it like a pro, <SFX: SHUCKA, SHUCKA, SHUKA> laughing <SFX: BABY GIGGLES> all the way.

26 ELINOR (CONT'D) 26  
What a smart baby. Let me try to  
teach her something.  
(to Miri)  
Hey Miri, can you catch the ball?

Elinor sits in front of Miri and rolls her a ball. She stops it, <SFX: COOING> proudly.

27                                ELINOR (CONT'D)                                27  
Way to go Miri!

Then she rolls it back!

28 ELINOR (CONT'D) 28  
WHOO-HOO! Did you see that? She  
rolled it back!

29                                 ARI                                 29  
                             (proudly)  
            Yep, my little sister is GREAT at  
            learning things.

### 3. EXT. SKATING AREA - DAY

Meanwhile Olive is diligently practicing her roller-skating when THREE BIG KIDS zip by, also on skates. <SFX: Whooooaaa!>

ANGLE ON: The big kids start doing tricks a little way off <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwQnfKxJ2X8>, then one in particular (LOLA, KOA'S SISTER) does a truly amazing twirl. Olive is gob-smacked.

30                                 OLIVE                                 30  
    <GASP!> THAT is the BEST TRICK  
    EVER!!  
        (determined)  
    I just have to do that twirl.

**4. EXT. BLANKET - DAY**

Elinor is sitting on the blanket, rolling the ball to Miri.  
NOTE: All through this scene we can catch small glimpses of Olive in the background practicing her roller-skating (she's getting better), and trying to twirl (which she can't do).

31 ELINOR 31  
Here ya go, Miri, catch the bally,  
bally, ball.

Miri misses the ball, it rolls away. <SF: BABY UH-OH WALLA>  
So she turns over and she goes crawling after it.

32 ARI 32  
That's it, go get it.

Miri reaches the ball, picks it up immediately starts chewing  
it. Ari gets up and walks after Miri, picking her up (or  
gently guiding her) back to the centre of the blanket.

33 ELINOR 33  
Hmmm, why did Miri crawl like that?

34 ARI 34  
Uhh, to get the ball?

35 ELINOR 35  
No I mean, why does she crawl  
instead of walk?

Ari shrugs.

36 ARI 36  
I dunno. I never thought about it  
before.

Miri tries to crawl away, but Ari stops her. <She SFX:  
GIGGLES>.

37 ELINOR 37  
She has two legs just like we do,  
and she sure can move.

38 ARI 38  
And she's really good at learning  
things.

39 ELINOR 39  
Sooo maybe all we have to do is  
teach her to walk.

40 ARI 40  
It's worth a try.

41 ELINOR 41  
Come on Miri, up you get.

The baby holds onto Elinor's fingers as Elinor gently lifts  
her into a standing position.

42 ELINOR (CONT'D) 42  
 You did it, Miri, you're standing.  
 Now all you have to do is WALK.

Miri wobbles unsteadily as Elinor holds her up and Ari demonstrates.

43 ARI 43  
 It's not hard at all, you just put  
 one foot in front of the other like  
 this, see? Step. Step...whooooa!

Ari trips over the picnic basket, does his famous flip and lands on his feet.

44 ARI (CONT'D) 44  
 I meant to do that.

Miri <SFX: BABY GIGGLES> as she loses her balance and sits down.

45 ELINOR 45  
 (giggling)  
 You sure do make your sister laugh,  
 Ari.

46 ARI 46  
 It's not hard, she's a laughing  
 machine. Now to make her a walking  
 machine.

Ari lifts up his sister from behind and puts her feet on his feet as he demonstrates.

47 ARI (CONT'D) 47  
 This is how you do it, Miri, step,  
 step. Now you try!

Ari lets her go, she steps off his feet, and takes one...two steps...

48 ARI (CONT'D) 48  
 She's doing it she's doing it  
 she's...

Miri balances for half a second and then lands on her bottom again, <SFX: GIGGLING>.

49 ARI (CONT'D) 49  
 ...not doing it. Why not?

50 ELINOR 50  
 Hmmmm. I'm not sure. We need more  
 observations.

#### 4. EXT. SKATING AREA - DAY

Olive is practicing, determined.

51                                OLIVE                                51  
                               (to herself)  
                               I know you can do this twirl,  
                               Olive, just try.

She starts skating more steadily than before, then she tries to turn.

52                      OLIVE (CONT'D)                      52  
Skate, skate, skate, turn...whoop.

Olive loses her balance and falls. <SFX: SIGH> Then she looks over. ANGLE ON: She sees Lola doing a perfect twirl. BACK ON: Determined, she gets up and tries again.

5. EXT. BLANKET -- DAY

Ari is holding a happy Miri up by the hands <SFX: BABY COOS>  
and as she wobbily stands.

53                                 ARI                                 53  
See. She's kinda standing when I  
hold her up, but when I let go of  
her...

Miri sits on her bum and <SFX: BABY GIGGLES>.

54 ELINOR 54  
That is soo interesting. Can you  
stand her up again, Ari?

Ari does.

55                               ARI                               55  
Up you get Miri.

Elinor looks closely. <SFX: HMMMM> ANGLE ON: Ari's solid kid legs, beside Miri's wobbly rug-rat legs.

56 ELINOR 56  
Her legs are really wobbly and  
wiggly compared to yours, Ari.

57                                 ARI                                 57  
Maybe she ate too much spaghetti  
and now she has spaghetti legs.

THOUGHT BUBBLE: shows Miri with spaghetti legs.

ARI (CONT'D) PUDDING  
Or maybe pudding legs? Miri does  
love pudding.

Miri's spaghetti turns to pudding.

59 ELINOR 59  
I'm not sure that's the problem.

THOUGHT BUBBLE BURSTS. Miri sits down.

ARI

60                So what do you think it is?                60

Elinor looks back and between Ari's legs and Miri's legs.

61 ELINOR 61  
It looks like Miri's legs just  
aren't as strong as yours, Ari.

Ari looks down.

ARI

62                      Well, I do have super-strong legs.                      62

63 ELINOR 63  
Maybe Miri's legs aren't strong  
enough to stand ON, and that's why  
she can't walk.

At this moment Ari's Mom comes over.

64

ARI'S MOM

Nice observing, Elinor. Miri's  
still a baby and her body's just  
not ready.  
(to Ari)  
You couldn't walk when you were  
Miri's age either, Ari, that's why  
you fell down so much.

64

ANGLE ON: Ari - MIND BLOWN.

65 Whuuuuut? ARI 65

66                               ARI'S MOM                               66  
Or talk, or run, or fly.

67                                 ARI                                 67  
You're kidding! I don't remember  
that.

|                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                        |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 68                                                                                                        | ELINOR                                                                                                                                 | 68 |
|                                                                                                           | So you mean, Ari had to learn to do<br>all those things?                                                                               |    |
| 69                                                                                                        | ARI'S MOM                                                                                                                              | 69 |
|                                                                                                           | Yep. Babies learn a lot.                                                                                                               |    |
| 70                                                                                                        | ARI                                                                                                                                    | 70 |
|                                                                                                           | So when will Miri learn to walk?                                                                                                       |    |
| 71                                                                                                        | ARI'S MOM                                                                                                                              | 71 |
|                                                                                                           | Very soon. She'll get bigger and<br>her legs will get strong enough to<br>hold her up. Then she'll start<br>walking, and even running. |    |
| 72                                                                                                        | ARI                                                                                                                                    | 72 |
|                                                                                                           | Really? As fast as me?                                                                                                                 |    |
| 73                                                                                                        | ARI'S MOM                                                                                                                              | 73 |
|                                                                                                           | Maybe faster, who knows? In the<br>meantime you kids have an important<br>job to do.                                                   |    |
| 74                                                                                                        | ELINOR                                                                                                                                 | 74 |
|                                                                                                           | What's that?                                                                                                                           |    |
| 75                                                                                                        | ARI'S MOM                                                                                                                              | 75 |
|                                                                                                           | Encourage her! Help Miri practice<br>standing and taking little baby<br>steps so when her body IS ready,<br>she'll know what to do.    |    |
| At this moment Olive skates back, defeated. NOTE: She's<br>definitely skating better than she was before. |                                                                                                                                        |    |
| 76                                                                                                        | ELINOR                                                                                                                                 | 76 |
|                                                                                                           | Hey, Olive. How's the roller<br>skating going?                                                                                         |    |
| 77                                                                                                        | OLIVE                                                                                                                                  | 77 |
|                                                                                                           | Not good.                                                                                                                              |    |
| Olive sits down, dejected.                                                                                |                                                                                                                                        |    |
| 78                                                                                                        | ARI                                                                                                                                    | 78 |
|                                                                                                           | Well, I think you're skating great.                                                                                                    |    |
| Miri makes a happy <COO>                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                        |    |
| 79                                                                                                        | ARI (CONT'D)                                                                                                                           | 79 |
|                                                                                                           | So does Miri.                                                                                                                          |    |

|    |                                                                                                                                                       |    |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 80 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                 | 80 |
|    | Yeah, well, I guess I can roller-skate a little, but I wanted to do a twirl, like that big kid over there.                                            |    |
|    | ANGLE ON: Lola, twirling again.                                                                                                                       |    |
| 81 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                | 81 |
|    | Wow, that's amazing.                                                                                                                                  |    |
| 82 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                 | 82 |
|    | I know. But when I tried to do a twirl like that, I just couldn't.                                                                                    |    |
| 83 | ARI'S MOM                                                                                                                                             | 83 |
|    | Twirling looks like something you'll have to get a little bigger to do, Olive.                                                                        |    |
| 84 | ARI                                                                                                                                                   | 84 |
|    | Yeah, like walking.                                                                                                                                   |    |
| 85 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                 | 85 |
|    | Walking?                                                                                                                                              |    |
| 86 | ARI                                                                                                                                                   | 86 |
|    | Not us walking -- Miri. We've been trying to teach her to walk, but mom says we have to wait until she's a little bigger - her body's just not ready. |    |
| 87 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                | 87 |
|    | But we can encourage her to keep trying baby steps. That way, when her body IS ready...                                                               |    |
| 88 | ARI                                                                                                                                                   | 88 |
|    | She'll be able to do it.                                                                                                                              |    |
| 89 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                | 89 |
|    | Hmmm. Maybe that can work for your roller skating too, Olive.                                                                                         |    |
| 90 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                 | 90 |
|    | Really? You think so?                                                                                                                                 |    |
| 91 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                | 91 |
|    | Sure! We're not as big as those big kids, but we're growing.                                                                                          |    |

92                               ARI                               92

And in the meantime you can keep on trying, just like Miri.

93 ELINOR 93  
And we can ENCOURAGE you.

94 OLIVE 94  
Encourage. I like that word.

SONG MONTAGE: Olive keeps skating as Ari, Elinor and Baby Miri watch and applaud INTERCUT WITH the kids helping Miri to stand but also getting her to wave, play peek-a-boo, and play with her rattle and ball.

95 ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE 95  
ELINOR: Keep on trying,  
It's part of the fun.  
And while you're smiling  
Soon you'll get it done.

ARI: If you're not quite ready  
You can still try now  
OLIVE: Soon you'll be good to go  
And this is how...

ALL: Baby steps, baby steps,  
Just take your time with baby  
steps.  
It might seem it's taking long,  
But your body's getting strong,  
So practice as you sing this song,  
And take your time with baby steps.

ELINOR: You can do it,  
Even if it seems you can't.  
You want to walk or twirl,  
But you fall down on your pants.  
ARI: You don't have to worry,  
You always have a friend.  
OLIVE: So if you fall down,  
I'll help you up again.

ALL: Baby steps, baby steps,  
Just take your time with baby  
steps.  
It might seem it's taking long,  
But your body's getting strong,  
So practice as you sing this song,  
And take your time with baby steps.

END SONG: Olive is skating gracefully around.

96 OLIVE 96  
Okay, maybe I'm ready to twirl  
Olive tries, but falls.

97 OLIVE (CONT'D) 97  
(laughing)  
Or not.

Ari and Olive are helping Olive up, when who skates up but  
Lola.

98 LOLA 98  
Keep on trying, kid. You're doing  
great.

Then Lola skates by.

99 LOLA (CONT'D) 99  
You'll be twirling in no time!

The kids all watch as Lola twirls off into the sunset <SFX:  
WOOOW WALLA>. Then Olives gets up and starts practicing  
again as her friends run along beside her, encouraging her..

100 ELINOR 100  
You can do it, Olive.

101 ARI 101  
You'll be twirling before you --  
whooooaa!

Ari trips again, the lands on his feet.

102 ARI (CONT'D) 102  
I meant to do that.

Everyone <SFX: LAUGHS> especially Miri. MOVE in on her cute  
little face and finish with a <SFX: BABY GIGGLE AND AHHH>.

FADE OUT, THE END