

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.

OUTLINE: Aug. 30, 2019

FIRST DRAFT: Oct. 9, 2019

SECOND DRAFT: November 6, 2019

1. EXT. PARK -- DAY

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.

1	OLIVE	1	
	I'm doing it, I'm doing it, I'm doing it!		
2	ELINOR	2	
	Wow, way to go Olive!		
3	ARI	3	
	Who-hoo!! It's Olive the awesome roller-skating elephant.		
4	OLIVE	4	*
	Look at me...whooooaaa!		
	Olive loses her footing and comically lands in a heap.		*
5	ARI'S MOM	5	*
	Oh, dear.		*
	Ari and Elinor rush to her.		*
6	ELINOR	6	
	Are you all right, Olive?		
	They help their friend to stand.		
7	OLIVE	7	
	Yeah I'm fine. Thanks to my gear.		
	Olive shows off her pads proudly, even <SFX: KNOCKING> on her helmet.		
8	ARI	8	
	Whoooa. Very cool.		
9	OLIVE	9	
	Uh-huh. The pads protect me while I get the hang of these roller skates.		
	Olive skates off unsteadily.		
10	ELINOR	10	
	(calling)		
	You're doing great!		

11 OLIVE 11
(calling back)
Thanks, Elinor.

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

12 ARI'S MOM 12 *
Those pads could have helped you *
when you were a baby Ari. You fell *
down all the time.. *

13 ARI 13 *
What, me? But I never fall do- *
whoooah! *

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

14 ARI (CONT'D) 14
(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

The group walks up to a nice grassy spot. *

15 ARI'S MOM 15 *
Let's settle down here, kids. *

16 ARI 16 *
Good idea, Mom. Miri can crawl *
around here all she likes. *

17 ARI'S MOM 17 *
I'm glad you're always thinking *
about what your sister needs, Ari. *

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). There are a few small wooden ramps and *
some older kids skating there. *

18	OLIVE	18	
	Oooh, there's the skate-park.		*
	(to Ari's Mom)		*
	Mrs. Bat, can I go practice my		*
	skating over there?		*
19	ARI'S MOM	19	*
	Of course, Olive. Go ahead.		*
	Olive skates off (it's not far).		*
20	OLIVE	20	
	Be back soon!		
21	ELINOR	21	
	Have fun, Olive!		
	Ari looks at Mrs. Bat as she takes out toys for Miri		*
	(including a ball and a rattle).		*
22	ARI	22	*
	Hey Mom, why don't we watch Miri.		*
	You can go take a rest.		*
23	ARI'S MOM	23	*
	Are you sure?		*
24	ELINOR	24	*
	Of course, Mrs. Bat, we love		*
	playing with Miri.		*
25	ARI'S MOM	25	*
	OK, I'll be right over there		*
	reading my book.		*
	Mrs. Bat sits down at an adjacent park bench and takes out		*
	her book. Ari and Elinor sit down next to Miri on the blanket		*
	NOTE: Miri can sit up on her own. ANOTHER NOTE: All through		*
	this scene and the next, Ari's Mom is visible, watching and		*
	sometimes smiling when the going gets cute.		*
26	ARI	26	
	(to Elinor)		
	There's nothing more fun than		
	making Miri laugh - WATCH.		
	ANGLE ON: Ari who makes a silly face. Miri laughs with		*
	delight <SFX: BABY GIGGLES>		
27	ELINOR	27	
	Oh yeah, I can beat THAT,		
	Hey Miri...		
	(MORE)		

ELINOR (CONT'D)
 (covers her face with her
 ears, then peeks out)
 PEEK-A-BOO!

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

28	ARI	28	
	Niiice. But laughing isn't the only thing Miri can do. Miri...		*

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

29	ELINOR	29	
	Whu? I didn't know Miri could wave.		

30	ARI	30	
	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>

31	ELINOR	31	
	(giggling) AMAZING! What else can she do?		

32	ARI	32	*
	Uhhmmm..Oh, watch this!!		*

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

33	ELINOR	33	
	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.

34	ELINOR (CONT'D)	34	
	Way to go Miri!		

Then she rolls it back!

35	ELINOR (CONT'D)	35	
	WHOO-HOO! Did you see that? She rolled it back!		

36	ARI	36	
	(proudly)		
	Yep, my little sister is GREAT at		
	learning things.		
3. EXT. SKATING AREA - DAY			
Meanwhile Olive is diligently practicing her roller-skating,			*
slowly getting the hang of it.			*
37	OLIVE	37	*
	(to herself)		*
	Step, step, step, roll, roll,		*
	roll...		*
Her strides are getting bigger.			*
38	OLIVE (CONT'D)	38	*
	Wheee, I'm really starting to get		*
	the hang of this.		*
Suddenly, THREE BIG KIDS zip by, also on skates including			*
LOLA (Koa's sister).			*
39	OLIVE (CONT'D)	39	*
	Whooooooooaaa!		*
One of them stops and speaks to Olive. The other two big kids			*
start doing tricks a little way off.			*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwQnfKxJ2X8 .			*
40	LOLA	40	*
	Hey kid, you're in my little		*
	brother Koa's class, right?		*
41	OLIVE	41	*
	Uh-huh. My name is Olive.		*
Lola skates around Olive in wide graceful loops as Olive step-			*
skates, determined.			*
42	LOLA	42	*
	Nice to meet you Olive, I'm Lola. I		*
	see you're a roller-skater too.		*
43	OLIVE	43	*
	Yep.		*
Olive skates a little more fluidly, proudly showing off.			*
44	LOLA	44	*
	Niiiiice.		*

Suddenly Lola does a truly amazing twirl. Olive is gob-smacked. *

45 OLIVE 45 *
<GASP!> How did you do THAT? *

46 LOLA 46 *
(nonchalant) *
It just takes a little practice. *

Lola skates off to join her friends. *

47 LOLA (CONT'D) 47 *
Keep skating, Olive. You'll get *
the hang of it. *

BACK ON: Olive's determined little face. *

48 OLIVE 48 *
(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). *
We can also see Ari's mom glancing up and smiling *
appreciatively. *

49 ELINOR 49
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.

50 ARI 50
Whoops, there she goes. Come on *
back, Miri. *

Miri reaches the ball, picks it up and immediately starts
chewing it. Ari gets up and walks after Miri. *

He picks her up (or gently guides her as she crawls) back to
the centre of the blanket. Elinor looks at her curiously. *

51 ELINOR 51 *
Hmmm, I wonder why babies crawl? *

52 ARI 52 *
Uhhh, to get places? *

53	ELINOR No, I mean crawl instead of walk. Ari looks puzzled.	53	* * *
54	ARI Huh, I never thought of it before. Miri tries to crawl away, but Ari stops her. <She SFX: GIGGLES>.	54	* * * *
55	ELINOR Look at Miri. She has two legs just like we do. But instead of walking, she crawls.	55	* * *
56	ARI Hmm, maybe she hasn't learned how to walk yet.	56	* * *
57	ELINOR (gets an idea) I know! Let's teach Miri how to walk. She's really good at learning things.	57	* * * *
58	ARI Yeah, we taught her how to make funny faces, how to play the maracas and throw a ball. I'm sure we can teach her how to walk.	58	* * * * *
59	ELINOR Come on Miri, let's try it. The baby holds onto Elinor's fingers as Elinor gently lifts her into a standing position.	59	*
60	ELINOR (CONT'D) 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.	60	
61	ARI 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.	61	

62	ARI (CONT'D) I meant to do that.	62	
	Miri <SFX: BABY GIGGLES> as she loses her balance and sits down.		
63	ELINOR (giggling) You sure do make your sister laugh, Ari.	63	
64	ARI (getting an idea) I know, I'll show her by moving our feet together.	64	* * *
	Ari lifts up his sister from behind and puts her feet on his feet as he demonstrates.		
65	ARI (CONT'D) This is how you do it, Miri, step, step. Now you try!	65	
	Ari lets her go, she steps off his feet, and takes one...two steps...		
66	ARI (CONT'D) She's doing it she's doing it she's...	66	
	Miri balances for half a second and then lands on her bottom again, <SFX: GIGGLING>.		*
67	ARI (CONT'D) ...not doing it.	67	*
68	ELINOR Aww, Miri can't seem to learn to walk like she learned to throw the ball or play the maracas.	68	* * * *
69	ARI I wonder why not.	69	* *
70	ELINOR HMMMM. We need more observations.	70	*

4. EXT. SKATING AREA - DAY

Olive is practicing, determined.

71	OLIVE Skate, skate, turn--whoops.	71	* *
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Olive stumbles then looks over at Lola. ANGLE ON: Lola does a perfect twirl again. *

72 OLIVE (CONT'D) 72 *
(to herself) *
(SIGH) Okay, Olive, it's not that *
hard. Just do like Lola does- *
practice. Skate, skate, skate, *
turn...whooops. *

She tries it but falls. ANGLE ON: Her puzzled little face. *

73 OLIVE (CONT'D) 73 *
(puzzled) *
Why can't I do this? *

5. EXT. BLANKET -- DAY *

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

74 ARI 74
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>.

75 ELINOR 75
That is soo interesting. Can you
stand her up again, Ari?

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

76 ELINOR (CONT'D) 76
Her legs are really wobbly and
wiggly compared to yours, Ari.

77 ARI 77
Maybe she ate too much spaghetti
and now she's a floppy spaghetti
baby. *

THOUGHT BUBBLE: shows Miri with eating spaghetti, then flopping over. *

78 ELINOR 78
I'm not sure that's the problem.

THOUGHT BUBBLE BURSTS. Miri sits down. Elinor looks back and between Ari's legs and Miri's legs. *

79	ELINOR (CONT'D)	79	
	It looks like Miri's legs just aren't as strong as yours, Ari.		
	Ari looks down.		
80	ARI	80	
	Well, I do have super-strong legs.		
81	ELINOR	81	*
	You need strong legs to walk and Miri's are still kind of small.		*
			*
	At this moment Ari's Mom comes over.		
82	ARI'S MOM	82	*
	Nice observing, kids. You're right.		*
83	ELINOR	83	*
	We are?		*
84	ARI'S MOM	84	*
	Yes, 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.		
	ANGLE ON: Ari - MIND BLOWN.		
85	ARI	85	
	Whuuuut?		
86	ARI'S MOM	86	
	Or talk, or run, or fly.		
87	ARI	87	*
	Or FLY? REALLY? ! I don't remember that.		
88	ARI'S MOM	88	*
	But as you got bigger and grew stronger, finally your body was ready and you were able to do all those things.		*
			*
			*
89	ELINOR	89	*
	So when will Miri learn to walk?		

90	ARI'S MOM	90	
	Very soon. She'll get bigger and her legs will get strong enough to hold her up. Then she'll start walking, and even running.		
91	ARI	91	
	Really? As fast as me?		
92	ARI'S MOM	92	*
	Maybe faster, who knows? In the meantime you kids have an important job to do.		
93	ELINOR	93	
	What's that?		
94	ARI'S MOM	94	
	Encourage her! Help Miri practice standing and taking little baby steps so when her body IS ready, she'll know what to do.		
	CUT TO: Olive, at the skatepark, flops one last time. Then she gives up, gets up and skates back towards the blanket.		* *
	BACK ON: Olive arrives at the blanket, defeated. NOTE: She's definitely skating better than she was before.		* *
95	ELINOR	95	
	Hey, Olive. How's the roller skating going?		
96	OLIVE	96	
	Not good.		
	Olive sits down, dejected.		
97	ARI	97	
	Well, I think you're skating great. (Miri makes a happy <COO>) So does Miri.		* *
98	OLIVE	98	
	Yeah, well, I guess I can roller-skate a little, but I wanted to do a twirl, like Lola.		*
	ANGLE ON: Lola, twirling again.		
99	ELINOR	99	
	Wow, that's amazing.		

100	OLIVE	100	
	I know. But when I tried to do a twirl like that, I just couldn't.		*
	Olive gets up to demo.		*
101	OLIVE (CONT'D)	101	*
	I could see what I had to do to twirl, but just couldn't get my body to do it.		*
	She tries to twirl, stumbles a little, then sits down again. Elinor looks at Olive and back at Miri. <SFX: HMMM>.		*
102	ELINOR	102	*
	Maybe twirling is something you'll have to get a little bigger to do, Olive.		*
103	ARI	103	*
	(catching on) Yeah, like walking.		*
104	OLIVE	104	
	Walking?		
105	ARI	105	
	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 - because her body's just not ready.		*
106	ELINOR	106	
	But we can encourage her to keep trying baby steps. That way, when her body IS ready...		*
107	ARI	107	
	She'll be able to do it.		
108	ELINOR	108	
	Hmmm. Maybe that can work for your roller skating too, Olive.		
109	OLIVE	109	
	Really? You think so?		
110	ELINOR	110	
	Sure! We're not as big as those big kids, but we're growing.		

111	ARI	111	
	And in the meantime you can keep on trying, just like Miri.		
112	ELINOR	112	
	And we can ENCOURAGE you. Right, Mrs. Bat?		* *
113	ARI'S MOM	113	
	That's right, kids.		* *
114	OLIVE	114	
	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.

115	ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE	115	
	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.

116 OLIVE 116
Okay, maybe I'm ready to twirl

Olive tries, but falls.

117 OLIVE (CONT'D) 117
(laughing)
Or not.

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

118 LOLA 118
You're doing great, Olive. Keep on *
trying and 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..

119 ELINOR 119
You can do it, Olive.

120 ARI 120
You'll be twirling before you --
whooooaa!

Ari trips again, the lands on his feet.

121 ARI (CONT'D) 121
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