Last Script

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 126B 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:
c. Understand that living things grow and change over time (Elinor and her friend observe baby Miri's legs aren't strong enough to support her yet, but she will change over time to be stronger and able to walk, like they are)
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 walk yet.)
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 Dad.
SECONDARY: Miri, Lola
LOCATION: Park, Grassy Nook, Skating Area
PROPS: Roller skates, stroller, blanket, book, rattle, ball.

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FIRST DRAFT: Oct. 9, 2019
SECOND DRAFT: November 6, 2019
POLISH DRAFT: December 06, 2019
RECORD DRAFT: December 16, 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 MR. BAT (Ari's dad) and Ari's baby sister MIRI (in a stroller). OLIVE basically step-skates along the path.

OLIVE
I'm doing it, I'm doing it, I'm doing it!

ELINOR
Wow, way to go Olive!

ARI
Who-hoo!! It's Olive the awesome roller-skating elephant.

OLIVE
Thanks guys... whoooaaa!

Olive loses her footing and comically lands in a heap.

MR. BAT
Oh, dear.

Ari and Elinor rush to her.

ELINOR
Are you all right, Olive?

They help their friend to stand. Ari and Elinor each have an arm as they try to help her up but her feet keep rolling out from under her, one way, then the other...

OLIVE
Yup...wao...I'm...ah...I'm fine.
(She stands more solidly.)
Whew! Thanks to my gear.

Olive shows off her pads proudly, even <SFX: KNOCKING> on her helmet.

ARI
Whoooa. Very cool.

OLIVE
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 Mr. Bat and Miri in the stroller as Olive step-skates on ahead.

12 MR. BAT 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 MR. BAT 15
Let's settle down here, kids.

16 ARI 16
Great idea, Dad. Miri can crawl around all she likes.

17 MR. BAT 17
I'm glad you're always thinking about what your sister needs, Ari.

Mr. 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 Mr. Bat)
Mr. Bat, can I go practice my skating over there?

19 MR. BAT 19
Sure. Go ahead, Olive.

Olive skates off (it's not far).

20 OLIVE 20
Be back soon!

Mr. Bat takes out toys for Miri (including a BALL and a RATTLE), then he smiles at Ari and Elinor.

21 MR. BAT 21
Are you kids in the mood for some baby playtime?

22 ARI 22
Yeah!

23 ELINOR 23
We love playing with Miri.

24 MR. BAT 24
OK, I'll be right here if you need me.

Mr. Bat sits with his back against the nearby tree (very close, still on the ground) and takes out his composting magazine. He remains visible all through this scene, watching and sometimes smiling when the going gets cute.

Ari and Elinor sit down next to Miri on the blanket. NOTE: Miri can sit up on her own.

25 ARI 25
(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>

26 ELINOR 26
~~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>

27 ARI 27
Niiice. But laughing isn't the only thing Miri can do. Miri...

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

28 ELINOR 28
Whu? I didn't know Miri could wave.

29 ARI 29
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>

30 ELINOR 30
(giggling)
AMAZING! What else can she do?

31 ARI 31
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 it like a pro, <SFX: SHUCKA, SHUCKA, SHUKA> laughing <SFX: BABY GIGGLES> all the way.

32 ELINOR 32
Miri's so smart! 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.

33 ELINOR (CONT'D) 33
Way to go Miri!

Then she rolls it back!

34 ELINOR (CONT'D) 34
WHOO-HOO! Did you see that? She rolled it back!

35 ARI 35
(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.

36 OLIVE 36
(to herself)
Step, step, step, roll, roll, roll...

Her strides are getting bigger.

37 OLIVE (CONT'D) 37
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).

38 OLIVE (CONT'D) 38
Whoooooaaa!

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.

39 LOLA 39
Hey, you're in my little brother Koa's class, right?

40 OLIVE 40
Uh-huh. My name is Olive.

Lola skates around Olive in wide graceful loops as Olive step-skates, determined.

41 LOLA 41
Nice to meet you Olive, I'm Lola. I see you're a roller-skater too.

42 OLIVE 42
Yep.

Olive skates a little more fluidly, proudly showing off.

43 LOLA 43
Niiiice.

Suddenly Lola does a truly amazing jump (this should be impressive but age appropriate and not too dangerous, yet aspirational, maybe starting on one foot and landing on the next, or maybe just getting two-footed air time). Olive is gob-smacked.

44 OLIVE 44
<GASP!> How did you do THAT?

45 LOLA 45
(nonchalant)
It just takes a little practice.
(she starts skating away)
Keep skating, Olive. You'll get the hang of it.

Lola skates off to join her friends. BACK ON: Olive's determined little face.

46 OLIVE 46
(determined)
I just have to learn to jump like that.

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 jump (which she can't do). We can also see Mr. Bat glancing up and smiling appreciatively.

47 ELINOR 47
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.

48 ARI 48
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.

49 ELINOR 49
Hmmm, I wonder why babies crawl.

50 ARI 50
Uhhh, to go places?

51 ELINOR 51
No, I mean why does she crawl instead of walk?

Ari looks puzzled.

52 ARI 52
Huh, I never thought of it before.

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

53 ELINOR 53
Look at Miri. She has two legs just like we do. But instead of walking, she crawls.

54 ARI 54
Hmm, maybe she hasn't learned how to walk yet.

55 ELINOR 55
(gets an idea)
I know! Let's teach Miri how to walk. She's really good at learning things.

56 ARI 56
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. Can we try, Dad?

Dad comes closer to supervise (he is visible throughout this sequence).

57 MR. BAT 57
Well, she might not be ready but you can try, as long as you're gentle and Miri likes it. I'm sure she'll let you know if she doesn't.

58 ELINOR 58
Come on Miri, let's try it.

Elinor supports Miri under the arms and gently lifts her into a standing position.

59 ELINOR (CONT'D) 59
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 near her.

60 ARI 60
It's not hard at all, you just put one foot in front of the other like this, see? Step. Step...whoooaa!

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

61 ARI (CONT'D) 61
I meant to do that.

Miri <SFX: BABY GIGGLES> as she loses her balance and sits down. <SFX: GIGGLES EVEN HARDER> (Elinor doesn't let go of her).

62 ELINOR 62
(giggling)
You sure do make your sister laugh, Ari.

63 ARI 63
(getting an idea)
I know, I'll show her what to do by moving our feet together.

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

64 ARI (CONT'D) 64
This is how you do it, Miri, step, step. Now you try!

Miri steps off his feet (she's still holding onto his fingers), and takes one...two steps...

65 ARI (CONT'D) 65
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>.

66 ARI (CONT'D) 66
...not doing it.

67 ELINOR 67
Aww, Miri isn't learning to walk like she learned to throw the ball or play the maracas.

68 ARI 68
I wonder why not.

69 MR. BAT 69
What do you kids think?

70 ELINOR 70
Hmmmm. I think we need more observations.

5. EXT. SKATING AREA - DAY

Olive is practicing, determined.

71 OLIVE 71
Skate, skate, jump. Hmmm.

Olive doesn't get any air time at all, then she looks over at Lola. ANGLE ON: Lola does a big jump.

72 OLIVE (CONT'D) 72
(to herself)
(SIGH) Okay, Olive, it doesn't look that hard. Just do like Lola does and practice. Skate, skate, skate, jump...whooops.

She falls <SFX: OOF>. ANGLE ON: Her puzzled little face.

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

6. EXT. BLANKET -- DAY

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

74 ARI 74
See. She's kinda standing when I hold her up, but then...

Miri sits on her bum and <SFX: BABY GIGGLES>. NOTE: Ari shouldn't let go of her.

75 ELINOR 75
That is soo interesting.

76 ARI 76
Can I stand her up again, Dad?

Miri waves her hands around <SFX: BABY COOS>.

77 MR. BAT 77
Looks like she'd love it if you did.

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

78 ELINOR 78
Miri's legs are really wobbly and wiggly compared to yours, Ari.

79 ARI 79
Well, I do have super-strong legs.

80 ELINOR 80
Is that why Miri can't walk? Because her legs aren't strong enough?

81 MR. BAT 81
Nice observing, Elinor. Yes, Miri's still a baby and her legs and body might not be quite ready to walk yet.
(to Ari)
You couldn't walk when you were Miri's age either, Ari. You fell down so much.

ANGLE ON: Ari - MIND BLOWN.

82 ARI 82
Whuuuut?

83 MR. BAT 83
You couldn't talk, or run, or fly either.

84 ARI 84
Or FLY? REALLY? I don't remember that.

85 MR. BAT 85
It's true! There were lots of things you couldn't do when you were a baby, like ride a bike, kick a soccer ball or hit a home-run.
(MORE)

MR. BAT (CONT'D)
But as you grew up and your body got bigger and stronger, you were finally able to do all those things - and lots more too.

86 ELINOR 86
So when will Miri learn to walk?

87 MR. BAT 87
Very soon, I'm sure. She'll get bigger and her legs will get strong enough to hold her up. Then she'll start walking, and even running.

88 ARI 88
As fast as me?

89 MR. BAT 89
Maybe faster, who knows? In the meantime, you kids have an important job to do.

90 ELINOR 90
What's that, Mr. Bat?

91 MR. BAT 91
Encourage her! Cheer her on and 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, tries to jump and flops one last time <SFX: OOF!>. 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.

92 ELINOR 92
Hey, Olive. How's the roller skating going?

93 OLIVE 93
Not good.

Olive sits down, dejected.

94 ARI 94
Well, I think you're skating great.
(Miri makes a happy <COO>)
So does Miri.

95 OLIVE 95
Yeah, well, I guess I can skate a little better, but I wanted to do a jump, like Lola.

ANGLE ON: Lola, jumping again.

96 ELINOR 96
Wow, that's amazing.

97 OLIVE 97
I know. But when I tried to do a jump like that, I just couldn't.

Olive gets up to demo.

She tries to jump, stumbles a little, then sits down again. Elinor looks at Olive and back at Miri.

98 ELINOR 98
Hmmmm. Maybe your legs aren't ready to do a jump just yet. Just like Miri's legs aren't ready to walk.

99 OLIVE 99
What do you mean?

100 ARI 100
We were trying to teach Miri how to walk on her own, but her legs aren't strong enough. Dad says she needs to grow a little more before she can really walk.

101 ELINOR 101
But in the meantime, cheer her on and help her keep trying. That way, when her body IS ready…

102 ARI 102
She'll be able to do it!

103 OLIVE 103
Oh... that's why it's easier for Lola to jump. She's older and her legs are stronger than mine.

104 MR. BAT 104
Maybe you need a little bit of encouragement too, Olive. Keep on trying! Your legs will get stronger the more you practice.

105 OLIVE 105
Encouragement. I like that word.

106 ELINOR/ARI 106
Go Olive!/Yeah!

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

107 ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE 107
OLIVE: 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
ELINOR: 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.

OLIVE: You can do it,
Even if it seems you can't.
You want to walk or jump,
But you fall down on your pants.
ARI: You don't have to worry,
You always have a friend.
ELINOR: 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 around gracefully.

108 OLIVE 108
Okay, I feel big and strong, maybe I'm ready to jump.

Olive does a tiny hop, but falls.

109 OLIVE (CONT'D) 109
(laughing)
Or not.

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

110 LOLA 110
You're doing great, Olive. Keep on trying!

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

111 ELINOR 111
You can do it, Olive.

112 ARI 112
You'll be jumping in no ti--
whoooaa!

Ari trips again, then lands on his feet.

113 ARI (CONT'D) 113
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 *