



**ELANE V. SCOTT, HOST OF BIRTH2WORK RADIO, TALKS “TUMMY TIME”
WITH PEDIATRIC PHYSICAL THERAPIST AND RESEARCHER
JUDY TOWNE JENNINGS**

JENNINGS PROVIDES VALUABLE INSIGHTS TO SCOTT AND CO-HOST, RICK STEPHENS, ABOUT THE
LONG-TERM EDUCATIONAL AND WORK FORCE ISSUES IMPACTED BY EARLY CHILDHOOD MOTOR DELAYS.

Phoenix, AZ (PRWeb) – November 18, 2008 – **Elane V. Scott**, Executive Director and Chief Connectivity Officer of Birth2Work (www.birth2work.org), welcomes Judy Towne Jennings, PT, MA, to Birth2Work Radio, simulcast live **Tuesday, November 25th at 2pm (PST) / 5pm (EST)** on Voice America’s Business and Women’s networks (<http://www.modavox.com/VoiceAmericaBusiness/>). As Jennings discussed with Newsweek’s Christina Gillham in this year’s August 9 interview “Giving Your Baby Enough Tummy Time,” giving babies regular time on their stomachs while they are awake and supervised is critical for developing a baby’s motor skills and core strength. Scott and Jennings go further to give listeners an important understanding about the urgent significance of the loss of time on the floor for babies and its impact on their future brain development.

Since the 1992 American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation to put babies to sleep in the nonprone position (or, on their backs), and the subsequent 1994 "Back to Sleep" campaign, in addition to the legally required increased use of car seats—which turn into infant carriers which fasten directly into strollers and swings—parents have found increased opportunity to almost never remove their baby from some kind of containment device. But babies can miss developing core strength and other motor skills critical to brain development while lying down for hours upon hours. The slumped cradling of the body in so many different devices can lead to startling numbers of physical developmental delays. A recent national survey of 400 physical and occupational therapists, conducted on behalf of Pathways Awareness, a non-profit group dedicated to early detection of motor delays in children, found two-thirds of those surveyed said that over the past six years they have seen a growing delay of motor skill development in babies, citing the lack of tummy time as the main reason. The survey was conducted with the assistance of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Section on Pediatrics and the Neuro-Development Treatment Association (NDTA).

The long-term implications of these early delays are startling when considered along side the marked national declines in children’s performance in pre-school, kindergarten and beyond. Consider, too, the increase in the rise of ADD, ADHD, and autism diagnoses of young kids in the last 15 years. Birth2Work is at the forefront of facilitating studies to research and shed more light on the link between early developmental delays and limited mobility. This study is to be lead by scientists and academicians, with a final report to include the in-the-field findings of experts such as Judy Towne Jennings, PT, MA.



Once this first generation of babies who, for the first time in history, spent an inordinate amount of their early time on their backs reaches the workforce, the significant physical effects of a lack of “tummy time” will surely be apparent to all as they manifest in mental and cognitive deficiencies on the job. This is not a “phase” babies grow out of. The issue is fundamental to the strength of our country’s economy and future.

Airing weekly, Scott and occasional **Birth2Work Radio** co-host Rick Stephens, engage both the leaders and foot soldiers from the business, government, media, health, education, and community sectors to discuss the development of capable people for the future workforce. Workforce development is of national concern and on the forefront of leaders’ minds throughout. However, despite a multitude of initiatives and countless programs put in place in an attempt to stem the tide of foreseeable workforce uncertainty, the consensus among leaders is that not enough progress has been made to meet the needs and expectations of our country as a whole. In a complex, global society driven by change, no one group can be held solely accountable to build an entire country’s future. Every citizen has a share of the responsibility.

Elane V. Scott is Executive Director and Chief Connectivity Officer of Birth2Work, a non-profit organization focused on redefining community leadership and the development of capable people for the future workforce. She draws from more than 25 years as an education and workforce consultant for Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, social services, educational institutions, parent organizations, & civic groups. Her lifework has been dedicated to cultivating business, education, and community models in which innovative and technically engaged people are born and can thrive. Companies and communities hire Elane and Birth2Work for leadership in the design of custom programs; integrating business, family, community, educational, and technological resources with sophisticated human decision-making processes to enable them to make better decisions about how to allocate resources and prepare for future workforce requirements. A key element of Elane’s success is her ability to recognize the processes that drive individuals with diverse backgrounds to align their thinking toward the achievement of common goals. Just released is her first book, co-authored with executive Rick Stephens, [The System - Igniting the Soul of Commerce](#), a parable of modern business and the struggle of one community’s leaders to develop a sustainable future workforce. The book is available at Amazon.com. More info at www.birth2work.org.

Rick Stephens is Chairman of the Illinois Business RoundTable (IBRT) and a Senior Vice President, Human Resources and Administration for a Fortune 50 corporation. The IBRT is a voluntary association of 63 chief executive officers of Illinois’ leading businesses formed in 1989 to study, make recommendations and take action on critical public policy issues. The Roundtable is nonprofit and nonpartisan. Their work is solely supported by dues and contributions from their corporate members. The Roundtable applies the knowledge, creativity and leadership resources of its members to the complex problems affecting both the current and future economic, educational and social vitality of Illinois.

Through publications such as **Birth2Work**’s [The System: Igniting the Soul of Commerce](#), the Birth2Work white paper, “Ensuring the Development of the Workforce of the Future,” Birth2Work Radio, national speaking events for Scott and Stephens, and a wide-reaching website (www.birth2work.org) which includes educational media, information sharing, and links to relevant sites and conferences, Birth2Work explores the



challenges of and opportunities in developing the pipelines that supply the workforce for our nation's future. Young people are being poorly prepared for success in tomorrow's workforce. Thousands of programs, policies, and initiatives have failed to generate a scalable and sustainable way forward. Birth2Work facilitates stakeholder leaders to integrate their actions to develop capable people who are creative, critical thinkers committed to responsible citizenship.

Judy Jennings has been an active school-based physical therapist for nearly 30 years, while simultaneously working in private practice for the last ten. She is committed to advancing education on child development. Her passion for helping each and every child become the best they can be is apparent in her seminars. She teaches about the connection between the child's success in early infancy and later success in school. Her successful experience in the school community provides a rich collection of strategies for teachers and therapists to use with all children struggling with academics. She teaches how the whole body needs to work efficiently for a child to function in a classroom: eyes, ears, gross motor, fine motor, and balance. Her easy to understand motor screening techniques help teachers determine when a struggling child needs professional interventions and further evaluations. After participating in her seminars, teachers understand why more children are coming into early education programs able to walk and run, but unable to sit still or learn...and more importantly teachers will understand what to do. Judy has proven school-based physical therapy strategies that directly affect success in the classroom.

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