**CHILL DADS, TOP TEENS**

**Babies with confident fathers will grow into better behaved children, study says**

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11-year-long study shows tots whose father embraced parenthood are 28 per cent less likely to be badly behaved

**Babies with confident dads are likely to be better behaved once they hit adolescence, according to a Children of the 90s study.**

Researchers quizzed the parents of over 10,000 eight-month-old babies, and asked the fathers to answer 52 questions about their relationship with their little-ones.

These ranged from how they felt emotionally after the birth, to their confidence with their baby, attitudes towards parenting and their roles in household chores.

When the children turned nine and eleven, they too were questioned on their emotions, behavioural problems, peer relations and helpfulness.

The final results suggested that the more confidence a father had in their role, the less likely their child was to have behavioural problems.

Pre-teens whose dad had embraced becoming a parents were 28 per cent less likely to be badly behaved.

The results form the 1,500th research paper from the Children of the 90s, which has tracked 14,500 children in greater Bristol since birth.

They said: "The findings of our research suggest that it is psychological and emotional aspects of paternal involvement in a child's infancy that are most powerful in influencing later child behaviour, and not the amount of time that fathers are engaged in childcare or domestic tasks in the household."