

May 15, 2006 Monday—London

Success in life? Why it may all depend on dad

BY BARRY WIGMORE-London

FATHERS hold the key to their child's success in later life, according to a top psychologist.

Their style of parenting can determine whether children hit career roadblocks or reach great heights, said Dr Stephan Poulter.

His research shows their influence is different to a mother's, which largely affects a child's emotional development.

Dr Poulter, who works with troubled teenagers in Los Angeles, said his theory can explain what drives celebrities such as Tom Cruise to achieve.

'I've come to realise that it's a critical relationship that explains why certain people don't excel in their careers and why others do,' he added.

In his book **The Father Factor**, out later this month, he identifies five types of father: Time bomb: He produces a high level of anxiety in his sons and daughters as they wait for him to explode. They tend to be obsessive compulsives but have discipline, drive and motivation.

Super-achiever: Inspires his children to emulate him but his influence is all about achieving, appearance, clothes and smart cars. His children find it hard to connect with others.

Passive: The type of man who works for the same company for 50 years and still lives in his first house. Children have little emotional connection with him but also tend to be hard workers.

Absent: The most dangerous type because often when children feel neglected they also feel anger and rage. The positive side is that they are sometimes driven to do well and become super-achievers themselves. Dr Poulter said a classic example is Cruise, who was 12 when his father left.

Compassionate: The best type to have. He knows how to read and motivate others and be a leader.

Dr Poulter added: 'I've seen so many people hit their heads on what they call the glass ceiling in their careers. But as often as not it's not the ceiling, it's the **father factor**.' Children can change their destiny, however he said any obstacles can be overcome by recognising the type of father you have.

###