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FROM THE MOTHER'S SIDE

Genetics research suggests intelligence comes from the mother.

5 A Spanish psychologist has published a report in the blog "Psychology Post" which brings together information from a variety studies on the brain. The reasoning is that the intelligence genes are transmitted by the X chromosome, and women having two of these are therefore the ones responsible. Fact or fiction?

10 A mother's genetics determines how clever her children are, according to researchers, and the father makes no difference. Women are more likely to transmit intelligence genes to their children because they are carried on the X chromosome and women have two of these, while men only have one. But in addition to this, scientists now believe genes for advanced cognitive functions, which are inherited from the father, may be automatically deactivated.

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THE MOTHER TRAIL

20 Researchers at the University of Washington found that a secure emotional bond between a mother and child is crucial for the growth of some parts of the brain.

25 A strong bond with the mother is thought to give a child a sense of security which allows them to explore the world, and the confidence to solve problems. In addition, devoted, attentive mothers tend to help children solve problems, further helping them to reach their potential.

And researchers point out that a whole array of other gene determined traits which can be inherited from the father are also key to unlocking potential intelligence, so fathers – don't despair.

30 Charlotte England, *The Independent*. 13 October 2016

Document 2

Approximately 80% of a
child's intelligence is
acquired from the mother.

