

# Spy Kids praised for foiling theft

*This is the 11th episode in a multistory spy adventure involving North Texas kids Emma, Josh and Juan. Be sure to read all of the stories in future issues of neighborsgo now through the end of the month during the The Science of Spying exhibit at the Museum of Nature & Science at Fair Park in Dallas. Past stories can be found at [neighborsgo.com/connect](http://neighborsgo.com/connect) and [natureandscience.org/spying](http://natureandscience.org/spying).*



**B**ursting with pride, Emma sat in the front row of the small auditorium in the federal building in downtown Dallas. On either side of her were her brother, Josh, and their friend, Juan. All of the kids' parents and lots of friends were at the ceremony. CEO Nicole Small and other representatives from the Museum of Nature & Science were there as well.

"We are here this afternoon to honor three intrepid young sleuths," said Agent Bob.

"Intrepid?" Josh muttered. "It means brave," Juan whispered.

"Even when the adults didn't believe them, they followed the clues and their instincts," said agent Bob. "The evidence they gathered and sent to the FBI helped the bureau crack a case we had been working on for more than two years.

"We could never figure out where or how the two suspects were communicating with each other. That is the mystery these young people solved.

"Some time ago, they must have encountered each other in person and set a place in advance to exchange information and goods. One of those places was North Park Center, which is where our young sleuths caught onto them. Their most critical meeting location turned out to be the grounds of the Museum of Nature & Science. I should mention that neither location is involved in this crime in any way.

"I wish I could give complete details, but this entire crime has wide ranging national security implications," added agent Bob. "I can say that the prototype that was stolen and sold is one of a new generation

of ultra-tiny microchips that mimic DNA in the way they process data.

"The suspect who acquired the prototype had connections to various crime organizations throughout the world. The suspect who stole the information about the prototype was a former partner in a startup business involved in designing and developing ultra tiny microchips.

"Thanks to the information these young people provided, the stolen prototype has been returned to the company and the two suspects are in prison facing serious federal charges."

He waved to the Spy Kids to join him on the speaker's platform. Agent Bob then gave each a framed certificate honoring them for the help they gave to the FBI. He joined the audience in another round of applause.

After she left the stage, Emma showed her certificate to her friends and chatted with them about the entire adventure.

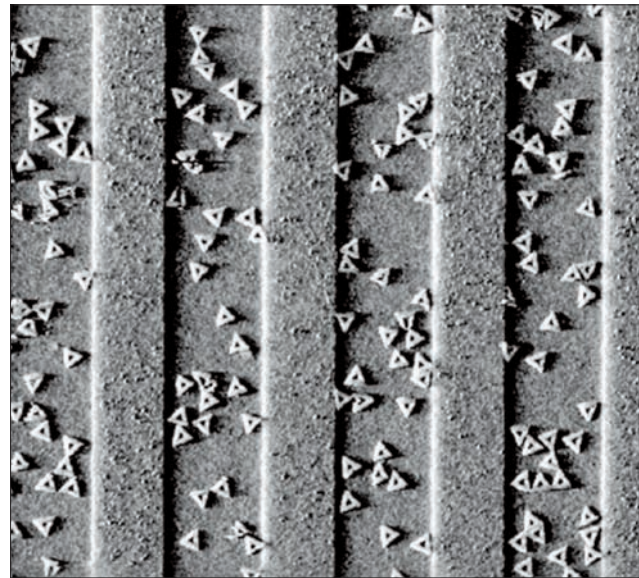
Agent Bob approached her. "Have you ever considered a career in the FBI? The bureau is always looking for talented and dedicated young field agents like you, Josh and Juan."

Emma, for once, was speechless. She nodded, more determined than ever to study hard in school and graduate from college so that she would have many career options.

— *By Cynthia Stine on behalf of the Museum of Nature & Science. Contact her at [cynthia@promotesuccesspr.com](mailto:cynthia@promotesuccesspr.com).*

## MORE INFO

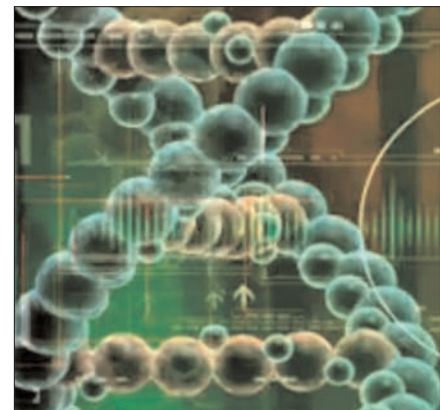
Puzzles, games and past episodes of the Spy Kids series can be found at [natureandscience.org/spying](http://natureandscience.org/spying). Visit Emma's Facebook page at [facebook.com/spykid](http://facebook.com/spykid), or follow along on Twitter: @EmmaSpyKid. Don't miss The Science of Spying exhibit at the Museum of Nature & Science before it's gone Jan. 4!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF IBM

## Many future uses for DNA microchips

Scientists like those at IBM are exploring processors that work by imitating the building blocks of life, known as DNA. In the top image, microscopic-sized DNA structures stick to a surface.



The second image shows the DNA helix pattern. A new generation of DNA microchips would be worth a lot of money to the first company to sell them. Spy Kids Emma, Josh and Juan caught corporate spies in the act of stealing a company's secret plans for one of these new chips. Some spies gather information to protect their countries. Other spies follow suspected or known criminals to aid law enforcement. What kind of spy would you like to be? Come to The Science of Spying exhibition at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park during the holidays and test your skills and nerve against the shadowy world of OSTEK. The exhibit closes Jan. 4, 2010.