

# All / Entertainment / Tech / Play / Events / Apps





# Will our kids live in the age of invisibility?

If you could choose a superpower what would it be? Would you choose flying? Or maybe super human strength? Or how about being able to be invisible?

While we're still **a long way from flying**, and super human strength is best left to the Hulk, the ability to be invisible may not be so far from reality.

Last year, scientists from the Sanyang Technological University in Singapore **demonstrated a light bending experiment** that has effectively rendered an object invisible.

The trick to invisibility? Creating a small box made of calcite optical crystal, which bends light around objects, making anything placed in the box, disappear. This remarkable breakthrough was originally developed by the University's Professor Baile Zhang just for "fun".

However, he's just one of many teams of scientists around the world racing to crack the idea of a superhero style cloak of invisibility. Just last month, a new breakthrough in nanotechnology has shown that invisibility on a larger scale is on its way too.

Dr Debashis Chanda and his research team at the University of Central Florida have used nanotechnology to create a larger area of 'invisible metamaterial' (and by larger we mean about 10 centimeters), than the Singaporean efforts.

This breakthrough, which used 'nanotransfer' printing, looks very likely to be able to be scaled up to much larger areas, meaning that something like a fighter jet could be made undetectable.

This is where the excitement about cloaks of invisibility gets a little less exciting, and a little more potentially worrying. Funding for Dr Chanda's and other projects in this area primarily come from military sources. The implication being that whichever country wins the **race for invisibility** is the one that could hold the upper hand in future conflicts.

So, while it doesn't look like anyone will be selling Harry Potter style cloaks of invisibility anytime soon, invisibility as a concept on a large scale looks set to be a concept of the very near future.



### **POPULAR TOPICS**

Celebrity Culture Food Literacy Screentime Competition Friendship Memory Second Screens Coordination Games Mobile Phones Self Esteem Creativity Gaming Music

#### **APPS WE LOVE**

- Didi and B
- LiteracyPlanet
- Playtime with Dora the Explorer
- Word Mania

# FEATURED EVENT

Don't miss Dora's Pirate Adventure

View >

#### **BLOGS WE FOLLOW**

- 🤗 Mashable
- The Conversation

The Race for Invisibility | Nick Jr. Parents Blog

Hands up if you'd like a cloak of invisibility?

Tags: Creativity



# A LITTLE ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MARGARET is a mama, writer, artist and bad dancer. She lives in the inner-city suburbs of Sydney with her partner and her young son, the Little Lion. Read more >

0 Comments Nick Jr. Parents

Sort by Best 🕶

SL V

Share 🔁 Favorite ★

D Login 🗸

Start the discussion...

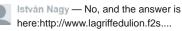
Be the first to comment.

LSO ON NICK JR. PARENTS

<

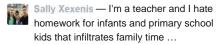
#### 00 Years of Girl Power

#### 1 comment • 3 months ago



# How Much Should Parents Help With Homework?

2 comments • 8 months ago



Subscribe 📃 🕞 Add Disgus to your site

# WHAT'S THIS?

# Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 Kids vs. iPad Mini



Mat — Maybe some editing would be a good idea.

### Will Our Kids Be Time Travellers?

11 comments • 4 months ago



Kay — Wrong...from my studies of quantum mechanics MANY years back I remember reading in one of my ... http://parents.nickjr.com.au/2014/05/07/race-invisibility

- Children's Technology Review
- Dad Down Under
- The Modern Parent

## 🔰 @NICKJRPARENTS

Join the conversation with #nickjrparents

Why new parents should read aloud to their babies from birth - http://t.co/8mZ08BmK0F #Literacy #Reading - 5 hours 16 min ago

Little girls don't just want to wear clothes with baby animals vomiting rainbows - <u>http://t.co/BQv0yKZrDL</u> - 15 hours 16 min ago

Bedtime hacks for desperate parents - http://t.co /NM3u1XjxBG #BedtimeHacks #Bedtime — 18 hours 45 min ago

Looking for ways to make bedtime easier? http://t.co/kVGBAJY80m #BedtimeHacks — 1 day 4 hours ago

We've pulled together some great ideas to help you throw the BEST pre-schooler party ever - <u>http://t.co</u> /MSsLrTXxeD #Frozen <u>#Lego</u> <u>#TMNT</u> - 1 day 13 hours ago

>

# THE SUGGESTION BOX

Got an idea for our next topic, a specific issue you'd like to know more about or even a contributor you'd love to hear from? Please let us know below.

View >

#### **RECENT ARTICLES**

- Doctors Prescribe Reading For Fast Brain Development
- Say No To Pink For Little Girls!
- Sedtime Hacks For Desperate Parents
- Should Kids Be Famous On Instagram?
- ▶ Is A Nickel Allergy The New Gluten Allergy?