

Autism Video Project

Washington University in St. Louis
Neuroimaging Labs Research Center

Thank you for helping us!

Getting an autism diagnosis for young children can still be slow and expensive. Many families miss the chance to get early support when it matters most.

Our team at Washington University is working on a simple, low-cost tool that families can use at home to help spot early signs of autism. To make this possible, we need videos of real kids—playing, interacting, and just being themselves.

That's where you come in. By doing a few short tasks and recording them, you're helping us build something that could help many other families in the future. We really appreciate your time and support!

These tasks are quick and simple, and your child might even think they're just playing with you!

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General Instructions

You'll be recording **3 short tasks** using your phone. Each task should be recorded as a **separate video**. You can upload the videos directly through the app when you're done.

Here are a few tips before you start:

- Make sure your child's **face is not covered** (no hats or sunglasses).
- Try to record in a **quiet** place—turn off the TV or music.
- **Good lighting** is important! Daytime is best so we can clearly see your child's face and body.
- It's okay if you're in the video too—we want to see how your child interacts with you.
- There's **no right or wrong response**. Even if your child doesn't respond at all, that's totally fine. Every video helps our research.
- You don't have to finish everything at once. Feel free to **take breaks or spread the tasks out** over a few days.
- You'll find the task instructions on the next page. Please read each one before recording.

Thanks again for being part of this—we're excited to see what you and your child share with us!

Uploading Videos的办法流程

根据APP情况改, 可以考虑APP的截图说明

Task Instructions

Before You Start

Please read through all three tasks before recording. This will help you prepare the right items and understand what to say or do during each activity.

- Try to follow the steps **exactly as written**, especially when calling your child's name or saying a specific sentence (e.g., "Bring me the toy"). Using the **exact wording** helps us build useful tools like audio-based detection systems.
- If a sentence is included in quotation marks, please say **that exact sentence only once**, as instructed in the task.
- After you finish the main prompt or question in each task, **keep recording for at least 30 seconds** or

until the interaction ends naturally.

- Make sure your child's **face and body** are visible as much as possible throughout the video.

There are 3 tasks in total. They are meant to feel like playful, everyday moments—so please keep it relaxed and natural.

Filming tips:

Try to keep your child's **full body and face** visible in the video whenever possible. You can choose one of the following ways to record, based on what works best for your situation:

- **Hold the phone yourself** (recommended if possible): If filming alone, you can hold the phone casually during the task—just try to be natural and avoid making the child feel like they are being “watched.”
- **Place the phone on a stable surface:** If your hands are needed for part of the task (e.g., using a spoon), you can briefly place the phone somewhere steady. Just make sure the angle captures your child's body and face.
- **Have a second person film:** This helps you focus on interacting with your child while someone else holds the phone and follows the child's movement.

Task 1: Toy Interaction – “What’s that?”, “Bring me the toy”, and Feeding

1. **Set up**

Choose a toy your child likes that can be used for pretend feeding (e.g., a stuffed animal or doll).

Place the toy on the floor—either between you and your child, or near your child—depending on the moment.

Stand or sit about 5–10 feet away and, in a cheerful tone, call your child's name (e.g., “Hey Billy!”).

- If your child looks at you or makes eye contact, smile and continue.
- If they don't respond, wait 5 seconds and try again. Do not call more than twice.

2. **Ask: “What’s that?”**

Point to the toy and ask, “*What’s that?*” (say it exactly once).

Keep pointing and looking at the toy, but make sure the camera stays on the child.

If they respond, interact naturally. Record for at least 30 seconds.

3. **Ask: “Bring me the toy”**

Next, ask “*Bring me the toy*” (say it exactly once).

If the child brings it to you, interact normally. If not, it's okay—just keep recording.

4. **Pretend feeding**

Hold a spoon and say, “*The toy is hungry, what should we do?*”

- If your child responds, follow their lead and keep recording for at least 30 seconds.
- If no response after 5 seconds, ask: “*Should we feed the toy?*”
- If still no response, pretend to feed the toy with the spoon, then offer the spoon to your child. If they don't feed the toy, that's totally fine.

Task 2: Snack Time – “Which would you like to eat?”

1. **Set up**

Prepare two snacks your child likes and place them out of the child's reach.

Stand or sit about 5–10 feet away. In a cheerful tone, call your child's name (e.g., “Hey Billy!”).

- If your child looks at you or makes eye contact, smile and continue.
- If they don't respond, wait 5 seconds and try calling once more. Don't call more than twice.

2. **Offer the snacks**

Hold up both snacks where your child can see them and ask once: “*Which would you like to eat?*”

- If your child responds (by pointing, talking, reaching, etc.), you can interact naturally and give them

the snack.

- If they don't respond, that's totally fine—just keep recording.

Task 3: Free Play & “What do you have?”

1. Free play

Let your child play freely with their favorite toys for at least 3 minutes.

You don't need to talk or interact—just record them playing naturally.

You can hold the phone or place it somewhere stable. Since your child may move around, try to keep their full body and face in the video as much as possible.

2. Natural prompt

When your child is holding or playing with something, stand about 5–10 feet away and cheerfully call their name (e.g., “Hey Billy!”).

- If they look at you or make eye contact, move to the next step.
- If they don't respond, wait 5 seconds and try calling once more. Don't call more than twice.

Then ask once: “What do you have?”

It's okay if your child doesn't respond—just keep recording.