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Do you think your child has autism? New program may help provide an answer

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
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Parents who wonder why their infants or toddlers seem to be developing more slowly than other children may have a much quicker answer, thanks to a fledgling partnership between Phoenix-based [Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center](#) and an Idaho company.

SARRC has teamed up with Behavior Imaging to launch a pilot program in Maricopa County beginning in January that will allow parents to use their smartphones to submit a video of their child's behaviors, which is then reviewed by SARRC clinicians to diagnose autism spectrum disorder.

The new program is called NODA – the Naturalistic Observation Diagnostic Assessment – which can give parents a diagnosis within two to three weeks.



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Matt Resnik, son of SARRC founder Denise Resnik, was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder when he was a little boy.

That's less than the average time of six to nine months for diagnosis, said [Denise Resnik](#), co-founder of SARRC, who wishes this technology had been available for [her son Matthew](#) 23 years ago.

The earlier a child is diagnosed, the earlier he or she can begin treatment, Resnik said. Matthew was diagnosed 21 years ago, but if he were diagnosed earlier, intervention could have begun sooner, she said.

[Ron Oberleitner](#), CEO of Boise, Idaho-based Behavior Imaging, also has a 21-year-old son with autism.

Frustrated with a lack of early diagnosis options, Oberleitner left his career as vice president of product development in the medical device industry 13 years ago to find a solution to help the autism community. After conducting 12 years of research, he came up with the idea of allowing parents to record behaviors that clinicians look for when assessing autism spectrum disorder.

After the 60-day pilot program in Maricopa County, plans call for rolling it out nationwide, and eventually in other countries.