

Animal Watch VI Suite: A Comprehensive Program to Increase Access to Mathematics for Students with Visual Impairments

Through a three-year U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences grant, this project has developed an iDevice app and accompanying books of braille and accessible graphics to support learning for youths with visual impairments in Grades 5 through 9. The app uses word problems relating to environmental science and endangered species to connect math learning with real science information.

The AnimalWatch VI Suite Team has developed hands-on learning materials for algebra readiness that helps students with visual impairments improve their skills in computation and fractions, algebra, statistics, and basic geometry. The project not only improves students' math skills, but for many also sparks interest in the STEM fields.

Animal Watch is a web-based tutoring program for algebra readiness, including computation, fractions, and pre-algebra topics such as ratios, proportions, decimals, unit conversion, and others. Students solve colorful word problems about endangered species and environmental science topics, linking math learning with authentic science. Each word problem includes assistance in the form of worked examples, interactives, and video lessons, allowing students to work at their own pace.

For more information, visit the website at www.awvis.org.