**Is 2 a Lot?** by Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans

**About the Story**
Riding in a car, Joey asks, “Is 2 a lot?” Mom says, “Two is not a lot of pennies, but two is a lot of smelly skunks!” To avoid the skunks, Mom turns onto a magical road where she and Joey encounter 5 freckles and 5 cowboys, 10 dinosaurs and 10 pieces of popcorn, and much more. Are these numbers a lot or not? At the end, Joey gives a deep answer to the question. The illustrations are hilarious.

**About the Math**
While reading the story, your child can learn:
- Numbers tell us exactly how many there are in a collection.
- But the meaning of the numbers depends on context. For example, 10 pieces of popcorn are not a lot compared with a whole bag of popcorn, but 10 dinosaurs are a lot compared with the amount we see every day (none!).
- To read written numerals (1,000) and number words (one thousand).

**Activity After Reading**
**DRAWING**
Let’s make some drawings of five things that are not a lot and five other things that are a lot.

**Words to Learn**

**MATH WORDS**
two, three, four, five, ten, fifteen, one hundred, one thousand, a lot

**OTHER WORDS**
shelf, broken bones, freckles, chomping, aspen tree, stump, hot air balloons

**Talk During Reading**
**DESCRIBE WHAT’S ON THE PAGE**
What’s happening on this page? How many pennies do you see? Do you see two of anything else besides the skunks?

**COMPARE THE NUMBERS OF TWO GROUPS**
Are there more children in the school bus or more dogs on the street? Are there more dinosaurs or more pieces of popcorn?

**JUSTIFY A JUDGMENT**
Why are four children on the school bus not a lot of children, but four dogs to walk at once are a lot of dogs?

**IMAGINE A LOT AND NOT A LOT**
Can you think of something (besides pennies and skunks) for which two things are a lot and two other things are not a lot?

Try to come up with some of your own questions and comments, too!

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**Written by Herbert P. Ginsburg**
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- Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives by Lola M. Schaefer
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