

Styrofoam Cup Pyramid

Materials needed: 15 Styrofoam cups, a rubber band that will fit around the width of the cup, a length of yarn (2 feet) for each child in the group.

The object is to stack the cups into a pyramid form using a rubber band tool. The cups are placed on a table ends up. We usually form groups of 4 to 6 children so you need that many pieces of yarn attached to the rubber band. Each child holds a yarn in one hand. If we have an extra string one child may take 2 ends. This adds to the negotiation of who should get two strings. They are told they can only move the cups by using this rubber band tool together. They can not touch the cups with their hands. They need to pull their strings outward to make the rubber band stretch out into a circle, place it on the end of the cup, release the tension so the rubber band grabs the cup, and then manipulate it into position.

This activity teaches cooperation and the ability to communicate within a group to get an end result. If one child decides to follow his own lead without communicating, the rubber band will not work. It helps to go over some directional words that may help. When they are all standing around a table they may find that “left” and “right” do not work as directional words to everyone.