



“Bind, then, their souls and spirits together, that through their unity all . . . may become united.” —Bahá’u’lláh

TEAMWORK LIFTS ME UP!



### STRENGTH OF TEAMWORK

**M**y science class is usually friendly. But when first prize at the Spring Science Fair was a gift card for the ice cream shop, we got super competitive. Instead of helping each other, we started judging whose idea was best. It crushed the mood in class.

To rebuild teamwork, our teacher gave everyone paper cups and asked us to find a way to stand on them. We

worked in groups. At first, we argued about our ideas. I was worried our team’s plan would collapse. But when we shared and listened with respect, solutions started to take shape. I felt great when we figured it out!

We decided to work in teams for the science fair, too. Afterward, our whole class will go out for ice cream! Try our teamwork activity and see how it lifts *you* up.

### SHARE THE LOAD

**You’ll Need:** 10–20 paper cups of 8–16 oz. (237–473 mL), two or more squares of stiff cardboard about 12” wide (30.5 cm),\* an adult to help

1. To test strength of cups, put one cup on floor and stand on it. What happens?



2. Arrange 5–10 cups on the floor. Put square of sturdy cardboard on top.



3. Carefully step on cardboard. (Extra help comes in *handy*!) How many cups did it take to support you?



4. Does adding a second layer of cardboard change how many cups you need? What happens if you use fewer or more cups?

5. Try different arrangements. Does moving cups closer together or farther apart change how many you need? What if you use two layers of cups?



**HOW DOES IT WORK?** When you stand on a cup, that force is on one cup. With multiple cups and cardboard on top, there’s less force on any one cup. It’s shared by all cups. If cardboard is weak or cups are far apart, the force on them

varies. The cup with the most force on it may collapse. The others take on that cup’s force, then they collapse. Using stiff cardboard and putting cups close together spreads force more evenly.