What to Do

1. **Get what you need.**
   - Lots of paper or plastic cups (any size works, but it's easier if they're all the same size)

2. **Stack some cups.** Set one cup directly on top of another, as shown below. How high can you build before the stack falls over? (No helping by holding the tower up!)

3. **Build a tower using the cups.** How can you help the cups be more stable? Test out some ideas. Try to make a tall, stable tower that's as tall as you are.

4. **Take down your tower and build a taller one.** Use what you learned from building your towers. Put your cups together in a new way to make a tower that's even taller.

**Chew on This**
Gravity—a tower's worst enemy? Maybe. Gravity can make a tower fall. But it also holds the cups in place! The trick for surviving gravity's pull is to distribute the tower's weight properly. For example, a wide base spreads the weight over a broad area, helping to keep a tower stable. Making sure it's not "top heavy" helps keep a tower from tipping over. And evenly setting the cups upon one another helps the lower cups fully support the upper ones.
* Build another tower, but change one thing. What about making a wider or a narrower base, or one that is round, square, or triangular? How about using bigger or smaller cups or a mix of sizes? Make a prediction and test it out.

* Make another tower using a different building material, such as coins, marshmallows, or cardboard boxes.

* Like building tall things? Get the Arch, the Financial Support, and the Tall, Sturdy Building challenges from the ZOOM Web site at pbskids.org/zoom/activities.

* Like doing amazing things with paper cups? Get the Paper Cup Walk and the Columns challenges from the ZOOM Web site at pbskids.org/zoom/activities.

Help! My “person” is talking about knocking down my doghouse and putting in a swimming pool. I’d have to move! But where would I live? Hmmm, a place at the top of a tall building would be pretty nice. Kind of a penthouse doghouse. I know! You can help me build a really tall structure! Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, the only building materials I can offer you are a bunch of cups that I got a good deal on.

Yikes, that’s a bit too high up in the air for me, thank you. Think I’ll keep my feet on the ground and look for a first-floor doghouse near a Chinese restaurant.

Watch FETCH! on PBS KIDS GO! (check local listings) and visit the FETCH! Web site at pbskidsgo.org/fetch.