

# Teamwork & Teamplay

Building Unity, Community, Connection & Teamwork  
Through Active Learning



## Teamplay Tubes

**Teamplay Tubes** are a unique collection of PVC tubes & connectors (50 pieces total) that can be assembled by teams in a variety of ways. For group activities that promote teamwork, creativity, communication, problem solving and decision making skills, just look below. For more information on Teamplay Tubes, teambuilding activities, workshops, staff development trainings and books, check out the T&T website at [www.teamworkandteamplay.com](http://www.teamworkandteamplay.com) You can order a set of Teamplay Tubes from Training Wheels, Inc. at [www.training-wheels.com](http://www.training-wheels.com) or 1-888-553-0147.

1. **X Marks the Spot!** Using as many parts as necessary, create a continuous connection between each of the X's marked with masking tape on the floor, walls, or even the ceiling. For added complexity, the pvc tubing may only touch the floor at the X's.
2. **Blind Artist** - Have one team assemble about 15 pieces of their kit into some shape, and then have another group (wearing blindfolds) attempt to reconstruct a similar shape with their own pieces, using only their sense of touch to identify which pieces have been used in the original design.
3. **Tallest Tower** - Using any 10 (or 20 or 30 pieces) create the tallest tower possible, with only 3 points of contact with the floor. If you are limited by vertical ceiling height, require each tower to hold something (like a roll of duct tape) at the top. This added weight will require a shorter, stronger tower. For a final test of the engineering of this tower, use an electric room fan to see which towers can hold up to a strong wind.
4. **Human Arch** - Using the least number of pieces possible, create an arch, so that all members of the team can easily walk through the arch, without bending over.
5. **The Bridge** - Using all the pieces, construct the longest bridge-like shape possible, with no more than 3 PVC pieces touching the floor. Or, for a more complicated bridge, place two tables 10 feet apart, and now construct a bridge that touches both tables, and supports the weight of a book, basketball or other useful object.
6. **Jump Ball** - Create a human-looking basketball player (complete with feet, legs, body, arms and head). The sculpture with the tallest vertical reach wins the jump ball.
7. **Statue** - Create a variety of human or animal shapes (sitting, running, riding a horse, lying down, standing at attention, swimming, surfing, cycling, throwing a boomerang, cooking an omlette, throwing a baseball, etc.
8. **PVC Christmas Tree and Ornaments** - An activity for young children. Have team members create an ornamental tree, complete with branches, and then decorate with ornaments and a star.
9. **The Box** - Use as many parts as necessary to construct a box around some unusually shaped object (such as a rocking chair, stuffed animal, tent, etc.)
10. **The Book of Knowledge** - Build the tallest "table" possible that will hold a large book at the top.
11. **The Network** - Possibly one of the most difficult team activities. Using all the PVC tubes and connectors, create a single, interconnected shape with the tubes, so that no openings are left (i.e. each tube will be capped by two connectors, and each connector will have a tube in each opening, and the whole shape will be connected together). It is moderately difficult to create a 3-D shape that will accomplish this task, it is even more difficult to create a 2-D (i.e. flat on the floor) shape that accomplishes this task. For a still harder version, once connectors and tubes are assembled, each connection is permanent - this should invoke the need for some advanced planning.

12. **New Math** - Given a number (48, 3.1416, 101, 63.4, etc.) have team members use any parts to construct an equation that equals the number given. For example the answer 12, can be obtained by the equation  $3 \times 4 = 12$ , or the Square Root of  $144 = 12$ , or  $10 + 1 + 1 = 12$ .

13. **The Goal Post** - Construct a football style goal post, or a soccer goal, or a basketball hoop and stand, and then launch a balloon or lightweight ball towards the goal.

14. **Spelling Bee** - Using as many pieces as possible, construct letters of the alphabet. Then once all available parts have been turned into letters, use these letters to spell as many words as possible.

15. **More Math** - Design equations that teams will use to construct their own structures. Then measure these structures with a yardstick or tape measure. The object here is to maximize the values obtained in each equation (i.e. T should be the largest number possible).

$$\text{Length} + 2 \times \text{Height} + \text{Width} - \text{Number of Points of Contact with the Floor} = \text{Total}$$

- or -

$$L + 2*H + W - N = T$$

16. **Two Way Bridge** - With two groups (and two kits), begin this activity by locating each group on the opposite side of a folding wall, divider, or curtain, so that they may talk to each other, but not see what the other group is creating. Now have each group build one half of a bridge structure, so that when the divider or curtain is removed, the bridge will exactly come together. This task requires a bit of patience, and clear communication.

17. **A Tree in the Forest** - Using only 10 parts (tubing and connectors) create the tallest “tree” possible. Trees compete for sunlight and water, and must withstand wind to survive in a mature forest.

18. **Bullseye** - Place an archery or BB gun target on the floor about 12 feet in front of a boundary line. Using one bag of Teamplay Tubes, the team must create a device to place the PVC cap exactly in the center of the target, without stepping over the line.

19. **Furniture Infomercial** - Construct the perfect piece of outdoor furniture, filled with special features, and perhaps some optional equipment, and create a 1 minute infomercial to sell your product on the cable shopping network. Don’t forget to mention the price, the selling features and the website address of your furniture company.

20. **Limbo** - Construct a long pole and two identical height stands, add music, and measure the lowest level that all members of the team can successfully pass.

21. **Narrow Passage (3-D Spider Web)** - Using as many pieces as possible, construct a three dimensional “box” through which all members of the team must pass, without touching any of the PVC on the way. Team members must be in contact with at least one other person while passing through the “box.”

22. **Matchstick Puzzles** - Many puzzle and games books have activities using matches, straws and coins, that can also be performed using the PVC Teamplay Tubes. For example, can you make four triangles simultaneously using six Teamplay Tubes of approximately the same length ? Can you make two rows of four connectors using only 6 pieces ?

**Teamplay Tubes** are designed by Jim Cain, Ph.D.

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