

Skill Area(s): Conversation

BOOT IT & KISS IT (idea taken from a workshop presented by Debra Schipper- West Metro Learning Connections - <http://www.wmlearningconnections.com>)

Level: beginner, intermediate, advanced

Goal: topic maintenance

Materials needed: acronym pages for BOOT IT and KISS IT

Activity:

- **BOOT IT – Back On Our Topic or Back On Original Topic**
- This is used when the conversation is changed inappropriately or someone is stuck on their own topic.
- Practice this by having two people talk about their weekend or any chosen topic as the conversation progresses one person makes an off topic remark such as; I like liver. The more extreme the better to get the point across initially.
- Continue with your regularly scheduled activity for the day but have the BOOT IT cards by the group. If someone makes an inappropriate topic change you can either say BOOT IT or slide the card in front on them. All group members can do this. We talked about it being a reminder not a punishment.
- **KISS IT – Keep It Short and Simple**
- This is used when sharing information and you don't have time or want to hear long versions.
- Practice this by having the group share about their weekend or other chosen topic. Explain to the group that everyone needs a turn so each turn must be short. It might help to use a timer or tell them to share a certain number of sentences when introducing this concept.
- Model the difference between a short sharing vs. a long sharing moment.
- Place the KISS IT in front of the group as a reminder.
- Continue with your regularly scheduled activity for the day but have the KISS IT cards by the group. If someone is talking too long you can either say KISS IT or slide the card in front on them. All group members can do this. We talked about it being a reminder not a punishment.

Follow up suggestions:

- Make smaller cards to use at the table or in the classroom.
- Michelle Winner Garcia will state in her groups- “Wow that was a whopping topic change!!!!” when topic maintenance is not consistent



BOOT IT



KISS IT



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KISS IT



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