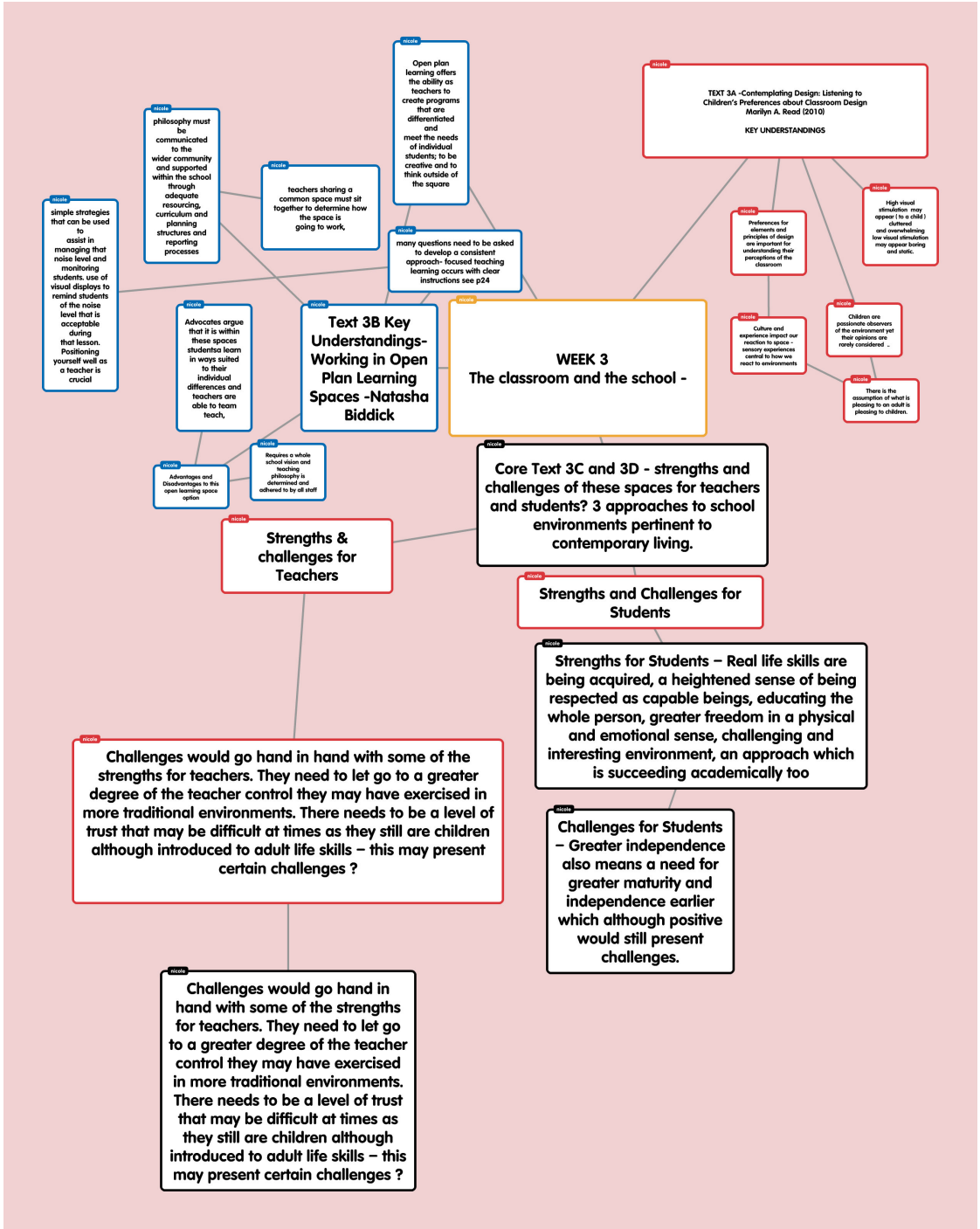
WEEK 3
The classroom and the school -
Text 3B Key Understandings- Working in Open Plan Learning Spaces -Natasha Biddick
TEXT 3A -Contemplating Design: Listening to Children's Preferences about Classroom Design Marilyn A. Read (2010)
KEY UNDERSTANDINGS
Open plan learning offers the ability as teachers to create programs that are differentiated and meet the needs of individual students; to be creative and to think outside of the square
philosophy must be communicated to the wider community and supported within the school through adequate resourcing, curriculum and planning structures and reporting processes
teachers sharing a common space must sit together to determine how the space is going to work,
simple strategies that can be used to assist in managing that noise level and monitoring students. use of visual displays to remind students of the noise level that is acceptable during that lesson. Positioning yourself well as a teacher is crucial
many questions need to be asked to develop a consistent approach- focused teaching learning occurs with clear instructions see p24
Preferences for elements and principles of design are important for understanding their perceptions of the classroom
High visual stimulation may appear ( to a child ) cluttered and overwhelming low visual stimulation may appear boring and static.
Culture and experience impact our reaction to space - sensory experiences central to how we react to environments
Children are passionate observers of the environment yet their opinions are rarely considered .
There is the assumption of what is pleasing to an adult is pleasing to children.
Advocates argue that it is within these spaces studentsa learn in ways suited to their individual differences and teachers are able to team teach,
Advantages and Disadvantages to this open learning space option
Requires a whole school vision and teaching philosophy is determined and adhered to by all staff
Core Text 3C and 3D - strengths and challenges of these spaces for teachers and students? 3 approaches to school environments pertinent to contemporary living.
Strengths & challenges for Teachers
Strengths and Challenges for Students
Strengths for Students – Real life skills are being acquired, a heightened sense of being respected as capable beings, educating the whole person, greater freedom in a physical and emotional sense, challenging and interesting environment, an approach which is succeeding academically too
Challenges for Students – Greater independence also means a need for greater maturity and independence earlier which although positive would still present challenges.
Challenges would go hand in hand with some of the strengths for teachers. They need to let go to a greater degree of the teacher control they may have exercised in more traditional environments. There needs to be a level of trust that may be difficult at times as they still are children although introduced to adult life skills – this may present certain challenges ?
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