

Cossolotto excited about pre-kindergarten

Kathy Cossolotto said she is very excited about the new pre-school for 4 year olds and considers it good news for the community.

Kathy Cossolotto has been part of Centerville since she was born. She now teaches at Central Elementary, the grade school she attended when she was in the fifth and sixth grades.

She said she never really thought about being a teacher while in high school.

"I just wanted to get married and be a mom," she said. And she did.

She married her husband, Carlo, right after high school and raised four

was in a little trailer in back of Central. Then I did it for St. Mary's in a trailer behind

Garfield. Volunteers walked the kids to the trailer. I held parent-teacher conferences in the trailer and everything."

Then Cossolotto became the third grade teacher when Jewel Pugh retired and was at Central Elementary for three years, then went back to Lincoln when Ruth Benz retired and taught third grade there.

"I found out a counseling job was going to be open in 1997 and I went back to school for a master's degree in counseling. First I went to a satellite of Wayne State (Nebraska) in Ottumwa, but when that was pulled I had to drive one summer to Northwest Iowa. I took classes in Dennison and Sheldon, leaving at 5:30 a.m. and getting there at 8," she said.

She learned it would be possible to get a higher salary if she completed the master's degree plus 36 hours, so again Carlo suggested she should go for it; so she did. She was awarded another mas-

Kathy Cossolotto sits in her office at Central Elementary where she works as counselor/teacher.



ter's degree, this time in administration, in 2002.

So now she is a counselor/teacher at Central - but goes to all five elementary buildings to teach basic needs and the six character pillars. She also works with kids on a

children.

"Our son has cerebral palsy and was home until he was 14. We have four kids and seven grandchildren. I was very busy doing just what I always said I wanted."

But there came a time when Cossolotto wasn't as busy as she wanted to be and she was hired by Fred Thomas as the aide at Lincoln Elementary.

"He told me that position wouldn't be

available the next school year and I was upset that I wouldn't have a job. Carlo advised me to just go to school and become a teacher, so I did. Three years later, Fred hired me again, only this time as a Title 1 reading teacher. I

one-to-one basis when they have issues such as school work completion, parents divorcing, friendship issues or other problems.

Cossolotto is the coordinator of the new 4 year old pre-school program.

"I make sure we are following state regulations. We already have parents calling for information about

next year. It's exciting. Parents like the idea and the program is free," she said.

"The two groups at Kids World are sharing some learning experiences. Our kids learn Spanish with the Kids World

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