

## Official Statistics Release

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## **Introduction**

This official statistics release reports on children’s centre inspections that occurred between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2013 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006.

The reporting period covers inspections carried out between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013.

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## Key findings

These findings report on inspections carried out in the academic year from 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013. This time period covers the last seven months of the previous framework and the first five months of the new framework. The current framework that began on 1 April 2013 distinguishes between groups of centres that work together, and those that operate on a standalone basis.

- Between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013, there have been 443 inspections of single children's centres and 19 inspections of children's centre groups. Groups have only been inspected under the new framework hence the small numbers. Of the total 462 inspections, 298 or 65% resulted in a judgement of good or better for overall effectiveness. Although the same proportion were judged to be good or outstanding as last year, within this there has been a decrease in the proportion judged to be outstanding, from 12% to 10%.
- While single centres performed better than children's centre groups this year, the number of group centres that have been inspected is small at this stage so it is too early to draw conclusions about why grades are lower for these centres. Of the 443 single centres inspected, 294 centres or 66% were judged good or better and 20 centres (5%) were judged inadequate. Of the 19 groups inspected, only four (21%) were judged good and none were outstanding. Four were judged inadequate.
- The 2012/13 reporting year crosses two inspection frameworks. For children's centres inspected in the first part of the year under the old framework, 66% were good or better and 4% were inadequate. For children's centres inspected under the new framework, 60% were good or better and 11% were inadequate. This lower grade profile may be an early indication that the new framework has raised the bar but again it is too early to draw firm conclusions.
- Ofsted began inspecting children's centres in April 2010, and by 31 August 2013 had inspected 1,876 children's centres. This represents just over 60% of all main children's centres open across England. Of those inspected, 69% were judged good or better, and 2% inadequate at their most recent inspection. Although the proportion of centres that are good or better is the same as last year, there is a one percentage point increase in the proportion of inadequate centres. This is largely due to the increase in the proportion of providers judged inadequate under the new framework.

## Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2013.
2. Statistics relate to inspections undertaken in the 2012/13 reporting year and include inspections where the inspection report was published within one month of the end of the reporting year.
3. The state of the nation figures show the most recent inspection outcomes for centres open at the end of the reporting period. Under the new framework, some former single centres are now inspected as part of a children's centre group. Where centres in these groups have been inspected previously, these grades are removed from the state of nation figures once the new group has been inspected. This affects six centres in this release. Data on which centres are working as children's centre groups are based on data received from the Department for Education (DfE), based on data submitted to the DfE by local authorities through the Sure Start\_On database.
4. Revisions are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics which can be found on the Ofsted website:  
  
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics>
5. The first inspection framework for children's centres was published in April 2010 and refreshed in September 2011. A new children's centre framework was introduced on 1 April 2013. The main changes to the new framework are a reduction in the number of key judgements and a more flexible framework that allows the inspection of single children's centres, joint inspection of groups of centres that the Sure Start\_On database indicates share leadership and management and integrated services, and the simultaneous inspection of those that work collaboratively. Information and guidance on the new framework is published on our website.

Children's centre framework:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-childrens-centre-inspection-april-2013>

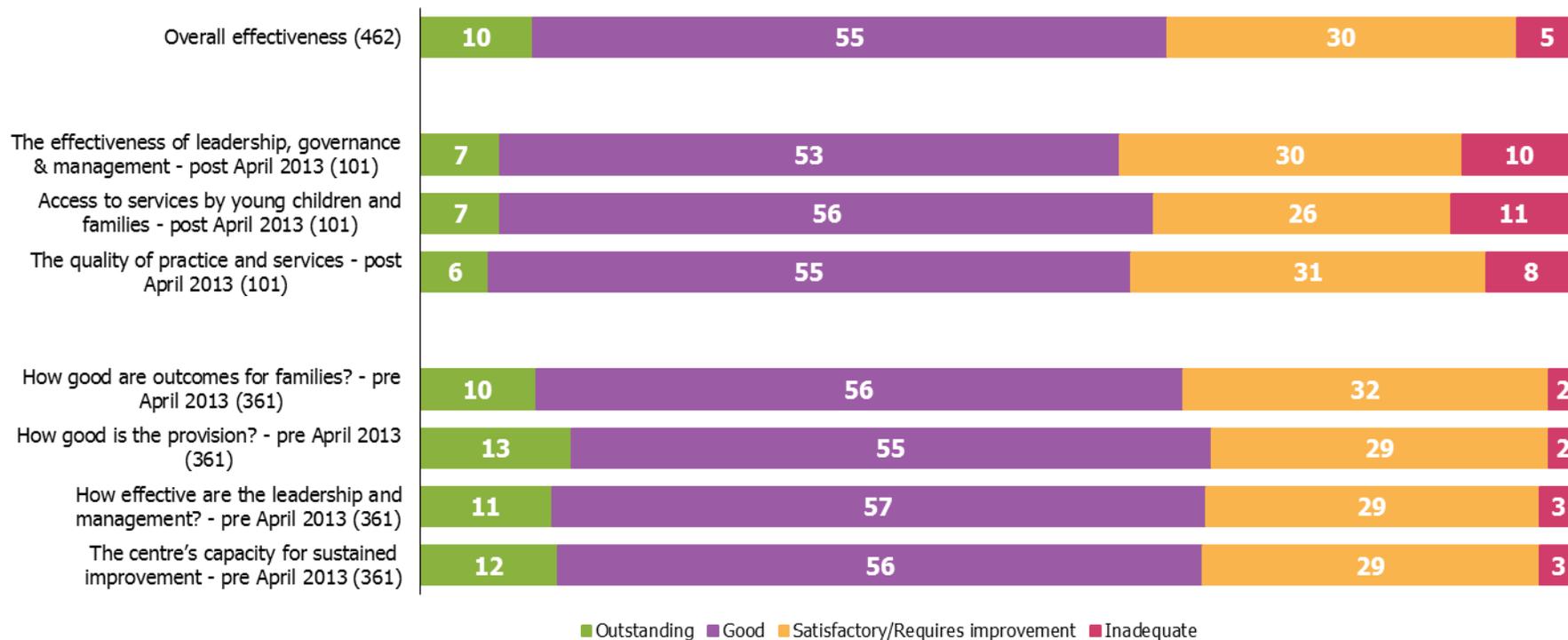
Children's centre handbook:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-centre-inspection-handbook-for-inspections-april-2013>

## **Additional information**

All the tables and charts shown in this release are also available in Excel format along with additional analysis at regional and local authority level. Provider level data is also available in csv format. These supplementary datasets are stored on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document.

**Chart 1: Inspection judgements for children's centres inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 – key judgements (final) <sup>12</sup>**

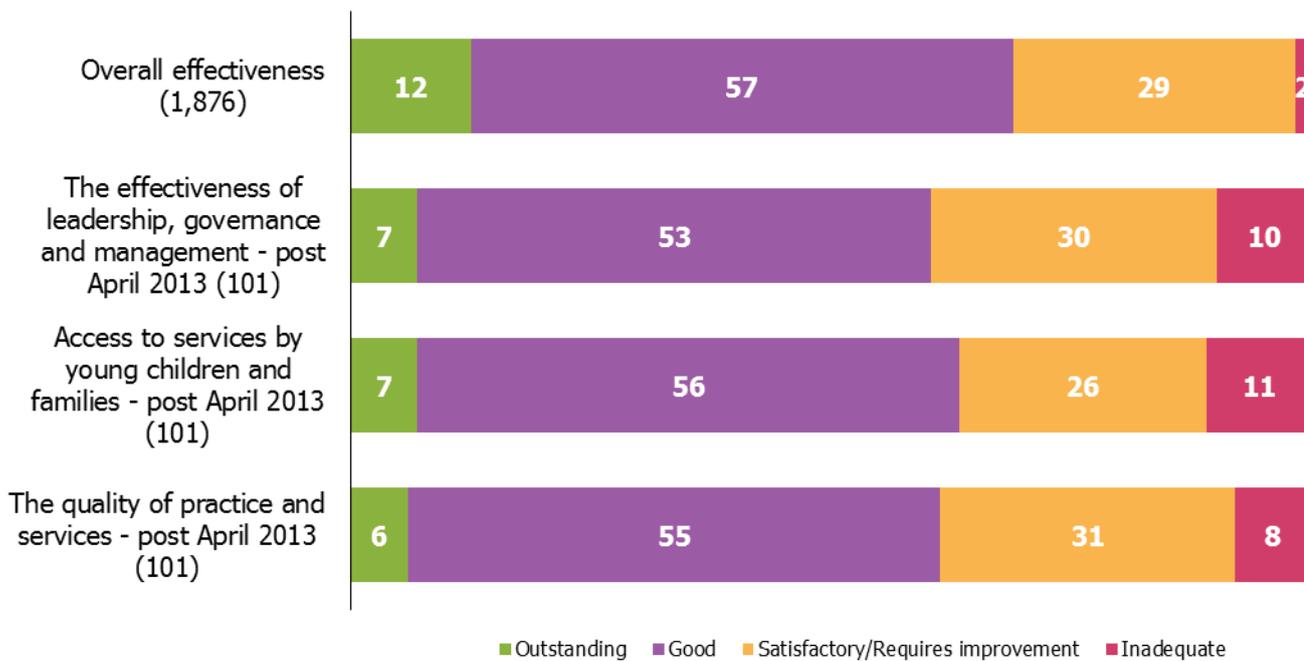


Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

2. 'Overall effectiveness' includes the judgement 'How effective is the children's centre in meeting the needs and improving outcomes for families?' from the previous framework and 'The overall effectiveness of the children's centre' from the current framework. The overall effectiveness judgement is the only outcome recorded across frameworks. The 'Post April' judgements represent all of the outcomes recorded at inspections since 1 April 2013. The 'Pre April' judgements represent the four key outcomes recorded at inspections up until 31 March 2013.

**Chart 2: Most recent inspection of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2013 (final) <sup>1 2</sup>**



Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

2. 'Overall effectiveness' includes the judgement 'How effective is the children's centre in meeting the needs and improving outcomes for families?' from the previous framework and 'The overall effectiveness of the children's centre' from the current framework. The overall effectiveness judgement is the only outcome recorded across frameworks. The three additional judgements were recorded at inspection since 1 April 2013.

**Table 1: Overall effectiveness outcome of children's centres inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 (final) <sup>123</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory / Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory / Requires improvement	Inadequate
All inspections	462	45	253	140	24	10	55	30	5
Single centre provider	443	45	249	129	20	10	56	29	5
Group provider	19	0	4	11	4	0	21	58	21

*Source: Ofsted Inspections*

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
2. 'Single centre provider' includes centres inspected as a stand-alone event or as part of a simultaneous inspection.
3. 'Satisfactory' judgements were recorded at inspections that took place up until 31 March 2013. For inspections after 1 April 2013, a 'requires improvement' judgement is recorded.

**Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 (final)<sup>123</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/ Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/ Requires improvement	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	462	45	253	140	24	10	55	30	5
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management (post April 2013)	101	7	54	30	10	7	53	30	10
Access to services by young children and their families (post April 2013)	101	7	57	26	11	7	56	26	11
The quality of practice and services (post April 2013)	101	6	56	31	8	6	55	31	8
How good are outcomes for families? (pre April 2013)	361	36	202	114	9	10	56	32	2
How good is the provision? (pre April 2013)	361	47	200	105	9	13	55	29	2
How effective are the leadership & management? (pre April 2013)	361	41	204	104	12	11	57	29	3
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership & management (pre April 2013)	361	43	201	105	12	12	56	29	3

*Source: Ofsted Inspections*

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

2. 'Overall effectiveness' includes the judgement 'How effective is the children's centre in meeting the needs and improving outcomes for families?' from the previous framework and 'The overall effectiveness of the children's centre' from the current framework. The overall effectiveness judgement is the only outcome recorded across frameworks and each inspection between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 will have a grade for this outcome. The 'Post April' judgements represent all of the outcomes recorded at inspections since 1 April 2013. The 'Pre April' judgements represent the four key outcomes recorded at inspections up until 31 March 2013.

3. 'Satisfactory' judgements were recorded at inspections that took place up until 31 March 2013. For inspections after 1 April 2013, a 'requires improvement' judgement is recorded.

**Table 3: Most recent inspection of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2013 (final) <sup>1234</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/ Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/ Requires improvement	Inadequate
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management	101	7	54	30	10	7	53	30	10
Access to services by young children and their families	101	7	57	26	11	7	56	26	11
The quality of practice and services	101	6	56	31	8	6	55	31	8

*Source: Ofsted Inspections*

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
2. 'Overall effectiveness' includes the judgement 'How effective is the children's centre in meeting the needs and improving outcomes for families?' from the previous framework and 'The overall effectiveness of the children's centre' from the current framework. The overall effectiveness judgement is the only outcome recorded across frameworks. The three additional judgements were recorded at inspection since 1 April 2013.
3. 'Satisfactory' judgements were recorded at inspections that took place up until 31 March 2013. For inspections after 1 April 2013, a 'requires improvement' judgement is recorded.
4. Includes children's centres open as at 1 October 2013.

## Glossary

### *Children's centres*

Children's centres are expected to provide, or make arrangements for parents-to-be and families with young children, including wider family members such as grandparents, to access early childhood services. They are a local port of call when a mother, father or carer needs help or advice; whether that is in relation to their role as parent/carers, their child's well-being or learning and development, to find out about neighbourhood activities for parents or activities for children including play groups or nurseries. In this context, early childhood services are:

- childcare for young children
- social services functions of the local authority relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
- health services relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
- employment support from Jobcentre Plus for parents or prospective parents
- the local authority's information, advice and assistance service relating to childcare and other services and facilities relevant to young children and their families.

### *New Framework – 1 April 2013 onwards*

Under this framework:

- an inspection will either be of a single centre or of a children's centre group that offers integrated services and shares leadership and management
- wherever possible and appropriate, inspections will take place simultaneously across a locality where local authorities or partner organisations deliver integrated services collaboratively
- a centre that is not yet 'good', but that is not judged 'inadequate', is a centre that 'requires improvement'
- centres that are judged as 'requires improvement' will be subject to monitoring and support and will normally be inspected within a maximum period of two years and earlier if required – the timing of inspection will reflect the quality of the action plan, the individual circumstances of the local authority and the centre and will be informed by what inspectors find during their monitoring activities
- if a centre is judged as 'requires improvement' at two consecutive inspections and is still not 'good' at a third inspection, it is likely to be deemed 'inadequate'
- a centre judged as inadequate will be re-inspected within 12 months of the previous inspection – the quality of the action plan produced by the local authority in response to the inspection and its implementation will be an important feature of the re-inspection.

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