

## Official Statistics Release

Policy area:	Children's centre inspections and outcomes
Theme:	Education, children's services and skills
Published on:	6 September 2012
Coverage:	England
Period covered:	1 April 2010 to 30 June 2012
Status:	Provisional
Issued by:	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) Aviation House 125 Kingsway London WC2B 6SE
Responsible director:	Susan Gregory
Statistician:	Steve Ball
Public enquiries:	<a href="mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk">enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk</a>
Press enquiries:	<a href="mailto:pressenquiries@ofsted.gov.uk">pressenquiries@ofsted.gov.uk</a>
Link to official statistics release web page:	<a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-centres-inspections-and-outcomes">http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-centres-inspections-and-outcomes</a>
Publication medium:	Ofsted website
Publication frequency:	Quarterly

## **Introduction**

This official statistics release reports on children’s centre inspections that occurred between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2012 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006.

Data for inspections carried out between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 are provisional and subject to change.

Ofsted recently undertook a review of the effectiveness of this and other official statistics releases to ensure they are fit for purpose and meeting user needs. This consultation is now closed but a response to the comments and suggestions received will be published in the near future.

## **Contents**

Introduction .....	2
Key findings .....	3
Impact of revisions on key points of previous release.....	4
Methodology .....	4
Additional information .....	5
Chart 1: Key inspection judgements for children's centres inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional).....	6
Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 January 2011 and 30 June 2012, by quarter.....	6
Table 1: Number of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2012 .....	7
Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional).....	8
Table 3: Most recent inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2012 (provisional) .....	10
Table 4: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2012, by quarter.....	12
Glossary .....	13

## Key findings

### Latest quarter

- Of the 151 children's centres inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012, 70% were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is an increase of four percentage points from the proportion judged good or outstanding in the previous quarter. This is also the highest percentage of children's centres judged good or outstanding since the 1 January to 31 March 2011 quarter.
- The 15% of children's centres judged outstanding in this quarter for overall effectiveness is an increase of five percentage points from the proportion judged outstanding in the previous quarter. Similarly, the 27% of centres judged satisfactory in this quarter show a five percentage point decrease compared to the proportion judged satisfactory from the previous quarter.
- Four of the children's centres inspected in this quarter were judged inadequate. This is one less than during the previous quarter.
- The strongest aspects of provision were found in the quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, where 86% of children's centres inspected this quarter were judged good or outstanding. The next highest judgement was the effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding, with 84% judged good or outstanding.
- The least positive outcome for users is the extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence, where 58% of children's centres were judged good or outstanding. This has been the lowest judged aspect of children's centres since the July to September 2011 quarter.

### Most recent inspections (1 April 2010 – 30 June 2012)

- The inspection of children's centres commenced in May 2010. Since then, 1,389 children's centres have been inspected and their findings published on the Ofsted website.
- Of the 1,389 centres inspected, 69% were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection and almost all (98%) were judged to be at least satisfactory.
- At a regional level, the North East have the highest percentage of children's centres judged as good or outstanding (85%), in contrast to the South West with 54% of inspected children's centres judged good or outstanding.
- Thirty two children's centres have been judged inadequate since May 2010. Of these, 11 centres have received a second inspection. All 11 were judged satisfactory for overall effectiveness at this most recent inspection.

## **Impact of revisions on key points of previous release**

- Final data covering the period 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2012 have been released and can be found on the Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-centres-inspections-and-outcomes>

- The revised data include inspection outcomes relating to one further inspection that took place in March 2012 and was published in May 2012. This children's centre was judged inadequate for overall effectiveness.
- Based on revised data, there were 234 children's centres inspected between the 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012, of which five were judged inadequate for overall effectiveness.

## **Methodology**

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2012.
2. Statistics relating to inspections undertaken in the most recent quarter are provisional and include inspections in the period where the inspection report was published within one month of the end of the quarter. If exceptionally, an inspection report is published later than one month after the end of the quarter in which the inspection took place, it will be included in the final release of the statistics.
3. Following an evaluation of the first year of children's centre inspection, the children's centre inspection framework was refreshed to remove repetition and ensure a sharper focus on families in target groups. The refreshed evaluation schedule took effect on 1 September 2011 and impacts on the way the statistics should be viewed. Two judgements in the quality of provision section and two in the leadership and management section were combined. The outcomes for these new judgements do not match across to either of the judgements they replaced. Furthermore, whilst the wording of most of the remaining children's centre judgements were slightly amended to increase the focus on outcomes, in particular for families in target groups and those most in need of intervention and support, the focus of inspection has not significantly changed. These judgements, therefore, match across to their April 2010 to August 2011 iterations.
4. In earlier quarterly publications there had been two tables covering inspection outcomes over the full period since April 2010. Previously table 3 covered all inspections carried out, including the re-inspection of centres found inadequate at their first inspection, and table 4 covered only each centre's most recent inspection. The table which covered all inspections (previously table 3) was removed from the January 2012 to March 2012 provisional publication to bring the statistics published for children's centres into line with those published by Ofsted for other types of provider. Now only the most recent inspection for

each centre is published. This change is also reflected in Table 6, which provides most recent inspection outcomes broken down by region and local authority, and the supplied provider level data in Excel and csv file format. Only a small number of centres have received more than one inspection and so the impact of this change is small.

5. 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>

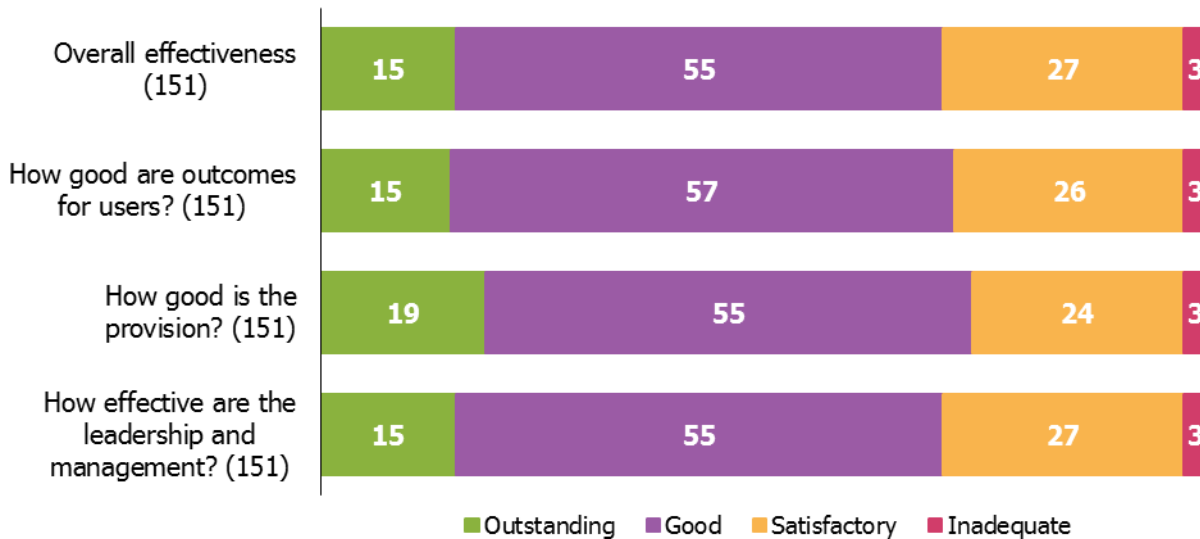
6. The inspection framework for children’s centres was published in April 2010 and refreshed in September 2011. For more information about the framework and how Ofsted inspects children’s centres please go to the Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Framework-for-children-s-centre-inspection>.

### **Additional information**

All the tables and charts shown in this release, along with additional analysis by month and at regional and local authority level, are available in Excel and csv format on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document.

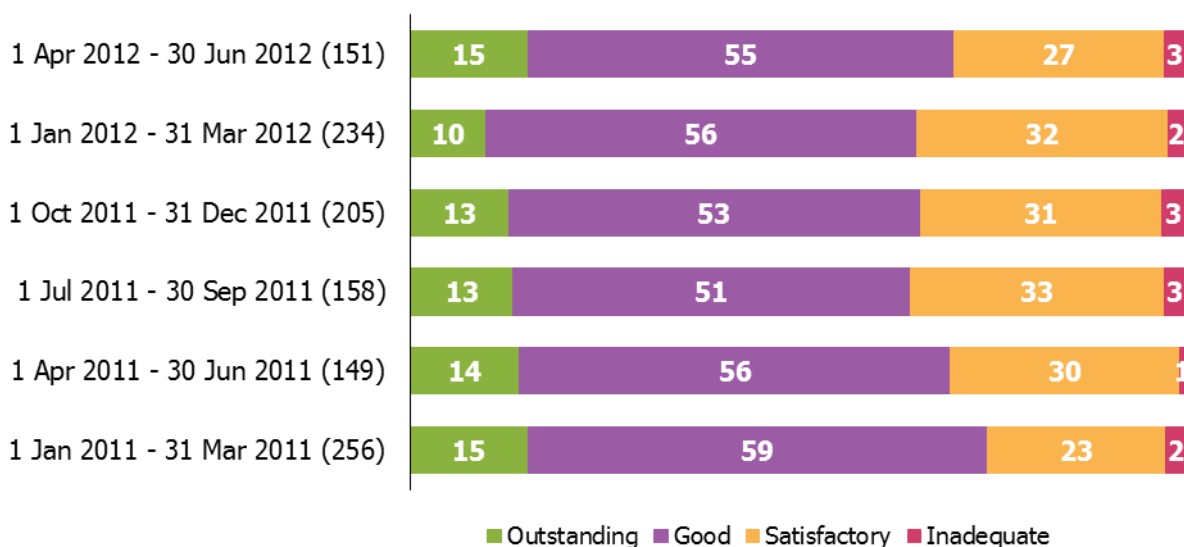
**Chart 1: Key inspection judgements for children's centres inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional)<sup>1</sup>**



Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

**Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 January 2011 and 30 June 2012, by quarter<sup>1 2</sup>**



Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.  
 2. Data for the period 1 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 are provisional.

**Table 1: Number of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2012**

	<b>Full inspections</b>
All inspections <sup>1</sup>	1,400
<b>First year (1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011)</b>	<b>503</b>
1 April 2010 - 30 June 2010	23
1 July 2010 - 30 September 2010	60
1 October 2010 - 31 December 2010	164
1 January 2011 - 31 March 2011	256
<b>Second year (1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012)</b>	<b>746</b>
1 April 2011 - 30 June 2011	149
1 July 2011 - 30 September 2011	158
1 October 2011 - 31 December 2011	205
1 January 2012 - 31 March 2012	234
<b>1 April 2012 - 30 June 2012<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>151</b>
April 2012 <sup>1</sup>	27
May 2012 <sup>1</sup>	70
June 2012 <sup>1</sup>	54

*Source: Ofsted Inspections*

1. Data are provisional.

**Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 (provisional)<sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for families</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	151	24	16	81	54	42	28	4	3
<b>How good are outcomes for families?</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	151	21	14	81	54	46	30	3	2
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	151	40	26	86	57	25	17	0	0
The extent to which all children and parents, including those from target groups, enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	151	20	13	92	61	37	25	2	1
The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and parents, including those from target groups, contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre	151	25	17	78	52	44	29	4	3
The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents, including those from target groups, are developing economic stability and independence including access to training and employment	151	17	11	71	47	59	39	4	3
<b>How good is the provision?</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups <sup>4</sup>	151	25	17	83	55	39	26	4	3
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups	151	26	17	83	55	38	25	4	3



**Table 2 (continued)**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups	151	47	31	83	55	19	13	2	1
<b>How effective are the leadership and management?</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood	151	25	17	78	52	44	29	4	3
The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes	151	24	16	70	46	53	35	4	3
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	151	31	21	76	50	40	26	4	3
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	151	24	16	81	54	42	28	4	3
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	151	46	30	82	54	23	15	0	0
The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services provided by the centre to meet its core purpose	151	43	28	72	48	33	22	3	2
The extent to which the centre supports and encourages families in the reach area to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision	151	26	17	74	49	47	31	4	3

*Source: Ofsted Inspections*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages are not shown.

**Table 3: Most recent inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2012 (provisional)<sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for families</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	1,389	212	15	775	56	381	27	21	2
<b>How good are outcomes for families?</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>
The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	1,389	192	14	793	57	395	28	9	1
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	1,389	334	24	853	61	194	14	8	1
The extent to which all children and parents, including those from target groups, enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	1,389	202	15	851	61	330	24	6	0
The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and parents, including those from target groups, contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre	1,389	230	17	741	53	400	29	18	1
The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents, including those from target groups, are developing economic stability and independence including access to training and employment	1,389	140	10	690	50	545	39	14	1
<b>How good is the provision?</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>
<sup>4</sup> The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	739	169	23	400	54	167	23	3	0
<sup>3</sup> The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	650	89	14	345	53	201	31	15	2
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups	1,389	204	15	844	61	331	24	10	1
<sup>4</sup> The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	739	124	17	412	56	199	27	4	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups	1,389	472	34	731	53	177	13	9	1

**Table 3 (continued)**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>How effective are the leadership and management?</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood	1,389	203	15	739	53	421	30	26	2
<sup>3</sup> The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes	650	91	14	296	46	247	38	16	2
<sup>4</sup> The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	739	127	17	392	53	212	29	8	1
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	1,389	254	18	728	52	389	28	18	1
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	1,389	207	15	780	56	387	28	15	1
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	1,389	382	28	809	58	189	14	9	1
<sup>4</sup> The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	739	98	13	349	47	280	38	12	2
The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services provided by the centre to meet its core purpose	1,389	382	28	693	50	301	22	13	1
The extent to which the centre supports and encourages families in the reach area to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision	1,389	214	15	725	52	429	31	21	2

*Source: Ofsted Inspections*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.
2. Wording of some judgements refreshed on 1 September 2011 but the criteria for assessing them remained unchanged. Data are amalgamated for inspections conducted before and after this date.
3. Judgement only made at inspections since 1 September 2011.
4. Judgement only made at inspections between 1 April 2010 and 31 August 2011.

**Table 4: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2012, by quarter<sup>1</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012 <sup>2</sup>	<b>151</b>	23	15	83	55	41	27	4	3
1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012	<b>234</b>	23	10	130	56	76	32	5	2
1 October 2011 - 31 December 2011	<b>205</b>	26	13	109	53	64	31	6	3
1 July 2011 - 30 September 2011	<b>158</b>	21	13	81	51	52	33	4	3
1 April 2011 - 30 June 2011	<b>149</b>	21	14	83	56	44	30	1	1
1 January 2011 - 31 March 2011	<b>256</b>	39	15	152	59	59	23	6	2
1 October 2010 - 31 December 2010	<b>164</b>	20	12	103	63	40	24	1	1
1 July 2010 - 30 September 2010 <sup>3</sup>	<b>60</b>	8	13	34	57	16	27	2	3
1 April 2010 - 30 June 2010 <sup>4</sup>	<b>23</b>	3	-	9	-	8	-	3	-

*Source: Ofsted Inspections*

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages are not shown.
2. Data are provisional.
3. There were no inspections of children's centres carried out in August 2010.
4. Inspection of children's centres commenced in May 2010.

## 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/carer, 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<sup>1</sup>
- the local authority's information, advice and assistance service relating to childcare and other services and facilities relevant to young children and their families.

### Additional full inspections

Children's centres judged inadequate for overall effectiveness will receive an additional full inspection approximately 12 months after the inspection that judged them to be inadequate. Apart from inadequate provision, Ofsted will inspect all other provision once in the current cycle, which is due to end in 2015.

### © Crown copyright

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU or e-mail: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

---

<sup>1</sup> This may include partnership working with other services to provide services to parents and prospective parents on site or by referral elsewhere.