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Introduction

This official statistics release reports on children's centre inspections that occurred between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2011 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006.

Data for inspections carried out between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 are final. Data for inspections carried out between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2011 are provisional and are subject to change. Ofsted will release final statistics for the period 1 April to 30 June 2011 on 8 December 2011.

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Key findings

Latest quarter

- Of the 148 children's centres inspected between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2011, 69% were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is a decrease of five percentage points from the previous quarter.
- All but one of the children's centres inspected in this quarter were judged to be at least satisfactory.
- A higher proportion of children's centres were judged good or outstanding for the other key judgements compared to the overall effectiveness judgement. Seventy-five per cent of children's centres were good or outstanding for the outcomes for users, 74% were delivering good or outstanding provision and 72% were deemed as such for the leadership and management of the centre.
- As with the previous quarter, the strongest aspects of provision were found in the quality of care, guidance and support and the extent to which children are safe and protected, where 87% and 84% were judged good or outstanding respectively.
- The least positive outcomes for users are the extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence, where 64% of centres were judged good or outstanding.
- As with the previous quarter, the centres' use of evaluation to improve services received the lowest proportion of good and outstanding judgements at 56%. Alongside the extent to which centres develop ambitious targets to drive improvement and the governance and accountability of children's centres, these three aspects all show a lower profile of good and outstanding judgements and a higher proportion of inadequate judgements (at 2%).
- The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users was judged to be good or outstanding in 76% of inspections in the quarter, while 69% of centres inspected were good or outstanding at providing services, activities and opportunities that meet the needs of users and the wider community.

All inspections (1 April 2010 – 30 June 2011)

- The inspection of children's centres commenced in May 2010. Since then, 647 children's centres have been inspected and their findings published on the Ofsted website.
- Of the 647 centres inspected, 73% were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection and almost all (99%) were judged to be at least satisfactory.
- Thirteen children's centres have been judged inadequate since May 2010. Of these, four centres have received a second inspection. All four were judged satisfactory for overall effectiveness at this most recent inspection.

Impact of revisions on key findings of previous release

- The revised data includes inspection outcomes relating to a further five children's centre inspections for the 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011.
- Of the 256 children's centres inspected between the 1 January 2011 and 31 March 2011 less than three quarters (74%) were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is a percentage point decrease from the provisional figure.
- The revised data also shows that the number of children's centres judged inadequate for overall effectiveness increased from four to six.
- These additions do not impact considerably on the remainder of the key findings from the provisional release.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections undertaken between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2011. No inspections of children's centres took place in April 2010 or August 2010.
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. 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>

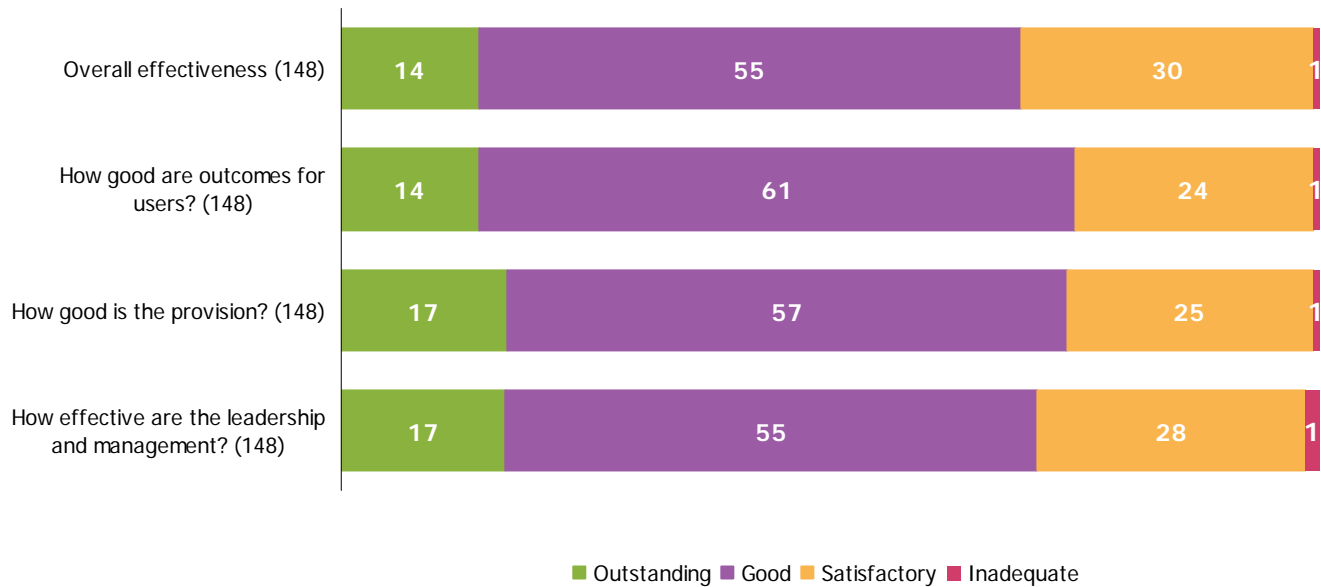
4. The inspection framework for children's centres was published in April 2010. For more information about the framework and how Ofsted inspects children's centres please go to the Ofsted website:

<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 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 2011 and 30 June 2011 (provisional)¹



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

Source: Ofsted Inspections

Table 1: Number of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2011, by quarter and monthly period

	Full inspections
All inspections ¹	651
First year (1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011)	503
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
January 2011	52
February 2011	80
March 2011	124
Second year (1 April 2011 - 30 June 2011) ¹	148
1 April 2011 - 30 June 2011 ¹	148
April 2011 ¹	18
May 2011 ¹	65
June 2011 ¹	65

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Data are provisional.

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2011 (provisional)¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community	148	21	14	82	55	44	30	1	1
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	148	25	17	83	56	38	26	2	1
How good are outcomes for users?	148	21	14	90	61	36	24	1	1
The extent to which children, including those from vulnerable groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	148	18	12	92	62	38	26	0	0
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	148	35	24	89	60	24	16	0	0
The extent to which all users enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	148	22	15	96	65	30	20	0	0
The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and users contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre	148	26	18	83	56	38	26	1	1
The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence including access to training	148	15	10	80	54	52	35	1	1
How good is the provision?	148	25	17	84	57	37	25	2	1
The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	148	31	21	81	55	35	24	1	1
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all users	148	22	15	95	64	30	20	1	1

Table 2 (continued)

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	148	22	15	80	54	45	30	1	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community	148	53	36	76	51	18	12	1	1
How effective are the leadership and management?	148	25	17	81	55	41	28	1	1
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day to day management arrangements are clear and understood	148	25	17	77	52	43	29	3	2
The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	148	27	18	70	47	48	32	3	2
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of users and the wider community	148	29	20	77	52	41	28	1	1
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	148	23	16	85	57	39	26	1	1
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	148	35	24	88	59	25	17	0	0
The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	148	22	15	61	41	62	42	3	2
The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services the centre has been commissioned to provide	148	51	34	64	43	32	22	1	1
The extent to which the centre supports and encourages the wider community to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision	148	24	16	74	50	49	33	1	1

Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Table 3: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 January 2011 and 31 March 2011 (final)¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community	256	39	15	152	59	59	23	6	2
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	256	45	18	151	59	53	21	7	3
How good are outcomes for users?	256	37	14	161	63	56	22	2	1
The extent to which children, including those from vulnerable groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	256	43	17	161	63	52	20	0	0
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	256	62	24	164	64	30	12	0	0
The extent to which all users enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	256	45	18	159	62	50	20	2	1
The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and users contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre	256	49	19	142	55	61	24	4	2
The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence including access to training	256	30	12	138	54	86	34	2	1
How good is the provision?	256	46	18	153	60	55	21	2	1
The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	256	66	26	132	52	55	21	3	1
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all users	256	42	16	161	63	51	20	2	1

Table 3 (continued)

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	256	46	18	145	57	63	25	2	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community	256	89	35	140	55	27	11	0	0
How effective are the leadership and management?	256	42	16	154	60	55	21	5	2
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day to day management arrangements are clear and understood	256	45	18	141	55	65	25	5	2
The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	256	44	17	138	54	67	26	7	3
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of users and the wider community	256	50	20	144	56	57	22	5	2
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	256	39	15	145	57	70	27	2	1
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	256	67	26	156	61	32	13	1	0
The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	256	33	13	119	46	97	38	7	3
The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services the centre has been commissioned to provide	256	78	30	130	51	46	18	2	1
The extent to which the centre supports and encourages the wider community to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision	256	46	18	138	54	67	26	5	2

Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Table 4: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2011 (provisional)¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community	651	91	14	380	58	167	26	13	2
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	651	105	16	377	58	155	24	14	2
How good are outcomes for users?	651	88	14	408	63	148	23	7	1
The extent to which children, including those from vulnerable groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	651	106	16	396	61	148	23	1	0
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	651	158	24	409	63	81	12	3	0
The extent to which all users enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	651	106	16	413	63	128	20	4	1
The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and users contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre	651	119	18	358	55	167	26	7	1
The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence including access to training	651	70	11	356	55	219	34	6	1
How good is the provision?	651	108	17	388	60	148	23	7	1
The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	651	148	23	349	54	147	23	7	1
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all users	651	100	15	416	64	130	20	5	1

Table 4 (continued)

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	651	108	17	357	55	178	27	8	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community	651	229	35	343	53	76	12	3	0
How effective are the leadership and management?	651	103	16	378	58	158	24	12	2
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day to day management arrangements are clear and understood	651	106	16	353	54	177	27	15	2
The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	651	115	18	338	52	183	28	15	2
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of users and the wider community	651	119	18	364	56	159	24	9	1
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	651	101	16	373	57	171	26	6	1
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	651	174	27	385	59	87	13	5	1
The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	651	86	13	299	46	248	38	18	3
The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services the centre has been commissioned to provide	651	204	31	316	49	126	19	5	1
The extent to which the centre supports and encourages the wider community to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision	651	108	17	349	54	182	28	12	2

Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Table 5: Most recent inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2011 (provisional)¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community	647	91	14	380	59	167	26	9	1
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	647	105	16	377	58	154	24	11	2
How good are outcomes for users?	647	88	14	408	63	146	23	5	1
The extent to which children, including those from vulnerable groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	647	106	16	396	61	144	22	1	0
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	647	158	24	409	63	79	12	1	0
The extent to which all users enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	647	106	16	413	64	124	19	4	1
The extent to which children engage in positive behaviour and develop positive relationships and users contribute to decision-making and governance of the centre	647	119	18	358	55	163	25	7	1
The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence including access to training	647	70	11	356	55	216	33	5	1
How good is the provision?	647	108	17	388	60	145	22	6	1
The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	647	148	23	349	54	144	22	6	1
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all users	647	100	15	416	64	126	19	5	1

Table 5 (continued)

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	647	108	17	357	55	176	27	6	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community	647	229	35	343	53	73	11	2	0
How effective are the leadership and management?	647	103	16	378	58	158	24	8	1
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day to day management arrangements are clear and understood	647	106	16	353	55	177	27	11	2
The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	647	115	18	338	52	182	28	12	2
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of users and the wider community	647	119	18	364	56	156	24	8	1
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	647	101	16	373	58	169	26	4	1
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	647	174	27	385	60	86	13	2	0
The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	647	86	13	299	46	247	38	15	2
The extent to which partnerships with other agencies ensure the integrated delivery of the range of services the centre has been commissioned to provide	647	204	32	316	49	122	19	5	1
The extent to which the centre supports and encourages the wider community to engage with services and uses their views to develop the range of provision	647	108	17	349	54	179	28	11	2

Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Table 6: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2011, by quarter¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
1 April 2011 - 30 June 2011 ²	148	21	82	44	1
1 January 2011 - 31 March 2011	256	39	152	59	6
1 October 2010 - 31 December 2010	164	20	103	40	1
1 July 2010 - 30 September 2010 ³	60	8	34	16	2
1 April 2010 - 30 June 2010 ⁴	23	3	9	8	3

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Figures represent the number of children's centres.
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, or their child's well-being or learning and development, or simply 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 parents¹
- 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.

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