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Introduction

This official statistics release reports on children’s centre inspections that occurred between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006.

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

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Key findings

Latest quarter

- Of the 251 children's centres inspected between 1 January 2011 and 31 March 2011, three quarters (75%) were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness and almost all (98%) were judged to be at least satisfactory. Four were judged inadequate.
- A slightly higher proportion of children's centres were judged good or outstanding for the other key judgements compared to the overall effectiveness judgement. Seventy-eight per cent of children's centres were good or outstanding for the quality of provision and the outcomes for users; 77% were deemed as such for the leadership and management of the centre.
- 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 91% and 89% were judged good or outstanding respectively.
- The weakest aspects of provision was in the use of evaluation to improve services and the extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence. Sixty per cent and 66% of children's centres were judged good or outstanding for these aspects, respectively.

Annual period (1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011)

- The inspection of children's centres commenced in May 2010. Since then, 498 children's centres have been inspected and their findings published on the Ofsted website.
- Of the 498 inspected, 73% were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness and almost all (98%) were judged to be at least satisfactory.
- Ten children's centres have been judged inadequate since May 2010.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections undertaken between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 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. 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 January 2011 and 31 March 2011 (provisional)¹



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

Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness: The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community	251	39	16	149	59	59	24	4	2
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	251	45	18	149	59	52	21	5	2
How good are outcomes for users?	251	37	15	158	63	54	22	2	1
The extent to which children, including those from vulnerable groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	251	42	17	159	63	50	20	0	0
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	251	62	25	161	64	28	11	0	0
The extent to which all users enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	251	45	18	156	62	48	19	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	251	49	20	139	55	59	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	251	30	12	135	54	84	33	2	1
How good is the provision?	251	46	18	150	60	53	21	2	1
The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	251	66	26	129	51	53	21	3	1
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all users	251	42	17	158	63	49	20	2	1

Table 1 (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	251	45	18	142	57	62	25	2	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community	251	88	35	139	55	24	10	0	0
How effective are the leadership and management?	251	42	17	150	60	55	22	4	2
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day to day management arrangements are clear and understood	251	45	18	138	55	65	26	3	1
The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	251	44	18	135	54	67	27	5	2
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of users and the wider community	251	50	20	141	56	56	22	4	2
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	251	39	16	142	57	69	27	1	0
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	251	66	26	154	61	30	12	1	0
The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	251	33	13	118	47	95	38	5	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	251	77	31	128	51	44	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	251	46	18	136	54	65	26	4	2

Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 (provisional)¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness: The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for users and the wider community	498	70	14	295	59	123	25	10	2
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	498	80	16	292	59	116	23	10	2
How good are outcomes for users?	498	67	13	315	63	110	22	6	1
The extent to which children, including those from vulnerable groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	498	87	17	302	61	108	22	1	0
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	498	123	25	317	64	55	11	3	1
The extent to which all users enjoy and achieve educationally and in their personal and social development	498	84	17	314	63	96	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	498	93	19	272	55	127	26	6	1
The extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence including access to training	498	55	11	273	55	165	33	5	1
How good is the provision?	498	83	17	301	60	109	22	5	1
The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	498	117	23	265	53	110	22	6	1
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all users	498	78	16	318	64	98	20	4	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	498	85	17	274	55	132	27	7	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to users within the centre and the wider community	498	175	35	266	53	55	11	2	0
How effective are the leadership and management?	498	78	16	293	59	117	23	10	2
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day to day management arrangements are clear and understood	498	81	16	273	55	134	27	10	2
The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	498	88	18	265	53	135	27	10	2
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of users and the wider community	498	90	18	284	57	117	23	7	1
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	498	78	16	285	57	131	26	4	1
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	498	138	28	295	59	60	12	5	1
The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	498	64	13	237	48	184	37	13	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	498	152	31	250	50	92	18	4	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	498	84	17	273	55	131	26	10	2

Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Table 3: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011, by quarter (provisional)³

	Total number inspected	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
1 January 2011 - 31 March 2011	251	39	149	59	4
1 October 2010 and 31 December 2010	164	20	103	40	1
1 July 2010 and 30 September 2010 ¹	60	8	34	16	2
1 April 2010 and 30 June 2010 ²	23	3	9	8	3

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. There were no inspections of children's centres carried out in August 2010.
2. Inspection of children's centres commenced in May 2010.
3. Figures represent the number of children's centres.

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.

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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.