

Official Statistics Release

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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:	enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Press enquiries:	pressenquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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Introduction

This official statistics release reports on children's centre inspections that occurred between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2012 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006.

Data for inspections carried out between 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012 are provisional and subject to change.

Ofsted is reviewing the effectiveness of this and other official statistics releases to ensure they are fit for purpose and meeting user needs. Part of the purpose of the review, given the challenging financial climate, is to identify areas where publications might be reduced without adversely affecting users. We are very keen to gather feedback on how the releases are used, what is most useful and whether there are things we could stop doing without an adverse impact. A consultation survey is available until the end of June at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ofsted-statistics2012>.

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Key findings

Latest quarter

- Of the 233 children's centres inspected between 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012, 66% were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is the same proportion judged good or outstanding in the previous quarter.
- Compared with the same quarter in 2011, the proportion of good and outstanding providers has decreased by eight percentage points.
- The 10% of centres judged outstanding in this quarter for overall effectiveness is the lowest proportion for this judgement since inspection of children's centres commenced in April 2010.
- Four of the children's centres inspected in this quarter were judged inadequate. This is two fewer than during the previous quarter.
- The outcomes for users and leadership and management judgements are in-line with the overall effectiveness judgement.
- A higher proportion of children's centres were judged good or outstanding for their quality of provision (70%) compared to the other key judgements, although this is two percentage points lower than in the previous quarter.
- The strongest aspects of provision were found in the effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children, where 86% of children's centres inspected this quarter were judged good or outstanding. The next highest judgements were for the quality of care, guidance and support offered to families (85%) and the extent to which children are safe and protected (84%).
- 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 53% of centres were judged good or outstanding.
- The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes was the next least positive judgement, where 59% of centres were judged good or outstanding.
- Sixty per cent of the centres inspected in this quarter were good or outstanding for the extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood, a decrease of six percentage points on the previous quarter. This is the largest decrease across all judgements for this period.

Most recent inspections (1 April 2010 – 31 March 2012)

- The inspection of children's centres commenced in May 2010. Since then, 1,238 children's centres have been inspected and their findings published on the Ofsted website.

- Of the 1,238 centres inspected, 70% 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.
- Twenty-seven children's centres have been judged inadequate since May 2010. Of these, 10 centres have received a second inspection. All 10 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 October 2011 to 31 December 2011 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 a further two inspections that took place between 1 October 2011 and 31 December 2011. Both of these children's centres were judged inadequate for overall effectiveness.
- One amendment has also been made in the final data where a children's centre identified as satisfactory for overall effectiveness and inadequate for outcomes for users has been amended. The correct data for this provider is included in the final release and now shows overall effectiveness was inadequate and outcomes for users was satisfactory.
- Based on revised data, there were 205 children's centres inspected between the 1 October 2011 and 31 December 2011, of which six were judged inadequate for overall effectiveness.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 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 previous quarterly publications there have 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) has been removed from this 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>

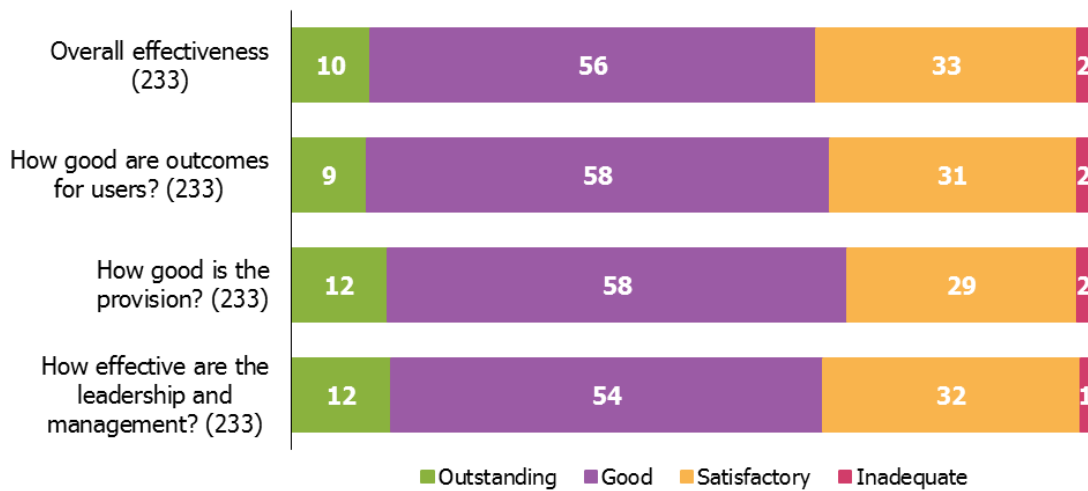
6. The inspection framework for children's centres was published in April 2010 and refreshed in September 2011. For more information about the framework and how Ofsted inspects children's centres please go to the Ofsted website:

<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.

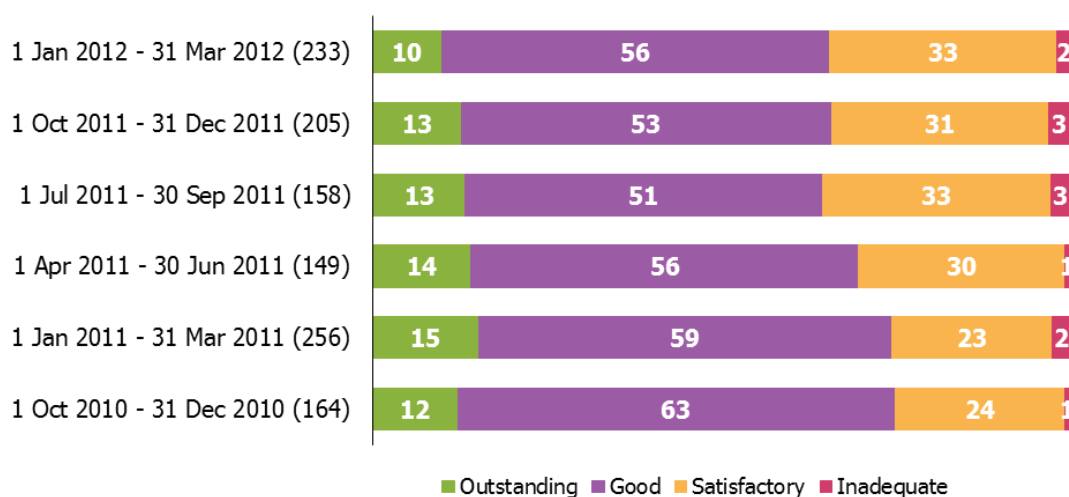
Chart 1: Key inspection judgements for children's centres inspected between 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012 (provisional)¹



Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 October 2010 and 31 March 2012, by quarter^{1 2}



Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

2. Data for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2012 are provisional.

Table 1: Number of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2012, by quarter and monthly period

	Full inspections
All inspections¹	1,248
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
Second year (1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012)¹	745
<i>1 April 2011 - 30 June 2011</i>	<i>149</i>
April 2011	18
May 2011	66
June 2011	65
<i>1 July 2011 - 30 September 2011</i>	<i>158</i>
July 2011	64
August 2011	33
September 2011	61
<i>1 October 2011 - 31 December 2011</i>	<i>205</i>
October 2011	78
November 2011	86
December 2011	41
<i>1 January 2012 - 31 March 2012¹</i>	<i>233</i>
January 2012 ¹	51
February 2012 ¹	89
March 2012 ¹	93

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Data are provisional.

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012 (provisional)^{1 2}

	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 families	233	23	10	130	56	76	33	4	2
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	233	31	13	123	53	76	33	3	1
How good are outcomes for families?	233	22	9	135	58	72	31	4	2
The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	233	18	8	128	55	86	37	1	0
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	233	55	24	141	61	36	15	1	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	233	24	10	139	60	69	30	1	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	233	30	13	122	52	77	33	4	2
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	233	18	8	106	45	104	45	5	2
How good is the provision?	233	28	12	134	58	67	29	4	2
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	233	25	11	129	55	74	32	5	2
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups	233	24	10	135	58	72	31	2	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups	233	69	30	130	56	32	14	2	1

Table 2 (continued)

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
How effective are the leadership and management?	233	29	12	126	54	75	32	3	1
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood	233	25	11	115	49	90	39	3	1
The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes	233	29	12	109	47	91	39	4	2
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	233	37	16	118	51	74	32	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	233	31	13	130	56	68	29	4	2
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	233	64	27	136	58	32	14	1	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	233	47	20	128	55	56	24	2	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	233	30	13	117	50	83	36	3	1

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 31 March 2012 (provisional)^{1 2}

	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 families	1,238	161	13	701	57	359	29	17	1
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	1,238	188	15	694	56	339	27	17	1
How good are outcomes for families?	1,238	154	12	741	60	331	27	12	1
The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	1,238	171	14	712	58	350	28	5	0
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	1,238	294	24	767	62	170	14	7	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	1,238	182	15	759	61	294	24	3	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	1,238	205	17	664	54	356	29	13	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	1,238	123	10	619	50	487	39	9	1
How good is the provision?	1,238	198	16	717	58	312	25	11	1
⁴ The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	740	169	23	400	54	168	23	3	0
³ The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	498	64	13	262	53	162	33	10	2
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups	1,238	178	14	761	61	294	24	5	0
⁴ The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	740	124	17	412	56	200	27	4	1
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups	1,238	425	34	648	52	159	13	6	0

Table 3 (continued)

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
How effective are the leadership and management?	1,238	181	15	696	56	345	28	16	1
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood	1,238	178	14	661	53	377	30	22	2
³ The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes	498	67	13	226	45	194	39	11	2
⁴ The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	740	127	17	392	53	212	29	9	1
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	1,238	223	18	652	53	350	28	13	1
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	1,238	183	15	699	56	346	28	10	1
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	1,238	336	27	727	59	167	13	8	1
⁴ The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	740	98	13	349	47	280	38	13	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	1,238	339	27	621	50	269	22	9	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	1,238	188	15	651	53	382	31	17	1

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 31 March 2012, by quarter¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012 ²	233	23	10	130	56	76	33	4	2
1 October 2011 - 31 December 2011	205	26	13	109	53	64	31	6	3
1 July 2011 - 30 September 2011	158	21	13	81	51	52	33	4	3
1 April 2011 - 30 June 2011	149	21	14	83	56	44	30	1	1
1 January 2011 - 31 March 2011	256	39	15	152	59	59	23	6	2
1 October 2010 - 31 December 2010	164	20	12	103	63	40	24	1	1
1 July 2010 - 30 September 2010 ³	60	8	13	34	57	16	27	2	3
1 April 2010 - 30 June 2010 ⁴	23	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, 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.