

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 December 2012 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006.

Data for inspections carried out between 1 October 2012 and 31 December 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.

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Key findings

These findings report on inspections carried out towards the end of the current cycle. A new framework is being introduced in April 2013 which, distinguishes between groups of centres that work together, and those that operate on a standalone basis. Inspections in the period covered by this release have focussed mainly on stand alone children's centres so they may not be representative of all children's centres nationally.

Latest quarter

- Of the 171 children's centres inspected between 1 October 2012 and 31 December 2012, 69% were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is an increase of seven percentage points from the proportion judged good or outstanding in the previous quarter.
- The 12% of children's centres judged outstanding in this quarter for overall effectiveness is an increase of three percentage points from the proportion judged outstanding in the previous quarter. Similarly, the 27% of centres judged satisfactory in this quarter show a seven percentage point decrease compared to the proportion judged satisfactory from the previous quarter.
- However, seven of the children's centres inspected in this quarter were judged inadequate. This is an increase from the four inadequate centres inspected during the previous quarter. In the main these centres were weak across the board. Six of these children's centres had inadequate capacity to sustain improvement.
- Across all the inspections this quarter the strongest aspects of provision were generally found in the effectiveness of each centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding, with 85% judged good or outstanding. The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families and the extent to which children are safe and protected were also judged highly with 82% of children's centres inspected this quarter being 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 only 53% of children's centres were judged good or outstanding. This has been the lowest judged area within children's centres since the July to September 2011 quarter.

All inspections (1 April 2010 – 31 December 2012)

- The inspection of children's centres commenced in May 2010. Since then, 1,662 children's centres have been inspected and their findings published on the Ofsted website.
- Of these 1,662 centres inspected, 70% were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection with 29% judged as satisfactory.

- At a regional level, the North East have the highest percentage of children's centres judged as good or outstanding (79%), in contrast to the South West with 58% of inspected children's centres judged good or outstanding.
- Forty three children's centres have been judged inadequate since May 2010 and 20 of these centres have received a second inspection. Of those re-inspected, 17 were judged satisfactory for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection and three had improved to be judged as now being a 'good' children's centre.

Impact of revisions on key points of previous release

- Final data covering the period 1 July 2012 to 30 September 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 data for July and August were included in the previous official statistical release, published in November 2012. This release covered inspection outcomes for a 12 month period and corresponded with the analysis in the The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2011/12. At the time of the November publication, these 57 inspections were final and therefore represented all inspections carried out in these two months. The outcomes for the 54 inspections that took place in September are published for the first time and are final.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 April 2010 and 31 December 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. Conversely, 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

these has not significantly changed. These revised judgements, therefore, can be matched across to the relevant pre-September 2011 outcomes.

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>.

7. A new children's centre framework is being introduced on 1 April 2013. A consultation was carried out on the new arrangements for inspection and findings were published on the Ofsted website:

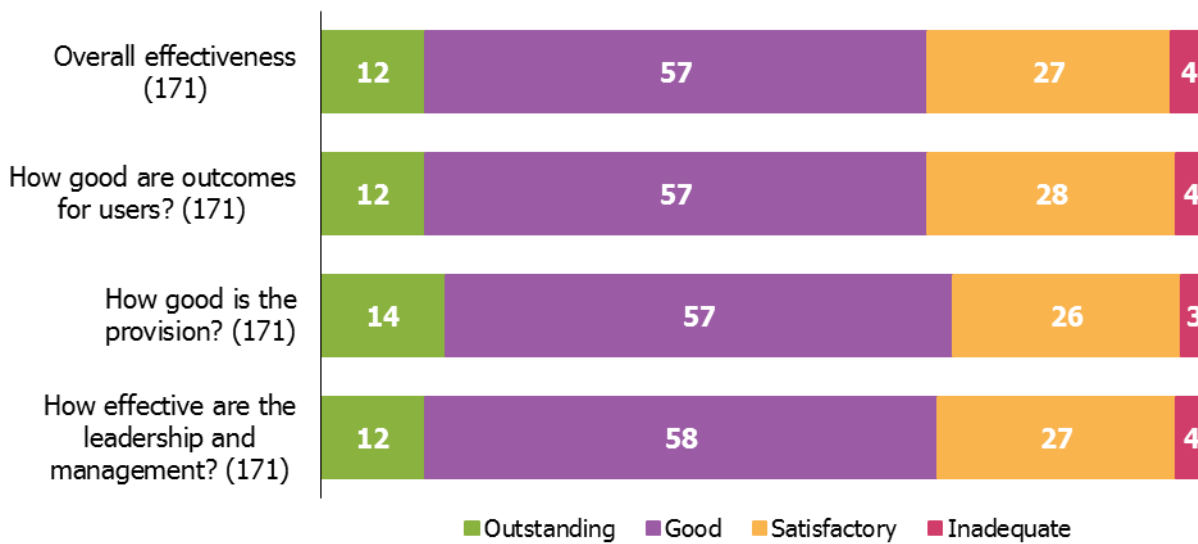
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-of-childrens-centres-report-responses-consultation>

The main changes will be a reduction in the number of key findings and a more flexible framework that allows inspection of groups of centres that share leadership and management, and separate inspections of those that work collaboratively or alone. Inspections carried out under the new framework will be reported in the statistical release from September 2013. Information and guidance on the new framework will be published on our website in the next few weeks.

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.

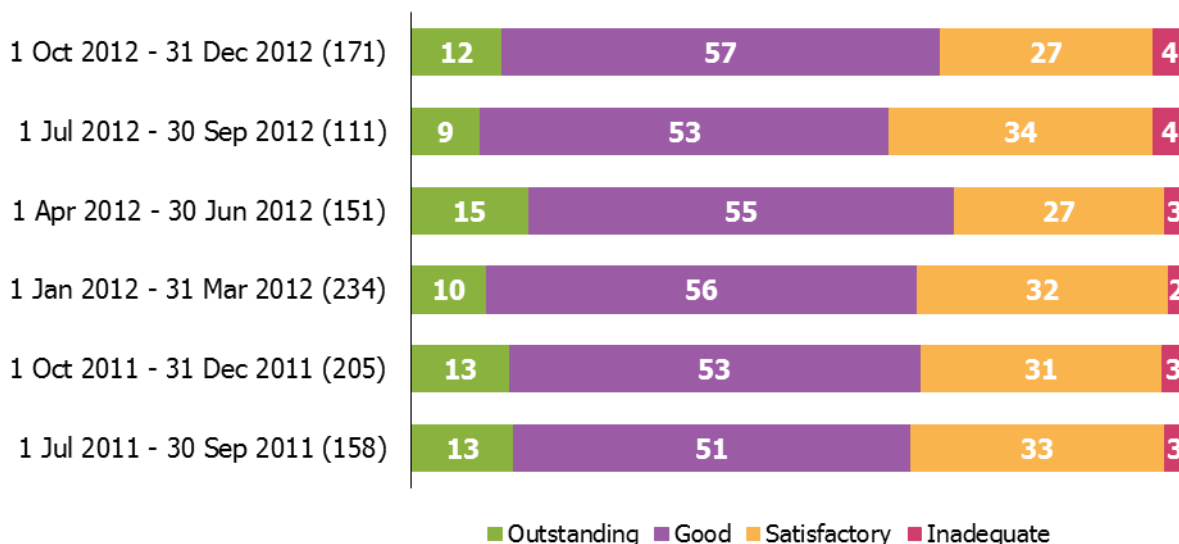
Chart 1: Key inspection judgements for children's centres inspected between 1 October 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional)¹



Source: Ofsted Inspections

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

Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of children's centres inspected between 1 July 2011 and 31 December 2012, by quarter



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 31 December 2012

	Full inspections
All inspections ¹	1,682
First year (1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011)	503
Second year (1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012)	746
1 April 2012 - 30 June 2012	151
1 July 2012 - 31 September 2012 ²	111
1 October 2012 - 31 December 2012 ³	171

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Includes all inspections, including 20 re-inspections

2. The months of July and August were part of the previous annual statistical release, published in November 2012 which accompanied the 2011/12 Annual Report.

3. Data are provisional.

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

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for families	171	20	97	47	7	12	57	27	4
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	171	23	96	46	6	13	56	27	4
How good are outcomes for families?	171	20	97	48	6	12	57	28	4
The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	171	20	94	55	2	12	55	32	1
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	171	43	97	30	1	25	57	18	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	171	23	97	47	4	13	57	27	2
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	171	26	81	59	5	15	47	35	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	171	17	74	75	5	10	43	44	3
How good is the provision?	171	24	98	44	5	14	57	26	3
The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups ⁴	171	25	93	47	6	15	54	27	4
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups	171	20	97	49	5	12	57	29	3

Table 2 (continued)

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups	171	56	84	30	1	33	49	18	1
How effective are the leadership and management?	171	20	99	46	6	12	58	27	4
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood	171	22	94	50	5	13	55	29	3
The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes	171	22	91	52	6	13	53	30	4
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	171	24	93	48	6	14	54	28	4
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	171	26	94	47	4	15	55	27	2
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	171	48	97	25	1	28	57	15	1
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	171	45	81	42	3	26	47	25	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	171	26	82	58	5	15	48	34	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 31 December 2012 (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
The effectiveness of the children's centre in meeting the needs of and improving outcomes for families	1,662	214	940	485	23	13	57	29	1
The centre's capacity for sustained improvement, including the quality of its leadership and management	1,662	250	930	459	23	15	56	28	1
How good are outcomes for families?	1,662	205	985	453	19	12	59	27	1
The extent to which children, including those from target groups, are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy and families have healthy lifestyles	1,662	222	946	485	9	13	57	29	1
The extent to which children are safe and protected, their welfare concerns are identified and appropriate steps taken to address them	1,662	405	1014	236	7	24	61	14	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	1,662	235	1017	400	10	14	61	24	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	1,662	271	874	495	22	16	53	30	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	1,662	165	814	665	18	10	49	40	1
How good is the provision?	1,662	263	957	423	19	16	58	25	1
⁴ The effectiveness of the assessment of the needs of children, parents and other users	737	169	400	166	2	23	54	23	0
³ The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	925	127	495	282	21	14	54	30	2
The extent to which the centre promotes purposeful learning, development and enjoyment for all families, including those in target groups	1,662	235	1007	406	14	14	61	24	1
⁴ The extent to which the range of services, activities and opportunities meet the needs of users and the wider community	737	124	412	198	3	17	56	27	0
The quality of care, guidance and support offered to families, including those in target groups	1,662	566	867	222	7	34	52	13	0

Table 3 (continued)

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
How effective are the leadership and management?	1,662	235	940	466	21	14	57	28	1
The extent to which governance, accountability, professional supervision and day-to-day management arrangements are clear and understood	1,662	238	891	505	28	14	54	30	2
³ The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes	925	123	444	338	20	13	48	37	2
⁴ The extent to which ambitious targets drive improvement, provision is integrated and there are high expectations for users and the wider community	737	127	392	212	6	17	53	29	1
The extent to which resources are used and managed efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of families, including those in target groups	1,662	294	876	471	21	18	53	28	1
The extent to which equality is promoted and diversity celebrated, illegal or unlawful discrimination is tackled and the centre fulfils its statutory duties	1,662	247	936	463	16	15	56	28	1
The effectiveness of the centre's policy, procedures and work with key agencies in safeguarding children and, where applicable, vulnerable adults	1,662	464	967	222	9	28	58	13	1
⁴ The extent to which evaluation is used to shape and improve services and activities	737	98	349	280	10	13	47	38	1
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	1,662	449	836	362	15	27	50	22	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	1,662	254	861	525	22	15	52	32	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 December 2012, by quarter¹

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
1 October 2012 and 31 December 2012 ²	171	20	97	47	7	12	57	27	4
1 July 2012 and 30 September 2012	111	10	59	38	4	9	53	34	4
1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012	151	23	83	41	4	15	55	27	3
1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012	234	23	130	76	5	10	56	32	2
1 October 2011 - 31 December 2011	205	26	109	64	6	13	53	31	3
1 July 2011 - 30 September 2011	158	21	81	52	4	13	51	33	3
1 April 2011 - 30 June 2011	149	21	83	44	1	14	56	30	1
1 January 2011 - 31 March 2011	256	39	152	59	6	15	59	23	2
1 October 2010 - 31 December 2010	164	20	103	40	1	12	63	24	1
1 July 2010 - 30 September 2010 ³	60	8	34	16	2	13	57	27	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, 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 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.

Children centre phases

Children's centres are categorised by three phases. Phase 1 are centres established between 2004 and 2006 under the Sure Start Local Programme. This delivered Sure Start through community based local programmes reaching a minimum of the top 20% most deprived wards in England. Phase 2 incorporates centres established between 2006 and 2008 and reached a minimum of the top 30% most deprived wards. Phase 3 established centres ensured that, by March 2010, every community had access to a Sure Start Children's Centre. Phase three centres reach 70% of the least disadvantaged areas.

The inspection cycle began in April 2010 and initially focused on inspecting phase 1 children's centres. By August 2012, the cycle had progressed to include inspections of a high number of phase 2 centres.

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.

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

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