

Official Statistics Release

Policy area:	Early years and childcare inspections and outcomes
Theme:	Education, children's services and skills
Published on:	8 December 2011
Coverage:	England
Period covered:	1 September 2008 to 30 September 2011
Status:	Provisional
Issued by:	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) Aviation House 125 Kingsway London WC2B 6SE
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Link to official statistics release web page:	http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-early-years-and-childcare-registered-providers-inspections-and-outcomes
Publication medium:	Ofsted website
Publication frequency:	Quarterly
Next publication date:	8 March 2011

Introduction

This official statistics release reports on early years and childcare inspections that occurred between 1 September 2008 and 30 September 2011 under Section 59 and 60 of the Childcare Act 2006.

Data for inspections carried out between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011 are provisional and subject to change. Ofsted will release final statistics for this period on 8 March 2012.

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Key findings

- This quarter covered the final two months of the 2010/11 academic year and the first month of the 2011/12 academic year. The outcomes for early years and childcare providers inspected between September 2010 and August 2011 are reviewed in *The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2010/11*, available on the Ofsted website: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/annualreport1011>.
- The details of these inspections can be found in the supplementary release 'Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes – Annual Report 2010-11' at the following link: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-early-years-and-childcare-registered-providers-inspections-and-outcomes>

Latest quarter

- Ofsted carried out 4,016 inspections of childcare provision between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011. Most (93%) were inspections of providers on the Early Years Register who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Of the 3,742 inspections of early years registered providers carried out, around three quarters (74%) were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness and almost all (96%) were at least satisfactory. Three per cent were judged inadequate.
- A higher proportion of childcare providers on non-domestic premises were judged to be good or outstanding for overall effectiveness compared to the childminders inspected, at 79% and 72% respectively. However, a similar proportion of both types of provision were found to be inadequate (3% of childminders and 4% of childcare providers on non-domestic premises).
- The proportion judged good or outstanding was broadly similar across the four key judgements. Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage was the most positive judgement with 77% of providers inspected judged good or outstanding.
- Eighty-nine per cent of the 4,016 early years registered providers inspected were also monitored for their compliance with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. Of these 88% met the requirements and 12% were set actions to meet the requirements. None of these inspections resulted in enforcement action being required.
- Of the 247 providers inspected on the Childcare Register only, just under three quarters (73%) met the requirements of the register. Thirty six per cent of the 69 home childcarers inspected (who are on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register only) did not meet requirements.

All providers inspected (1 September 2008 to 30 June 2011)

- As at 30 September 2011, 56,281 active early years registered providers had received an inspection since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008. Two-thirds (66%) of these providers were childminders.
- At their most recent inspection, 72% of childcare providers were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness and almost all (99%) were judged to be at least satisfactory.
- A higher proportion of childcare providers on non-domestic premises were judged to be good or outstanding for overall effectiveness compared to the childminders inspected, at 76% and 70% respectively.
- Ninety per cent of the 56,281 early years registered providers inspected were also monitored for their compliance with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. Of these 87% met the requirements of the Register.
- Since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage, 7,503 early years providers have been inspected and were no longer active at 30 September 2011. Of these providers, 10% were inadequate at their last inspection.

Actions and recommendations

- Inspectors raise actions to ensure statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage are being met. An action that is raised where provision is overall satisfactory or better will be for failure to meet some or all of a welfare requirement that has limited impact on the quality of the provision or outcomes for children. Providers are given a short timescale to put things right. One or more actions to meet the statutory requirements of the early years register were set in 24% of Early Years Foundation Stage inspections carried out between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011. Most actions were set against welfare requirements, with one or more safeguarding and welfare requirement actions set at 11% of inspections.
- The highest proportion of recommendations set between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011 (40%) was against the organisation requirement, which requires providers to plan and organise their systems to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to meet their individual needs. This was followed by the three learning and development requirements, where 30% of inspections received one or more recommendations surrounding educational programmes and 21% received one or more recommendations on the early learning goals.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 September 2008 and 30 September 2011.
2. Statistics relating to inspections carried out in the latest 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. Statistics relating to the most recent inspection outcome of providers include inspections up to the end of the period, where the inspection report was also published at that date. This means that where the most recent inspection outcome of a provider took place during the period, but the report was not published at the end of the period, it will be excluded from the analysis. Where there is one, the outcome of the next most recent inspection will be included in the analysis instead.
4. Early years and childcare providers are allocated to local authority areas according to their postcode, using the National Statistics Postcode Directory. For a small number of providers, local authority and region information was not available at the time of analysis. These providers are categorised as 'Local authority not recorded' and 'Region not recorded'.
5. A small proportion of early years registered providers are inspected as part of a school inspection. The outcomes from these providers are not included in this release, but will be covered within Ofsted's official statistics on maintained schools inspection and outcomes and independent schools inspections and outcomes.
6. There are no revisions in this release. In future, revisions will be published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics. For more information about the policy please visit the Ofsted website:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics

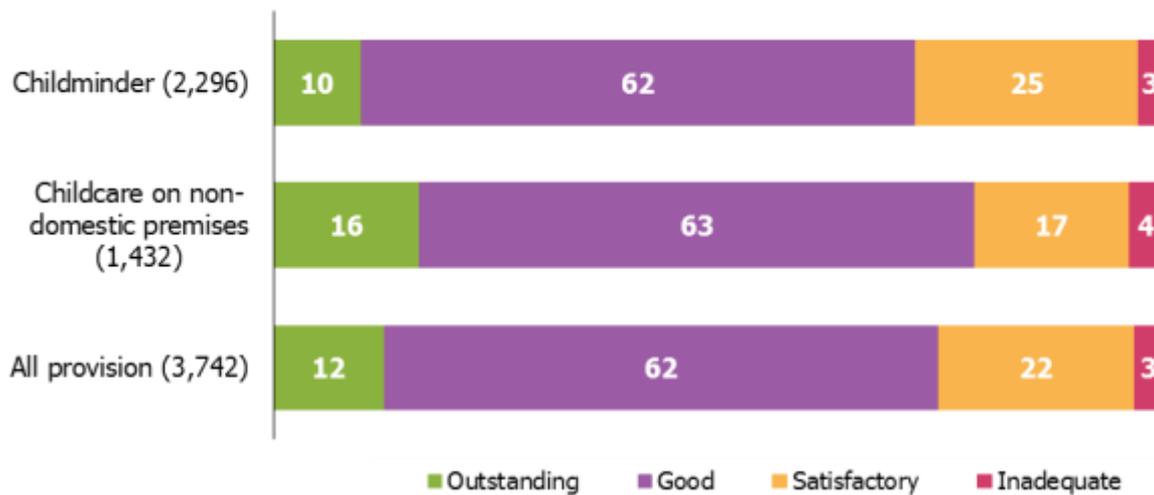
7. The inspection frameworks for providers on the Early Years Register and providers on the Childcare Register were published in September 2008. For more information about these frameworks and how Ofsted regulates and inspects childcare providers please go to the Ofsted website:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/for-early-years-and-childcare-providers/inspecting-early-years-and-childcares

Additional information

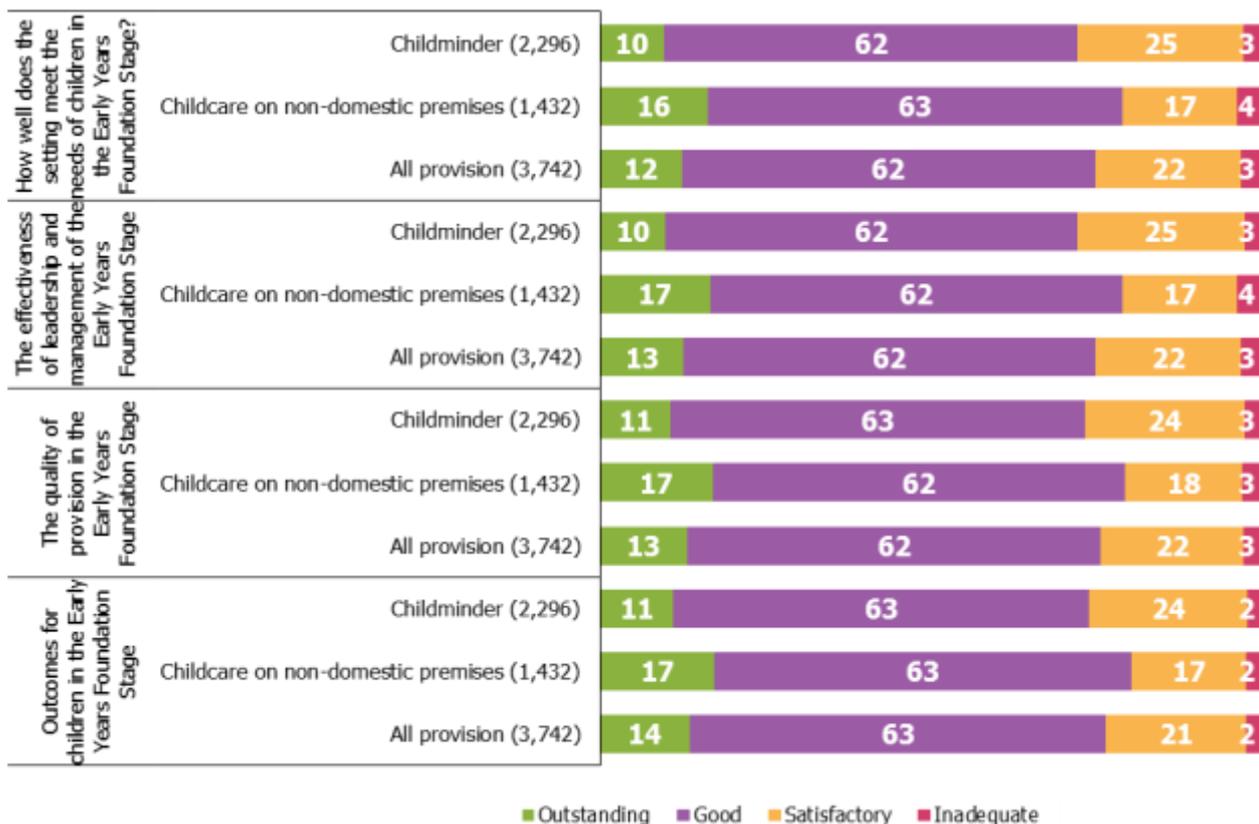
All the tables and charts shown in this release, along with additional analysis by month, provider type, at regional and local authority level, and about other aspects of Ofsted's inspection of early years and childcare providers, are available in Excel format on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document.

Chart 1: Overall effectiveness of early years registered providers inspected between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}



1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.

Chart 2: Key inspection judgements of early years registered providers inspected between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}



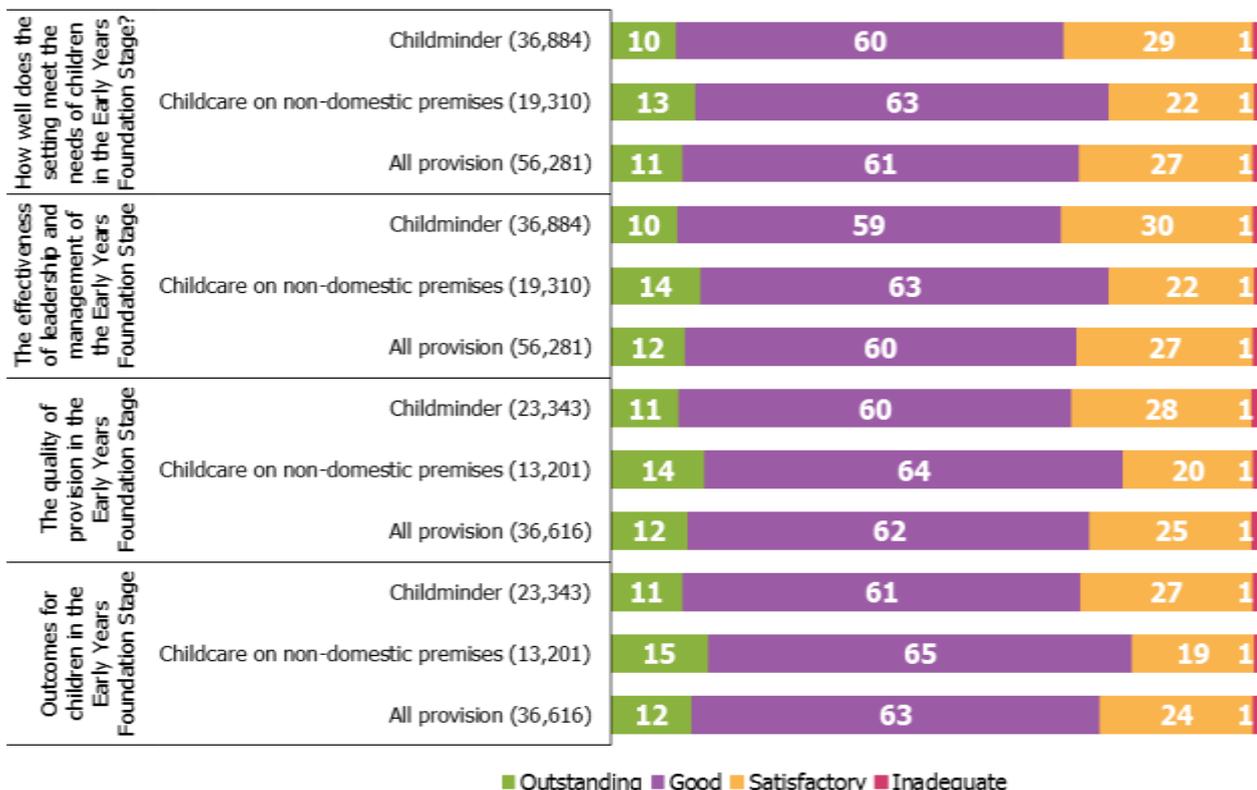
1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.

Chart 3: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}



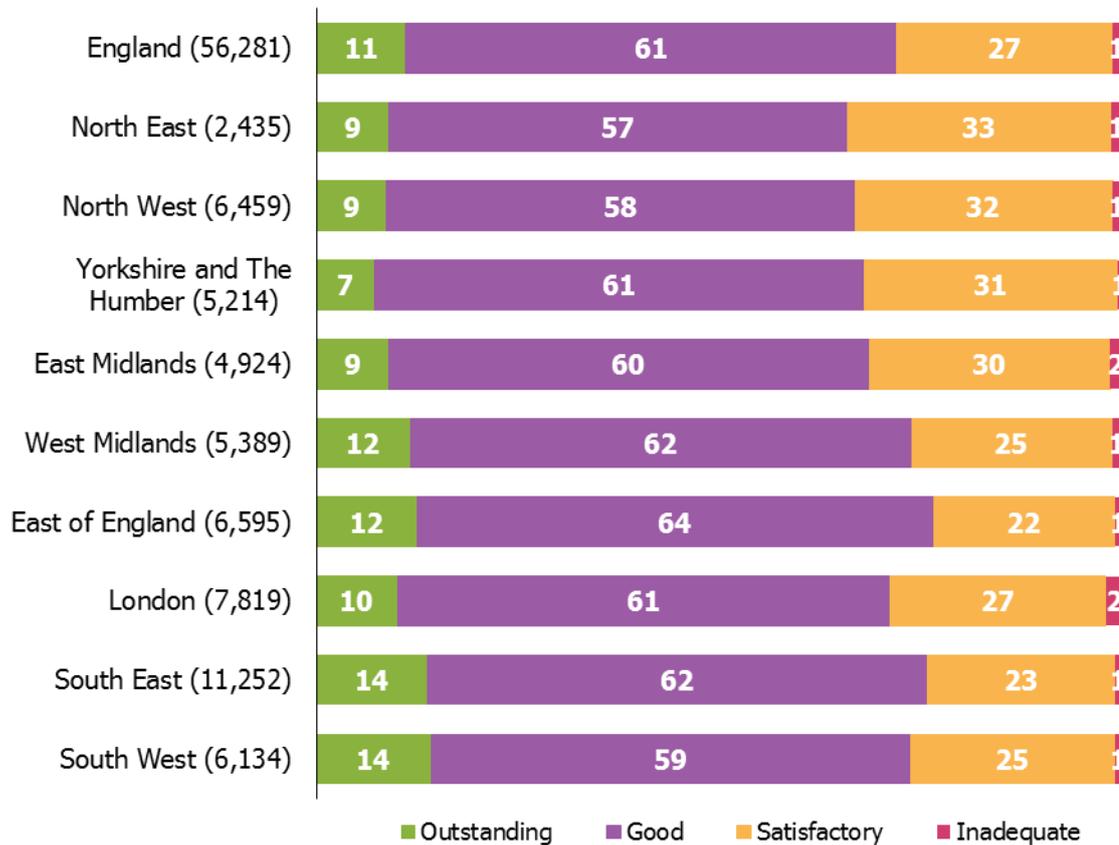
1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008.

Chart 4: Key inspection judgements of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}



1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008

Chart 5: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 30 September 2011, by region (provisional)¹²



1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.

2. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008

Table 1: Number of early years and childcare provider inspections between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011, by inspection type (provisional)

	All provision	Childminder	Childcare on non-domestic premises	Childcare on domestic premises	Home childcarer
Early years register (full inspection)	3,742	2,296	1,432	14	–
Early years register (no children on roll)	27	15	12	0	–
Childcare register	247	44	134	0	69
Total	4,016	2,355	1,578	14	69

Source: Ofsted inspections

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of early years registered providers inspected between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011 (provisional)¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness:									
How well does the setting meet the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage¹	3,742	464	12	2,334	62	825	22	119	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3,742	496	13	2,269	61	876	23	101	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3,742	473	13	2,324	62	827	22	118	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	3,742	517	14	2,253	60	873	23	99	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	3,742	655	18	2,297	61	741	20	49	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	3,742	569	15	2,275	61	845	23	53	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	3,742	569	15	2,314	62	742	20	117	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	3,742	483	13	2,153	58	1,003	27	103	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	3,742	789	21	2,228	60	700	19	25	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	3,742	558	15	1,921	51	1,233	33	30	1
The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3,742	496	13	2,332	62	811	22	103	3
Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3,742	512	14	2,346	63	795	21	89	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	3,742	602	16	2,313	62	771	21	56	1
The extent to which children feel safe	3,742	654	17	2,308	62	681	18	99	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	3,742	644	17	2,394	64	667	18	37	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	3,742	658	18	2,312	62	741	20	31	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	3,742	574	15	2,321	62	801	21	46	1

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.

Table 3a: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Childminder	36,884	3,704	10	22,010	60	10,713	29	457	1
Childcare on non-domestic premises	19,310	2,529	13	12,241	63	4,330	22	210	1
Childcare on domestic premises	87	23	26	38	44	20	23	6	7
All provision	56,281	6,256	11	34,289	61	15,063	27	673	1

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.

2. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008.

Table 3b: Overall effectiveness of closed providers previously on the Early Years Register at their last inspection before closure, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Childminder	4,795	254	5	2,241	47	1,845	38	455	9
Childcare on non-domestic premises	2,692	164	6	1,274	47	987	37	267	10
Childcare on domestic premises	16	2	-	8	-	3	-	3	-
All provision	7,503	420	6	3,523	47	2,835	38	725	10

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.

2. Where the number of inspections is fewer than 100, percentages are not shown.

3. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008

Table 3c: Inspection outcomes of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 30 September 2011 (provisional)¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness:									
How well does the setting meet the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	56,281	6,256	11	34,289	61	15,063	27	673	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	56,281	6,771	12	32,628	58	16,291	29	591	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	56,281	6,478	12	33,858	60	15,264	27	681	1
² The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	36,616	4,853	13	21,559	59	9,696	26	508	1
² The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	36,616	5,720	16	22,506	61	8,157	22	233	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	56,281	7,858	14	33,901	60	14,224	25	298	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	56,281	7,632	14	33,965	60	13,871	25	813	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	56,281	6,430	11	30,028	53	19,180	34	643	1
³ The effectiveness of partnerships	56,281	10,337	18	34,103	61	11,628	21	213	0
² The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	36,616	5,154	14	19,305	53	11,967	33	190	1
² The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	36,616	4,374	12	22,598	62	9,137	25	507	1
⁴ How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	19,665	2,563	13	11,307	57	5,717	29	78	0
⁴ How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	19,665	2,431	12	12,161	62	4,991	25	82	0
² Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	36,616	4,563	12	22,929	63	8,686	24	438	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	56,281	8,651	15	34,146	61	13,135	23	349	1
The extent to which children feel safe	56,281	8,440	15	34,604	61	12,638	22	599	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	56,281	8,816	16	35,980	64	11,225	20	260	0
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	56,281	8,862	16	34,750	62	12,457	22	212	0
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	56,281	7,383	13	34,235	61	14,339	25	324	1

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Judgement only made at inspections from 1 September 2009 onwards.
3. Between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 this judgement was called "How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?"
4. Judgement only made at inspections between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009.
5. Titles of other judgements changed on 1 September 2009 but the criteria for assessing them remained unchanged. Data are amalgamated for inspections conducted before and after this date.
6. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008.

Table 3d: Inspection outcomes of closed providers previously on the Early Years Register at their last inspection before closure as at 30 September 2011 (provisional)¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness:									
How well does the setting meet the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	7,503	420	6	3,523	47	2,835	38	725	10
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	7,503	456	6	3,299	44	3,126	42	622	8
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	7,503	437	6	3,475	46	2,865	38	726	10
² The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	2,719	181	7	1,184	44	1,053	39	301	11
² The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	2,719	205	8	1,338	49	1,005	37	171	6
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	7,503	573	8	3,686	49	2,862	38	382	5
The effectiveness of safeguarding	7,503	526	7	3,690	49	2,655	35	632	8
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	7,503	433	6	2,859	38	3,564	48	647	9
³ The effectiveness of partnerships	7,503	721	10	3,901	52	2,609	35	272	4
² The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	2,719	188	7	1,108	41	1,295	48	128	5
² The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2,719	153	6	1,253	46	995	37	318	12
⁴ How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	4,784	352	7	2,249	47	1,894	40	289	6
⁴ How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	4,784	337	7	2,454	51	1,665	35	328	7
² Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	2,719	161	6	1,303	48	995	37	260	10
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	7,503	632	8	3,774	50	2,649	35	448	6
The extent to which children feel safe	7,503	593	8	3,835	51	2,537	34	538	7
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	7,503	651	9	4,114	55	2,455	33	283	4
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	7,503	636	8	3,882	52	2,686	36	299	4
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	7,503	483	6	3,663	49	2,931	39	426	6

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.

2. Judgement only made at inspections from 1 September 2009 onwards.

3. Between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 this judgement was called "How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?"

4. Judgement only made at inspections between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009.

5. Titles of other judgements changed on 1 September 2009 but the criteria for assessing them remained unchanged. Data are amalgamated for inspections conducted before and after this date.

6. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008.

Table 4a: Early years registered providers complying with the requirements of the Childcare Register at inspections carried out between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Met		Not met: Actions		Not met: Enforcement	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register							
Childminder	2,287	2,018	88	269	12	0	0
Childcare on non-domestic premises	1,033	902	87	131	13	0	0
Childcare on domestic premises	14	11	-	3	-	0	-
All provision	3,334	2,931	88	403	12	0	0
Requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register							
Childminder	2,162	1,910	88	252	12	0	0
Childcare on non-domestic premises	936	814	87	122	13	0	0
Childcare on domestic premises	10	8	-	2	-	0	-
All provision	3,108	2,732	88	376	12	0	0

Source: Ofsted inspections

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

Table 4b: Providers on the Childcare Register only complying with the requirements of the Childcare Register at inspections carried out between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Met		Not met: Actions		Not met: Enforcement	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Childminder	44	29	-	15	-	0	-
Childcare on non-domestic premises	134	108	81	26	19	0	0
Childcare on domestic premises	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
Home childcarer	69	44	64	25	36	0	0
All provision	247	181	73	66	27	0	0

Source: Ofsted inspections

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

Table 5a: Early years registered providers complying with the requirements of the Childcare Register at their most recent inspection as at 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Met		Not met: actions		Not met: enforcement	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Requirements of the compulsory part of the childcare register							
Childminder	36,713	31,501	86	5,209	14	3	0
Childcare on non-domestic premises	13,786	12,671	92	1,115	8	0	0
Childcare on domestic premises	79	68	86	11	14	0	0
All provision	50,578	44,240	87	6,335	13	3	0
Requirements of the voluntary part of the childcare register							
Childminder	34,620	29,931	86	4,685	14	4	0
Childcare on non-domestic premises	12,685	11,745	93	937	7	3	0
Childcare on domestic premises	67	61	91	6	9	0	0
All provision	47,372	41,737	88	5,628	12	7	0

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages are not shown.
3. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008.

Table 6a: Providers on the Childcare Register only complying with the requirements of the Childcare Register at their most recent inspection as at 30 September 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Met		Not met: actions		Not met: enforcement	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Childminder	259	173	67	86	33	0	0
Childcare on non-domestic premises	841	661	79	180	21	0	0
Childcare on domestic premises	1	0	-	1	-	0	-
Home childcarer	1,299	936	72	363	28	0	0
All provision	2,400	1,770	74	630	26	0	0

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages are not shown.
3. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008.

Table 7a: Actions issued at early years registered inspections between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011, by the statutory requirements of the Early Years Register (provisional)

	Total number of inspections	Number with actions	Percentage with actions
Any action	3,742	884	24
Learning and development requirements			
Early learning goals	3,742	39	1
Educational programmes	3,742	8	0
Assessment arrangements	3,742	1	0
Welfare requirements			
Safeguarding and welfare	3,742	393	11
Promoting good health	3,742	117	3
Behaviour management	3,742	5	0
Suitability of adults	3,742	50	1
Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills	3,742	41	1
Staffing arrangements	3,742	19	1
Premises, environment & equipment	3,742	214	6
Organisation	3,742	74	2
Documentation	3,742	343	9

Table 8a: Recommendations made at early years registered inspections between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2011, by the statutory requirements of the Early Years Register (provisional)

	Total number of inspections	Number with recommendations	Percentage with recommendations
Any recommendation	3,742	3,471	93
Learning and development requirements			
Early learning goals	3,742	783	21
Educational programmes	3,742	1,108	30
Assessment arrangements	3,742	647	17
Welfare requirements			
Safeguarding and welfare	3,742	588	16
Promoting good health	3,742	225	6
Behaviour management	3,742	14	0
Suitability of adults	3,742	24	1
Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills	3,742	83	2
Staffing arrangements	3,742	20	1
Premises, environment & equipment	3,742	639	17
Organisation	3,742	1,492	40
Documentation	3,742	235	6

Glossary

Actions

Inspectors raise actions to bring about compliance with the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage where these are not met at inspection. Usually actions result in one or more judgements being inadequate. In some cases where a specific requirement or part of a requirement is not met but the inspector considers that the overarching general legal requirement is met, the provider has a history of compliance and the impact on children is not significant, then the inspector may judge the relevant judgement to be 'satisfactory' or, on very rare occasions, 'good'. Providers are given a short timescale to put things right.

Childminder

This is a person who is registered to look after one or more children, to whom they are not related, for reward. Childminders work with no more than two other childminders or assistants.

They care for:

- children on domestic premises that are not usually the home of one of the children, unless they care for children from more than two families wholly or mainly in the homes of the families
- at least one individual child for a total of more than two hours in any day. This is not necessarily a continuous period of time.

Childcare providers

Childcare providers care for at least one individual child for a total of more than two hours in any day. This is not necessarily a continuous period of time. They must register to care for children under the age of eight, unless they are not required to do so; and can choose to register to care for older children. The early years and childcare sector comprises four main categories of provider: childminders, childcare providers on non-domestic premises, childcare providers on domestic premises and home childcarers. A childcare provider may be inactive because they have resigned or they have had their registration suspended or cancelled by Ofsted.

Childcare providers on domestic premises

These are people providing care on domestic premises with at least three other people. They can provide the care directly or employ people to work with them. The difference between childminding and childcare on domestic premises is the number of people involved; if four or more people look after children at any time they are providing childcare on domestic premises, not childminding.

Childcare providers on non-domestic premises

These are people or organisations providing care for individual children in premises that are not someone's home. These premises can range from converted houses to purpose built nurseries.

Childcare Register

The Childcare Register has providers who care for children from birth to 17 years. It has two parts:

- **the compulsory part**

Providers must register if they care for one child or more from the 1 September following their fifth birthday until they reach their eighth birthday for a period of more than two hours in any day.

- **the voluntary part**

Providers who are not eligible for compulsory registration may choose to register here. These are mainly people looking after children aged eight and over, or providing care in the child's home like a nanny.

Ofsted inspects a random 10% sample of providers who are registered only on the Childcare Register, and not on the Early Years Register, each year.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a comprehensive statutory framework introduced in September 2008 that sets the standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to five.

Early Years Register

The Early Years Register records providers who look after children from birth to school age (that is 31 August after the child's fifth birthday). It is compulsory for such providers. Providers on this register must meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Ofsted inspects all providers on this register at least once in a 47-month period to judge each provider's overall effectiveness.

Home childcarers

Home childcarers are usually nannies who care for children of any age up to their 18th birthday wholly or mainly in the child's own home, and care for children from no more than two families. They are not required to register with Ofsted but may choose to do so on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

No children on roll inspections

If an inspection is scheduled and there are no children on roll at the time of the inspection it should be deferred and the no children on roll letter EYL 409 sent to the provider. This letter explains to the provider that the inspection is being deferred as there are no children on roll. The provider must inform Ofsted when they start to care for children. The only exceptions to this are:

- if it is towards the end of a provider's prescribed period for inspection and an inspection needs to be carried out for Ofsted to fulfil its regulatory role
- it is a reinspection of those judged inadequate for overall effectiveness at their last inspection and it has reached the trigger point for the reinspection
- if the provider is scheduled for inspection as part of the 10% Childcare Register inspections because they are only registered on that register. In these cases the inspection is not carried out unless the provider is selected as part of the random selection in future or because there is a complaint about the provider relating to the requirements for registration.

Recommendations

Inspectors make recommendations to improve the quality of the provision. These recommendations relate to the principles, practice guidance and statutory guidance of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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