

Official Statistics Release

Policy area:	Early years and childcare inspections and outcomes
Theme:	Education, children's services and skills
Published on:	8 March 2012
Coverage:	England
Period covered:	1 September 2008 to 31 December 2011
Status:	Provisional
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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:	7 June 2012

Introduction

This official statistics release reports on early years and childcare inspections that occurred between 1 September 2008 and 31 December 2011 under Section 59 and 60 of the Childcare Act 2006.

Data for inspections carried out between 1 October 2011 and 31 December 2011 are provisional and subject to change. Ofsted will release final statistics for this period on 7 June 2012.

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Key findings

Latest quarter

- Ofsted carried out 6,016 inspections of childcare provision between 1 October 2011 and 31 December 2011. Most (90%) were inspections of providers on the Early Years Register who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Of the 5,388 inspections of early years registered providers carried out, around three quarters (74%) were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness and almost all (97%) 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 78% and 71% respectively. However, the same proportion of both were found to be inadequate (3%).
- The proportion of good or outstanding outcomes was very similar across the four key judgements.
- Ninety-one per cent of the 5,388 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. One inspection resulted in enforcement action being required.
- Of the 232 providers inspected on the Childcare Register only, just over three quarters (77%) met the requirements of the register.

All providers inspected (1 September 2008 to 31 December 2011)

- As at 31 December 2011, 60,739 active early years registered providers had received an inspection since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008. Just under two-thirds (65%) of these providers were childminders.
- At their most recent inspection, 73% of childcare providers were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness and almost all (99%) were judged to be at least satisfactory. The proportion of providers judged inadequate at their most recent inspection is much lower than the proportion on inspections with inadequate outcomes in this quarter, or those that precede it. This is because inadequate providers are re-inspected within the period and improve or leave the sector.
- 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 77% and 70% respectively.
- Ninety per cent of the 60,739 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 of the register.

- Since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage, 8,780 early years providers have been inspected and were no longer active at 31 December 2011. Of these providers, 9% were inadequate at their last inspection.

Actions and recommendations

- Inspectors raise actions to ensure statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage or the requirements of the Childcare Register 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 period of time to put things right.
- One or more actions to meet the statutory requirements of the Early Years Register were set in 25% of Early Years Foundation Stage inspections carried out between 1 October 2011 and 31 December 2011. A higher proportion of inspections had actions set against the Safeguarding and welfare requirement than other requirements, with one or more actions set against this requirement at 12% of inspections.
- Between October 2011 and 31 December 2011, a higher proportion of inspections had recommendations set against the organisation requirement (40%), than against other requirements. This was followed by the three learning and development requirements, where 27% of inspections received one or more recommendations surrounding educational programmes and 24% 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 31 December 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. Where 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. Final data for inspections completed between 1 July and 30 September is published at the same time as provisional data for the following quarter. Revisions are 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

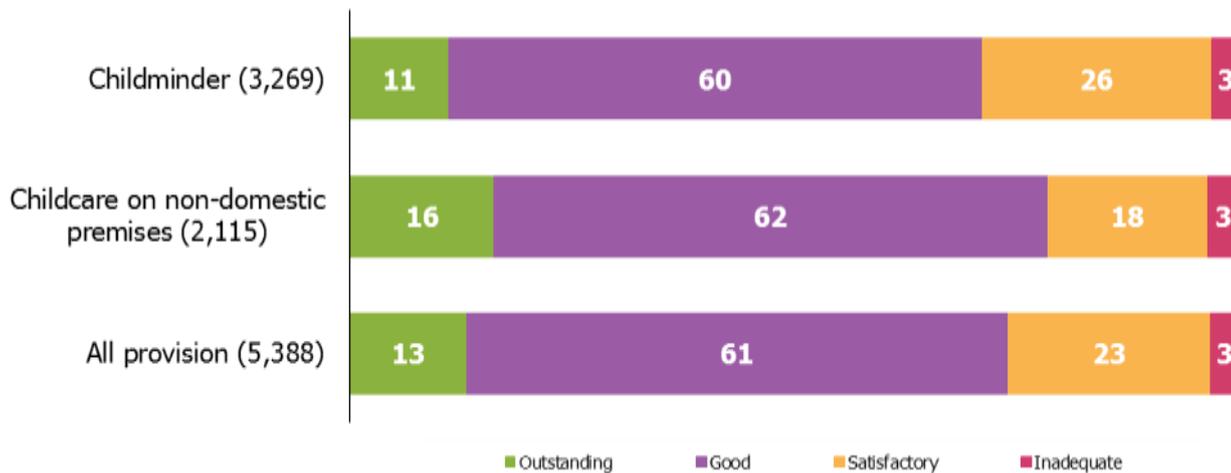
7. The inspection frameworks for providers on the Early Years Register and providers on the Childcare Register were published in September 2008. For more information about these frameworks and how Ofsted regulates and inspects childcare providers please go to the Ofsted website:

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 October 2011 and 31 December 2011, by provider type (provisional)¹



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

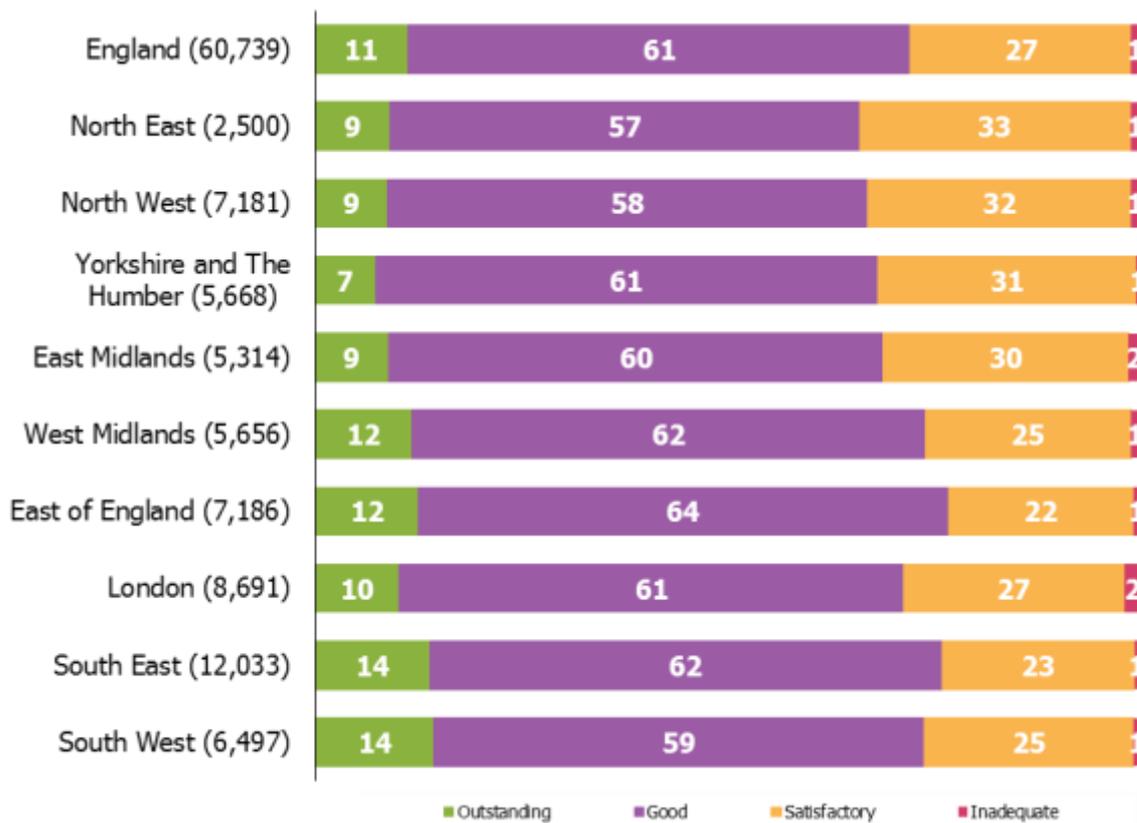
Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 December 2011, by provider type (provisional)^{1 2}



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 3: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 December 2011, by region (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

Table 1: Number of early years and childcare provider inspections between 1 October 2011 and 31 December 2011, by inspection type (provisional)

	All provision	Childminder	Childcare on non-domestic premises	Childcare on domestic premises	Home childcarer
Early years register (full inspection)	5,388	3,269	2,115	4	–
Early years register (no children on roll)	396	389	7	0	–
Childcare register	232	43	103	0	86
Total	6,016	3,701	2,225	4	86

Source: Ofsted inspections

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of early years registered providers inspected between 1 October 2011 and 31 December 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?	5,388	714	13	3,277	61	1,226	23	171	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	5,388	761	14	3,182	59	1,290	24	155	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	5,388	729	14	3,254	60	1,232	23	173	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	5,388	780	14	3,173	59	1,284	24	151	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	5,388	1,004	19	3,192	59	1,115	21	77	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	5,388	885	16	3,174	59	1,253	23	76	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	5,388	889	16	3,200	59	1,126	21	173	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	5,388	752	14	3,059	57	1,423	26	154	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	5,388	1,209	22	3,121	58	1,011	19	47	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	5,388	898	17	2,630	49	1,819	34	41	1
The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	5,388	770	14	3,284	61	1,185	22	149	3
Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	5,388	778	14	3,312	61	1,173	22	125	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	5,388	920	17	3,256	60	1,131	21	81	2
The extent to which children feel safe	5,388	930	17	3,267	61	1,048	19	143	3
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	5,388	959	18	3,363	62	1,017	19	49	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	5,388	1,018	19	3,209	60	1,121	21	40	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	5,388	871	16	3,275	61	1,160	22	82	2

Table 3: Inspection outcomes of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 December 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?	60,739	6,986	12	37,131	61	15,865	26	757	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	60,739	7,550	12	35,420	58	17,104	28	665	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage									
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	60,739	7,221	12	36,688	60	16,065	26	765	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	41,670	5,693	14	24,631	59	10,760	26	586	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	41,670	6,782	16	25,568	61	9,038	22	282	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	60,739	8,750	14	36,617	60	15,040	25	332	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	60,739	8,535	14	36,711	60	14,588	24	905	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	60,739	7,196	12	32,747	54	20,073	33	723	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	60,739	11,537	19	36,711	60	12,267	20	224	0
	41,670	6,090	15	21,864	52	13,515	32	201	0
The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage									
How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	41,670	5,210	13	25,767	62	10,112	24	581	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	19,069	2,513	13	10,972	58	5,511	29	73	0
	19,069	2,385	13	11,802	62	4,805	25	77	0
Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage									
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	41,670	5,417	13	26,104	63	9,650	23	499	1
The extent to which children feel safe	60,739	9,581	16	36,903	61	13,872	23	383	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	60,739	9,384	15	37,404	62	13,274	22	677	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	60,739	9,783	16	38,786	64	11,890	20	280	0
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	60,739	9,893	16	37,457	62	13,170	22	219	0
	60,739	8,279	14	37,032	61	15,072	25	356	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.

Table 4: Actions at early years registered inspections between 1 October 2011 and 31 December 2011, by the statutory requirements of the Early Years Register (provisional)

	Total number of inspections	Number with actions	Percentage with actions
Any action	5,388	1,345	25
Learning and development requirements			
Early learning goals	5,388	25	0
Educational programmes	5,388	10	0
Assessment arrangements	5,388	6	0
Welfare requirements			
Safeguarding and welfare	5,388	658	12
Promoting good health	5,388	177	3
Behaviour management	5,388	8	0
Suitability of adults	5,388	87	2
Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills	5,388	45	1
Staffing arrangements	5,388	22	0
Premises, environment & equipment	5,388	358	7
Organisation	5,388	124	2
Documentation	5,388	471	9

Table 5: Recommendations made at early years registered inspections between 1 October 2011 and 31 December 2011, by the statutory requirements of the Early Years Register (provisional)

	Total number of inspections	Number with recommendations	Percentage with recommendations
Any recommendation	5,388	5,050	94
Learning and development requirements			
Early learning goals	5,388	1,280	24
Educational programmes	5,388	1,434	27
Assessment arrangements	5,388	999	19
Welfare requirements			
Safeguarding and welfare	5,388	783	15
Promoting good health	5,388	241	4
Behaviour management	5,388	27	1
Suitability of adults	5,388	31	1
Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills	5,388	156	3
Staffing arrangements	5,388	26	0
Premises, environment & equipment	5,388	905	17
Organisation	5,388	2,033	38
Documentation	5,388	347	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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