

Official Statistics Release

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Introduction

This official statistics release reports on early years and childcare inspections that occurred between 1 September 2008 and 31 December 2012 under Section 59 and 60 of the Childcare Act 2006.

The arrangements for the regulation and inspection of providers on the Early Years Register changed in September 2012. To accurately report on the two frameworks, inspections carried out between 1 July 2012 and 31 August 2012 are reported separately and these data are final. Data for inspections carried out between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 under the new arrangements are provisional and subject to change.

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Key findings

Latest inspection period (1 September 2012 - 31 December 2012)

- Ofsted carried out 4,909 inspections of childcare provision between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012. A large majority (94%) were inspections of providers on the Early Years Register. All inspections were conducted under the new Early Years inspection framework that began in September 2012.
- There were 4,545 full Early Years Register inspections, 47 Early Years no children on roll inspections and 317 Childcare register inspections.
- Of the 4,545 full Early Years Register inspections, just over two thirds (67%) were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness and 27% were satisfactory. Six per cent were judged inadequate. This is a lower proportion of providers judged good or better compared with the previous reporting period (1 September 2011 to 31 August 2012) where 74% were good or better. The lower proportion of providers judged as good or better seen this quarter may be due to the fact that providers who are not yet good were prioritised when selecting which providers should be inspected at the start of the new inspection cycle.
- The proportion of childcare providers on non-domestic premises judged to be good or outstanding for overall effectiveness is broadly in line with that of childminders, at 67% and 66% respectively. This is a change compared with inspections carried out over the 1 September 2011 to 31 August 2012 period where more childcare providers were judged as offering high quality provision compared with childminders (79% of childcare providers were at least good compared to 72% of childminders).
- For childcare on non-domestic premises, 8% were judged inadequate for overall effectiveness compared to 3% of childcare providers inspected between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012. Again, it should be noted that providers who are not yet good were prioritised when selecting which providers should be inspected at the start of the new inspection cycle.
- Eighty seven per cent of the 4,545 Early Years Registered inspections were also monitored for their compliance with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. Of these 91% met the requirements and 9% were set actions to meet the requirements.

Most recent inspections as at 31 December 2012

- As at 31 December 2012, 67,049 active Early Years Register providers had been inspected and their report published 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, 76% of all Early Years Registered providers were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness, 24% were judged satisfactory and 1% inadequate for overall effectiveness.

- The proportion of providers judged to be good or better at their most recent inspection has improved slightly since August, from 74% to 76%. This is due to a number of factors including change in the stock of early years providers registered with Ofsted and the sample of providers inspected during the autumn term. Less than half of inspections carried out between September and December were of providers which had previously been inspected. These were generally weaker providers and were not representative of all early years providers nationally. Some improved at their inspection during this period, thereby replacing their original outcome with a higher grade and improving the overall picture. The remaining half of inspections were of providers which were new and had not been inspected before.
- Similarly over 1,200 providers have closed since August. Again these were generally the weaker providers, so the fact that they are no longer included in the latest position has also improved the overall picture.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 September 2008 and 31 December 2012.
2. This report includes data from inspections carried out since September 2012 under the new inspection arrangements for Early Years providers. A key change is the reduction in the number of judgements that are reported. From September there are now four, including an overall effectiveness judgement. This judgement is comparable with the overall effectiveness judgement made in the previous inspection cycle.
3. Statistics relating to inspections carried out between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 are provisional and include inspections in the period where the inspection report was published by 31 January 2013.
4. Statistics relating to the most recent inspection outcome of providers include inspections up to the end of the period (31 December 2012), 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.
5. 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'.
6. 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.
7. 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
8. A new inspection framework for providers on the Early Years Register and providers on the Childcare Register commenced in September 2012. This replaced the framework published in September 2008. For more information about the new framework please go to the Ofsted website:

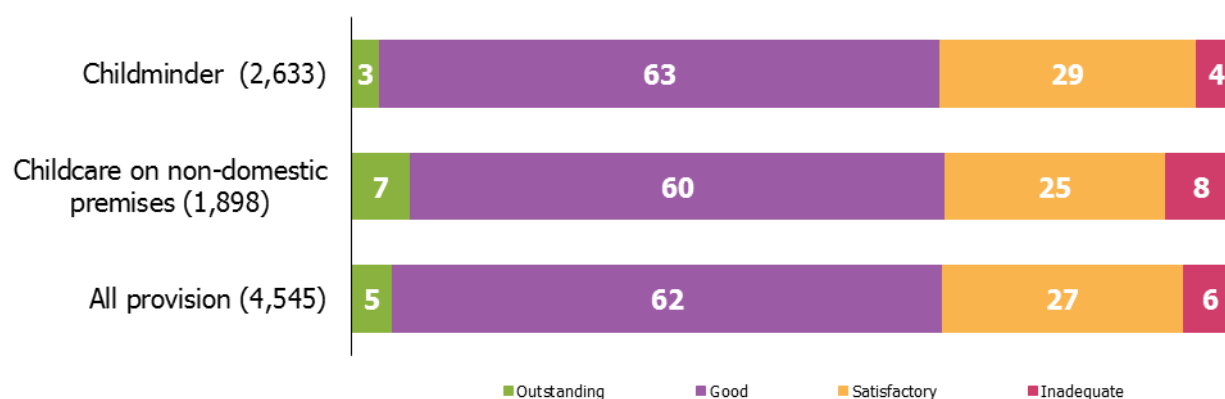
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-regulation-of-provision-early-years-register>

Additional information

All the tables and charts shown in this release, along with additional analysis by 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.

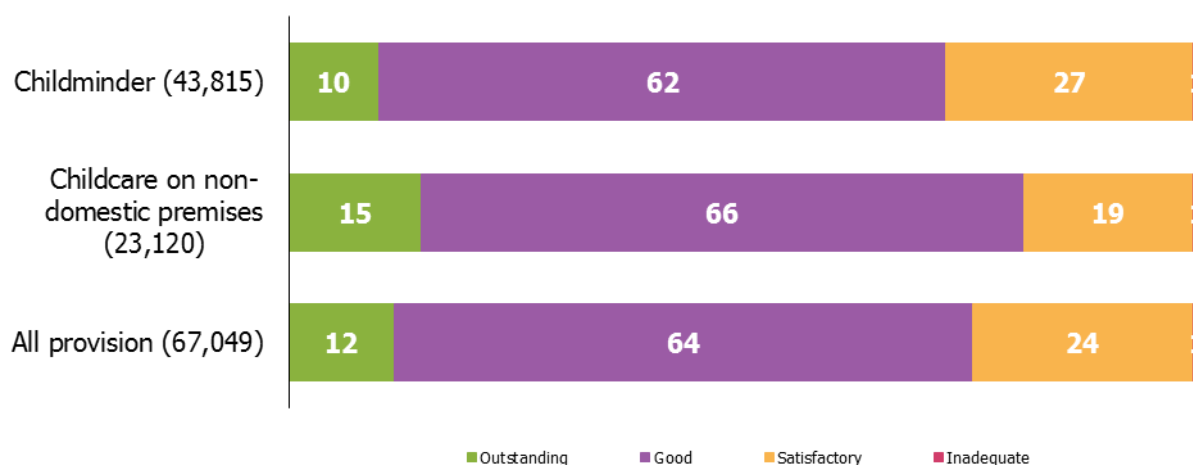
Due to technical issues arising from the framework changes, four tables have been removed from the provisional files to ensure delivery of the wider publication. These are tables 5 and 6 that report on providers who are only on the childcare register and tables 7 and 8 that report on the actions and recommendations given at inspection. Please see previous publications for more information. We welcome your feedback on whether it would be useful to include these tables again in future publications.

Chart 1: Overall effectiveness of early years registered providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, by provider type (provisional) ^{1 2 3}



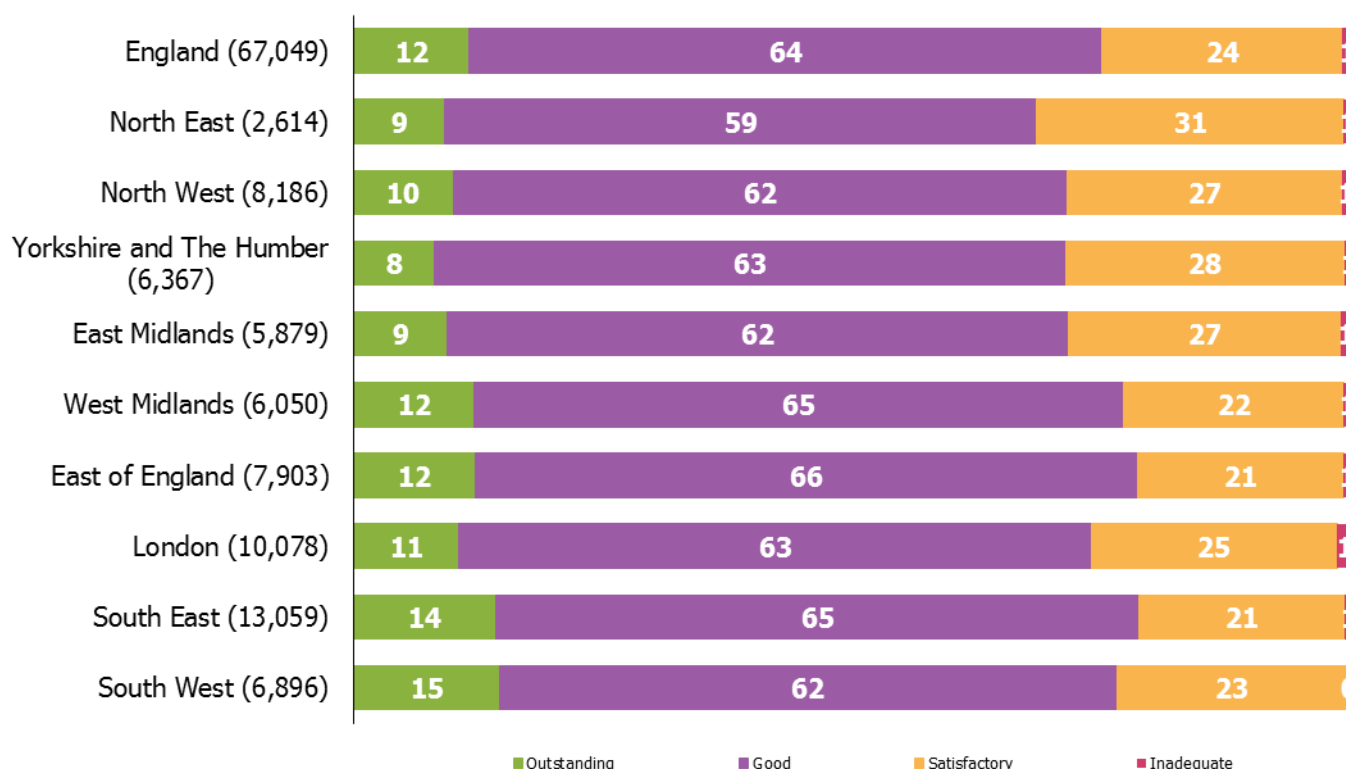
1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Childcare on domestic premises is not shown due to the small number of inspections.
3. Includes inspections published by 31 January 2013.

Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 December 2012, by provider type (provisional) ^{1 2 3}



1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Childcare on domestic premises is not shown due to the small number of inspections.
3. Data are based on inspections carried out since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008 and includes inspections carried out under the new arrangements introduced in September 2012. Includes inspections published by 31 December 2012.

Chart 3: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 December 2012, 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 and includes inspections carried out under the new arrangements introduced in September 2012. Includes inspections published by 31 December 2012.

Table 1: Number of early years and childcare provider inspections between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, by inspection type (provisional) ¹²

	All provision	Childminder	Childcare on non-domestic premises	Childcare on domestic premises	Home childcarer
Early years register (full inspection)	4,545	2,633	1,898	14	–
Early years register (no children on roll)	47	43	4	0	–
Childcare register	317	47	116	0	154
Total	4,909	2,723	2,018	14	154

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Figures represent all inspections in this period, including re-inspections and inspections of providers who have since closed.

2. Includes inspections published by 31 January 2013

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of early years registered providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional) ¹²

	Total number inspected	Number of Providers				Percentage of Providers			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness: the quality and standards of the provision	4,545	213	2,825	1,241	266	5	62	27	6
The quality of leadership and management	4,545	216	2,822	1,241	266	5	62	27	6
The contribution of the provision to the wellbeing of children	4,545	280	3,046	1,009	210	6	67	22	5
How well the provision meets the needs of the children who attend	4,545	216	2,868	1,228	233	5	63	27	5

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

2. Includes inspections published by 31 January 2013.

Table 3: Inspection outcomes of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 December 2012 (provisional)¹

	Total number inspected	Number of Providers				Percentage of Providers			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
² Overall effectiveness: the quality and standards of the provision	67,049	7,749	42,578	16,175	547	12	64	24	1
³ The quality of leadership and management	3,602	164	2,224	1,009	205	5	62	28	6
³ The contribution of the provision to the wellbeing of children	3,602	210	2,406	826	160	6	67	23	4
³ How well the provision meets the needs of the children who attend	3,602	163	2,264	993	182	5	63	28	5

Source: Ofsted inspections

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

2. This judgement includes the outcome *'How well does the setting meet the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?'* from the previous EYFS framework that began in September 2008. Includes outcomes for the most recent inspections that were published by 31 December 2012.

3. Judgement only made at inspections from 1 September 2012 onwards.

Judgements made during the entire EYFS framework (2008-12) can be found in the Annual Report Official Statistical release published in November 2012

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 under exceptional circumstances; 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.

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 financial 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

Inactive providers

A childcare provider may be inactive because they have resigned or they have had their registration suspended or cancelled by Ofsted.

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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