



Department  
for Education

# **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Results in England, 2012/13**

**Quality and Uses of Data**

**October 2013**

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## Description

This document outlines the use made of these statistics and the types of decisions they inform, provides information on the quality and reliability of these statistics overall, and in relation to the range of potential uses.

# Users and usage

## Department for Education

This statistical release contains the latest information at both national and local authority (LA) level on achievement outcomes at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in 2013. This includes:

- The number and proportion of children achieving each assessment rating within the Early Learning Goals
- The number and proportion of children achieving at least the expected level in an Area of Learning
- The number and proportion of children achieving a Good Level of Development.
- The total points score across all the Early Learning Goals.
- The achievement gap between the lowest attaining 20% of children and all children.
- The percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in the Areas of Learning by national deprivation status of child residency.

For more information on the items included in the statistical release and how they have been calculated, please refer to the accompanying methodology note which has been published as a separate document on the publication page.

The main use of these statistics is by the Department for Education to provide advice to Ministers for policy monitoring and setting future policies.

## Other users

The main known external users of these statistics are LAs who use the information to compare with regional and national averages and to benchmark themselves against other authorities.

Other users include:

- Department of Health – use ‘Good Level of Development’ indicator within the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
- Office of Deputy Prime Minister – Use EYFSP within Social Mobility Strategy.
- Child Poverty Unit – Use ‘Good Level of Development’ indicator to inform policies.
- Other UK government departments for comparison purposes.

We will continue to engage with users to ensure that the publication best meets their needs and welcome feedback or suggestions from any new or previously unknown users which we will take on board.

Would you like to feed in your views? If so, please see contact details on the publication page.

## Data sources and data quality

### Data sources

The EYFS Profile is a teacher assessment of children's development at the end of the EYFS (the end of the academic year in which the child turns five). The data is collected from schools and early years' settings via LAs and this is the seventh year that schools and early years' settings have been under a statutory obligation to send full data for every individual child.

An independent review of the EYFS by Dame Clare Tickell was published in March 2012 which recommended a new profile.

The new Profile was introduced in September 2012 which made changes to the way in which children were assessed at the end of the EYFS. The new Profile requires practitioners to make a best-fit assessment of whether children are emerging, expected or exceeding against each of the new 17 early learning goals (ELGs).

The Department for Education's data needs are met by asking LAs to provide this full complement of data relating to those children in receipt of funding at the end of the EYFS only.

Guidance relating to the 2013 data collection can be accessed [here](#).

Further information on the EYFS Profile assessment and reporting arrangements, alongside other EYFS resources, can be found [here](#).

### Data quality

The data for 2013 is of a good quality. Returns were received from 99.9% of expected schools and early years settings. The total number of children in the cohort reported on in this SFR is 643,600. This is made up of 314,200 girls and 329,300 boys (figures rounded to the nearest hundred).

### Time series compatibility

The new Profile's 'emerging', 'expected' and 'exceeding' scale are very different to the previous Profile's 117 point scale and the number of early learning goals has been reduced. This will lead to a break in the time series as the results will not be comparable between 2012 and 2013.

In the new EYFSP, children will be defined as having reached a **Good Level of Development GLD** at the end of the EYFS if they achieve at least the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional

development; physical development; and communication and language) and in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

The GLD measure for the new Profile is different as the ELGs have changed, and it includes mathematics and literacy as the Government believes a good foundation in these areas is crucial for later success. The content is therefore slightly more stretching. As the content of the GLD measure has changed, it is not possible to compare results for the new Profile with previous years.

## **Comparisons to 2012 pilot**

During summer 2012, the department carried out a pilot of the new profile alongside the old profile. The intention of the pilot was to inform the development of the new GLD indicator. The pilot was also used to finalise the new guidance, exemplification materials and the moderation arrangements for the new Profile. It was never designed to be a baseline for the new profile and the results from it should be treated with caution.



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