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Introduction

This official statistics release reports on early years and childcare inspections that occurred between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2012 under Section 59 and 60 of the Childcare Act 2006. It supports the findings in the Early Years sector report which is published alongside the 2011/12 Ofsted Annual Report.

Data for inspections carried out between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 are provisional and subject to change.

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Key findings

Latest inspection year (1 September 2011-31 August 2012)

- Ofsted carried out 21,407 inspections of childcare provision between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012. A large majority (93%) were inspections of providers on the Early Years Register who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- There were 16,955 full Early Years Register inspections, 2,878 Early Years no children on roll inspections and 1,574 Childcare register inspections.
- Of the 16,955 full Early Years Register inspections, nearly 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 79% and 72% respectively. The greatest difference is in the proportion of providers judged outstanding, where 16% of providers of childcare on non-domestic premises were found to be outstanding compared to 9% of childminders. However, the same proportion of childcare providers on non-domestic premises and childminders were found to be inadequate, 3% for both provider types.
- Ninety-one per cent of the 16,955 Early Years Register 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.
- Of the 1,574 inspections carried out for providers on the Childcare Register only, 77% met the requirements of the register.

Most recent inspections as at 31 August 2012

- As at 31 August 2012, 66,941 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, 74% of all childcare providers were judged as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness and almost all (99%) were judged to be at least satisfactory for overall effectiveness.
- The proportion of providers judged inadequate at their most recent inspection is lower than the proportion of inspections with inadequate outcomes between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012. This is because most inadequate providers are re-inspected within 12 months and tend to 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 78% and 71% respectively.

- Ninety per cent of the 66,941 Early Years Register 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, 12,421 early years providers have been inspected and were no longer active at 31 August 2012. Of these providers, 7% were inadequate at their last inspection.

Actions and recommendations

- Inspectors raise actions to ensure the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage or the requirements of the Childcare Register are being met. Usually actions result in one or more inspection judgements being inadequate. However in some cases where the inspector considers that not meeting the requirement or part of a requirement has a limited impact on the children, the provider may still be judged to be 'satisfactory' or, on very rare occasions, 'good'. 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 23% of Early Years Foundation Stage inspections carried out between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012. 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 11% of inspections.
- Between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012, a higher proportion of inspections had recommendations set against the organisation requirement (38%) than against other requirements. The organisation requirement assesses learning and development and how well the provider is meeting the needs of each child. This was followed by the educational programmes requirement (28%) and the early learning goals requirement (23%). These requirements evaluate, respectively, the teaching skills and processes that each practitioner provides and how well developmental goals are reached.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2012.
2. Statistics relating to inspections carried out in the last three months of the latest year are provisional and include inspections in the period where the inspection report was published within one month of the end of the year.
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. 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

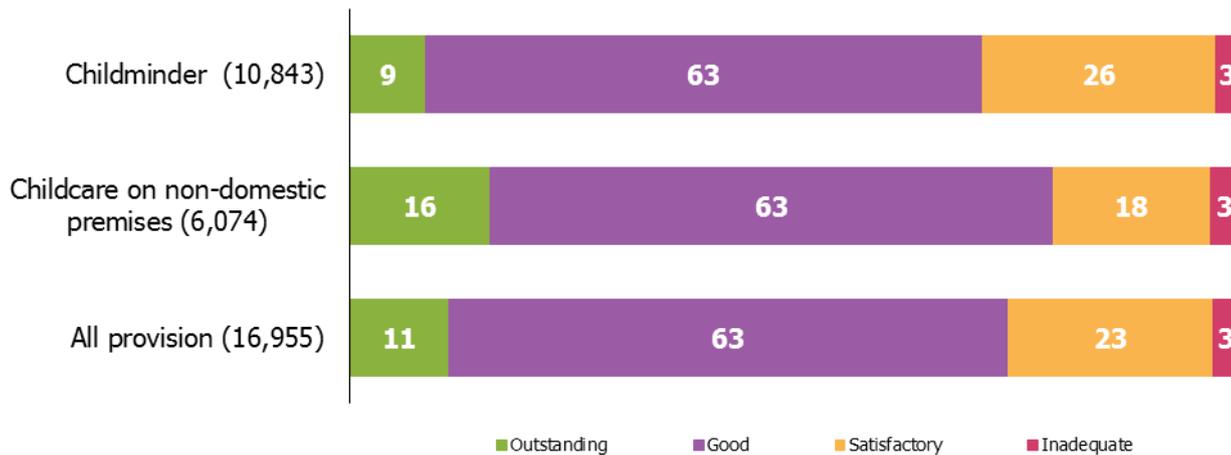
7. A new inspection framework for providers on the Early Years Register and providers on the Childcare Register commenced in September 2012. This replaced the framework published in September 2008. For more information about the new framework please go to the Ofsted website:

<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.

Chart 1: Overall effectiveness of early years registered providers inspected between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012, by provider type (provisional) ^{1 2}



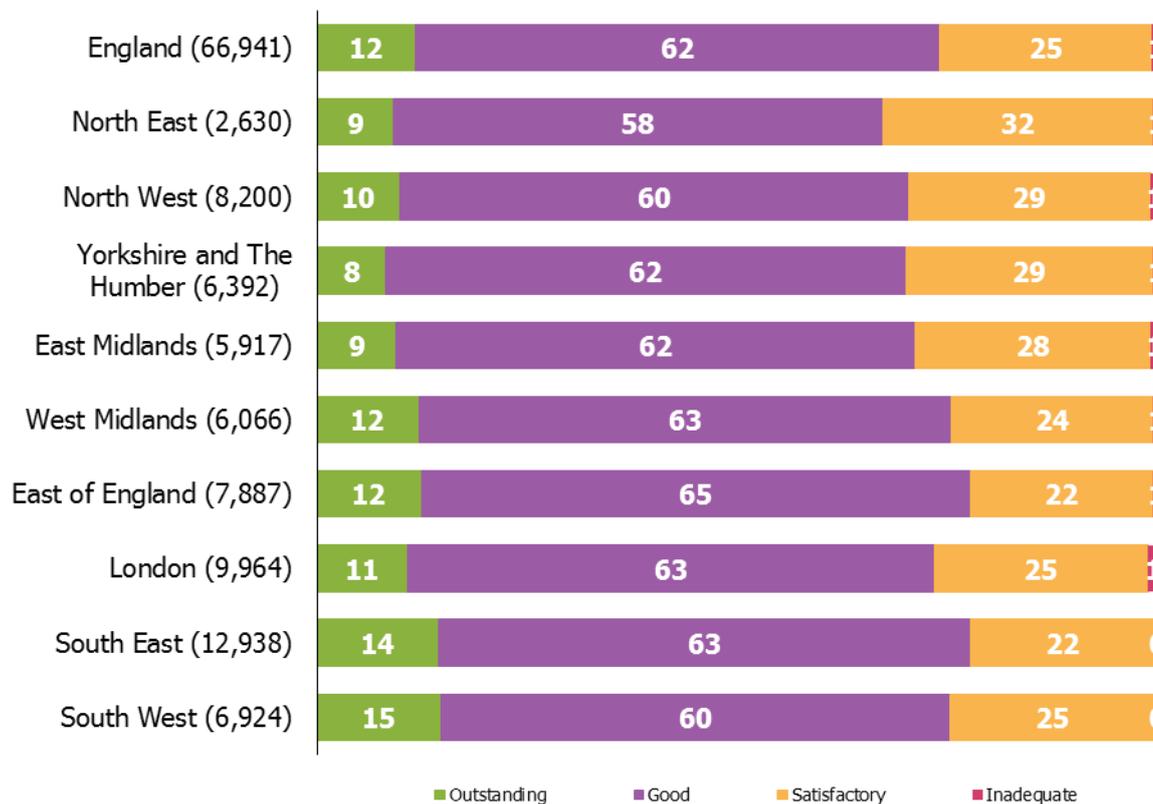
1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Childcare on domestic premises are not shown due to the small number of inspections.

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



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.
3. Childcare on domestic premises are not shown due to the small number of inspections.

Chart 3: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 August 2012, 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 September 2011 and 31 August 2012, by inspection type (provisional)

	All provision	Childminder	Childcare on non-domestic premises	Childcare on domestic premises	Home childcarer
Early years register (full inspection)	16,955	10,843	6,074	38	–
Early years register (no children on roll)	2,878	2,755	120	0	–
Childcare register	1,574	225	580	1	768
Total	21,407	13,823	6,774	39	768

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. By 31 August 2012, three providers have changed to become Home Childcarers following an Early years register (no children on roll) inspection. These providers have been included within the total number of providers within this table.

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of early years registered providers inspected between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 (provisional)

	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	16,955	1,896	11	10,666	63	3,921	23	472	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	16,955	2,033	12	10,385	61	4,101	24	436	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	16,955	1,937	11	10,617	63	3,926	23	475	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	16,955	2,092	12	10,348	61	4,087	24	428	3
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	16,955	2,720	16	10,471	62	3,548	21	216	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	16,955	2,388	14	10,413	61	3,935	23	219	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	16,955	2,454	14	10,504	62	3,548	21	449	3
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	16,955	2,015	12	10,025	59	4,478	26	437	3
The effectiveness of partnerships	16,955	3,308	20	10,206	60	3,305	19	136	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	16,955	2,409	14	8,140	48	6,270	37	136	1
The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	16,955	2,041	12	10,723	63	3,771	22	420	2
Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	16,955	2,100	12	10,745	63	3,750	22	360	2
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	16,955	2,465	15	10,606	63	3,649	22	235	1
The extent to which children feel safe	16,955	2,604	15	10,640	63	3,324	20	387	2
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	16,955	2,724	16	10,863	64	3,233	19	135	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	16,955	2,783	16	10,473	62	3,556	21	143	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	16,955	2,357	14	10,646	63	3,722	22	230	1

Source: Ofsted inspections

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

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

	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?	66,941	7,811	12	41,703	62	16,969	25	458	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	66,941	8,420	13	39,930	60	18,153	27	438	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	66,941	8,058	12	41,249	62	17,162	26	472	1
⁴ The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	49,292	6,715	14	29,815	60	12,389	25	373	1
⁴ The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	49,292	8,118	16	30,693	62	10,301	21	180	0
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	66,941	9,774	15	41,003	61	15,953	24	211	0
The effectiveness of safeguarding	66,941	9,637	14	41,125	61	15,554	23	625	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	66,941	8,079	12	37,224	56	21,147	32	491	1
⁵ The effectiveness of partnerships	66,941	12,964	19	40,872	61	12,958	19	147	0
⁴ The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	49,292	7,293	15	25,629	52	16,225	33	145	0
⁴ The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	49,292	6,208	13	31,140	63	11,593	24	351	1
⁶ How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	17,649	2,368	13	10,233	58	4,990	28	58	0
⁶ How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	17,649	2,245	13	10,993	62	4,348	25	63	0
⁴ Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	49,292	6,453	13	31,416	64	11,122	23	301	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	66,941	10,595	16	41,331	62	14,764	22	251	0
The extent to which children feel safe	66,941	10,530	16	41,823	62	14,149	21	439	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	66,941	10,974	16	43,173	64	12,619	19	175	0
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	66,941	11,113	17	41,738	62	13,933	21	157	0
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	66,941	9,321	14	41,493	62	15,889	24	238	0

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.

3. Data includes 27 fewer inspections than similar analysis in Ofsted's Annual Report and the accompanying web tool. These data include inspections published by 31 August 2012 whereas the Annual Report includes inspections published by 1 September 2012.

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

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

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

7. 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.

Table 4: Actions at early years registered inspections between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012, by the statutory requirements of the Early Years Register (provisional)

	Total number of inspections	Number with actions	Percentage with actions
Any action	16,955	3,828	23
Learning and development requirements			
Early learning goals	16,955	57	0
Educational programmes	16,955	37	0
Assessment arrangements	16,955	12	0
Welfare requirements			
Safeguarding and welfare	16,955	1,816	11
Promoting good health	16,955	459	3
Behaviour management	16,955	30	0
Suitability of adults	16,955	220	1
Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills	16,955	154	1
Staffing arrangements	16,955	49	0
Premises, environment & equipment	16,955	965	6
Organisation	16,955	351	2
Documentation	16,955	1,363	8

Source: Ofsted inspections

Table 5: Recommendations made at early years registered inspections between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012, by the statutory requirements of the Early Years Register (provisional)

	Total number of inspections	Number with recommendations	Percentage with recommendations
Any recommendation	16,955	15,715	93
Learning and development requirements			
Early learning goals	16,955	3,971	23
Educational programmes	16,955	4,704	28
Assessment arrangements	16,955	2,944	17
Welfare requirements			
Safeguarding and welfare	16,955	2,176	13
Promoting good health	16,955	768	5
Behaviour management	16,955	70	0
Suitability of adults	16,955	94	1
Qualifications, training, knowledge and skills	16,955	444	3
Staffing arrangements	16,955	78	0
Premises, environment & equipment	16,955	2,847	17
Organisation	16,955	6,471	38
Documentation	16,955	812	5

Source: Ofsted inspections

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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