

# Inspection of children's centres

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# Inspection facts and figures



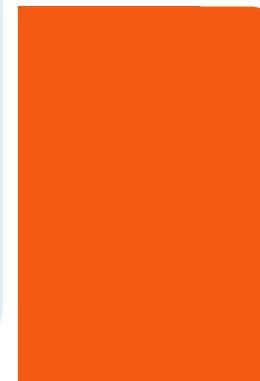
Based on the 1,389 centres inspected up to 30 June 2012.

- 69% judged good or outstanding and almost all (98%) were judged at least satisfactory
- 32 centres have been judged inadequate; of these 11 have received a second inspection; and all have improved to satisfactory for overall effectiveness.



## Inspection findings

- The strongest aspects are safeguarding and the the quality of care, guidance and support offered to families
- The least positive outcomes for users are the extent to which children are developing skills for the future and parents are developing economic stability and independence.
- The effectiveness of evaluation and its use in setting ambitious targets which secure improvement in outcomes is also a weaker area

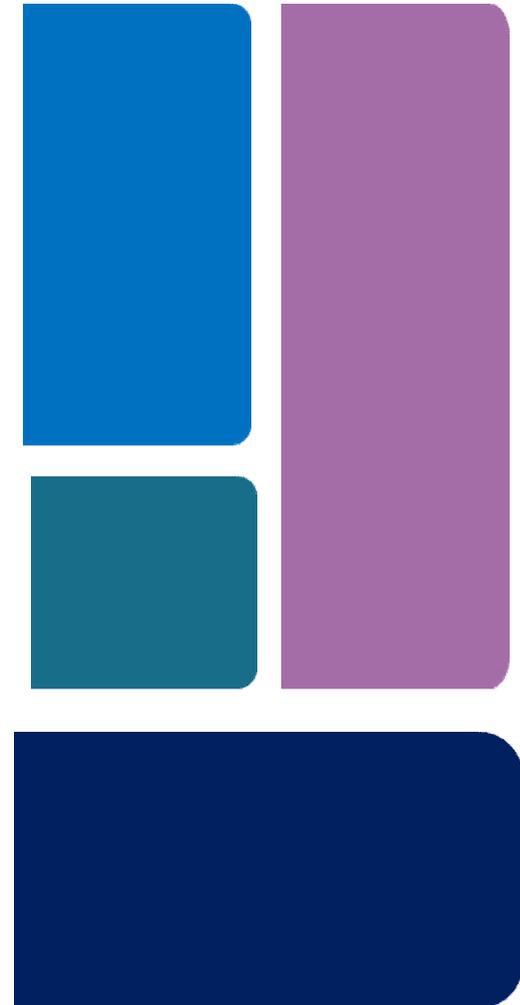


# The journey to outstanding: what inspection reports tell us



Children's centres perform best when they:

- have a detailed understanding of their local community, children and families and set challenging targets based on this knowledge
- reach a high proportion of their target population and can evidence their engagement and participation
- involve centre users fully in shaping and delivering services
- have strong accountability and performance management systems
- have high quality evidence that provides compelling information about the impact of the centres actions on children and families.



## The journey to outstanding: features of outstanding centres

- High quality leadership and management coupled with strong team work
- Highly effective links with other services – especially health and social care
- High quality relationships with partners; partners share data and are fully engaged in planning, delivery and evaluation
- Data, management information and self-evaluation are used extremely well to plan and to monitor actions
- Strong local authority strategic steer and performance management



## Different delivery models

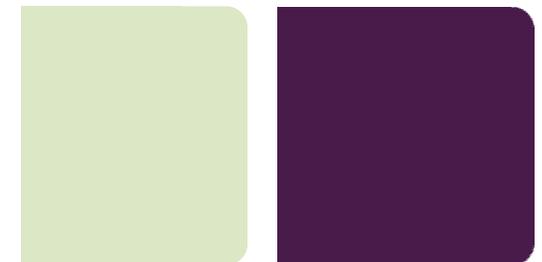
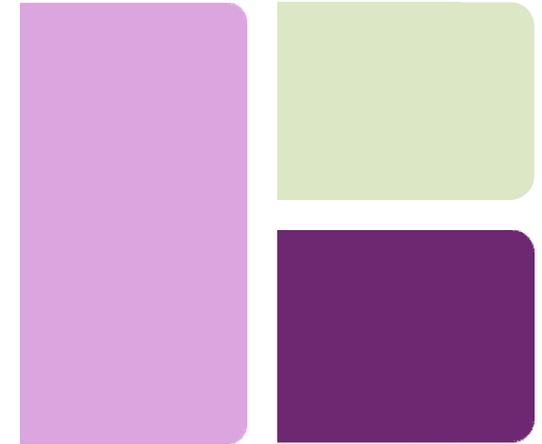
What we know now...in a rapidly changing landscape:

- there are 3,309 main centres
- there are 2500 children's centres linked with schools
- 279 centres have been merged
- 152 local authorities all working differently
- 53 local authorities showing 'supercentres'



# Inspection proposals

- A single inspection and report for a group of centres where they share leadership and management
- Inspections of individual centres where there is a single centre model or centres work collaboratively
- Inspections happening simultaneously across an area using a larger inspection team, allowing for a reduction in interviews with local authority leads and key partners



## Inspection proposals (continued)

The proposed inspection framework:

- has revised inspection grades
- uses a four-point grading system
- has fewer judgements
- has shorter reports starting with a user-friendly summary
- retains the optional Ofsted self-evaluation form.
- retains a short notice period.



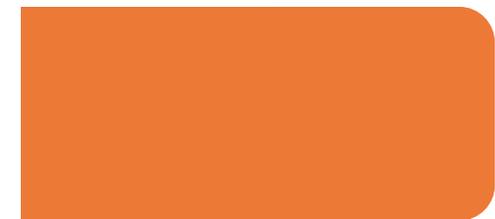
## Proposed focus for inspection

- Access to services by young children and families especially those in need of intervention and support
- The needs of families and how services are matched to needs
- The quality of services, partnership working and the impact they have on families' well being
- The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management in setting performance and outcome measures and monitoring the quality and impact of the centre



## Evidence to demonstrate impact

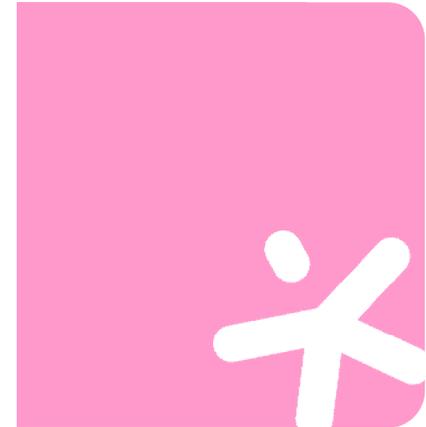
- Data about participation, targeting, attendance, progression and outreach for example
- Children being ready to start school
- Improved parenting
- Opportunities for adults to improve their employability and personal development
- Families developing economic stability and independence
- Families developing healthy lifestyles
- Parents understanding of their responsibilities for their children's safety and well-being



## Where are we now?



- Friendly testing and pilot work on-going through autumn and the new year
- Public consultation on changes scheduled in the autumn
- Task and finish groups developing specific aspects of framework/methodology autumn term
- Working to align the children's centre framework with Ofsted's improvement agenda
- Delivery scheduled for April 2013



## High quality services

- Access to good quality early years experiences help children get the start they deserve and the benefits of those experiences last well into a child's school life.
- We think that every family using children's centres deserves to use services that are at least good; especially those families that are most need of intervention and support.
- The proposed changes to inspection with a focus on access to services and the impact they have is an important step forward in helping centres improve.

