Early Years Inspection and Regulation

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The Early Years Sector

- There were 70,852 providers registered on the Early Years and Childcare Registers as at 31 August 2010.
- The majority of providers are on both the Early Years and the Childcare Register, caring for children from birth upwards.
- The sector is characterised by a high level of turnover of providers.
- The size of the sector continues to fall.

Overall performance of the sector

- The proportion of early years registered providers judged as good or outstanding has increased from 56% to 68% since the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Providers judged as outstanding demonstrate reflective practice and strong partnerships with parents.

Overall performance of the sector

- 95% of providers found to be inadequate in 2008/09 have been re-inspected and are satisfactory or better.
- There is a reduction in the number of actions raised from 34% to 28%, but too many providers do not fully understand all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- 16% of leavers are judged as inadequate at inspection suggesting a combination of the Early Years Foundation Stage and rigorous inspection is driving up improvement.

Childminders

- Over 12,000 childminders were inspected in 2009/10, and 66% were judged to be good or outstanding.
- The performance of inadequate childminders has improved, but too many providers previously judged as satisfactory have remained so.

Childminders

- The relationship between deprivation and lower quality childcare is most marked for childminding with only 52% of those living in areas of deprivation judged as good or outstanding.
- Childminders who are part of quality assurance schemes do markedly better, with 92% of those in schemes judged as good or outstanding. These childminders are also usually in networks.

Childcare on non-domestic premises

- Childcare on non-domestic premises perform very well with 72% judged as good or outstanding and almost three-quarters of those judged as outstanding maintaining their excellent performance.
- Providers new to the sector perform less well than those inspected under the previous framework.
- Like childminders, childcare providers in areas of deprivation perform less well but the difference is not so marked.

The Childcare Register

- There are around 10,000 providers only on the Childcare Register.
- The majority of these are nannies on the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.
- Providers on this register must meet requirements relating to people, premises and provision.

The Childcare Register

- We inspect a sample of around 10% of those on this register each year to make sure they continue to meet requirements.

- Of those inspected 69% met all requirements and the remaining 31% had actions issued. This is a slightly higher proportion than those given actions on the Early Years Register.

Areas for improvement

- The quality of self-evaluation
- Engagement with parents and carers

These are the only two aspects in which over a third of providers inspected are no better than satisfactory.

Learning from best practice

Features of success in areas of deprivation:

- Being ambitious for children.
- Knowing and understanding the community.
- Presenting good role models.
- Being a trusted friend of the family.

HMCI's Annual Report 2010

The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2009/10 can be found on Ofsted's website:

www.ofsted.gov.uk