KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. KLC

NYSE; other; SIC 8351, Services-Child Day Care Services; CIK 0001873529

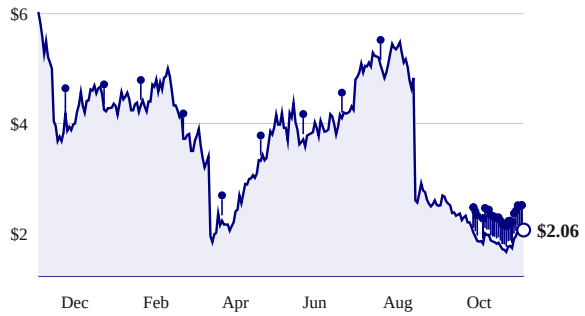
None

No letter

5 of 14 inputs computable; 7 are required, with a score in every sleeve

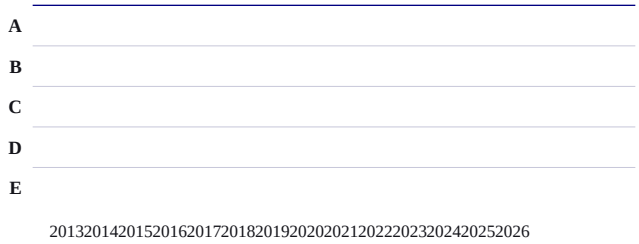
Scoreboard	
Reliability	0.94 AUC filers with over $2.67B assets; 95% interval 0.88 to 0.97; 61 events, 2020 to 2025
Peer failure rate	0.52% a year Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025
Size band	over $2.67B assets total assets $3.7B
Standard universe	inside revenue above $1M and assets above $10M
Warnings	thin data not computable: distress
Inputs computable	5 of 14
Graded from	filings received through Mar 13, 2026 236 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Aug 13, 2026
Last close	$2.05 2026-11-03; market equity $243.0M; no price enters the letter

Share price, twelve months to the rescan



Split-adjusted close. Each lollipop is a rescan and carries the letter held then.

Letter at every rescan, 2012 to 2026



Sector percentile at each rescan, stronger toward the top; facts filed by each date only.

Business, in the company's words

opening of Item 1 of the 10-K received Mar 13, 2026

KinderCare Learning Companies, Inc. (the "Company," "KinderCare," "we," "us" and "our") is a leading private provider of high-quality early education and child care services ("ECE") in the United States. We are a mission-driven organization, rooted in a commitment to providing all children with the very best start in life. We serve children ranging from six weeks to 12 years of age across our footprint. We operate a national network of community-based centers, employer-sponsored programs and before- and after-school sites. Our proprietary curriculum is supported by third-party assessment tools that measure school readiness outcomes.

The fourteen inputs

lower percentile is stronger; sleeves and inputs within a sleeve carry equal weight

Input	Value	Peer median	Percentile, 0 to 100	Pct	Peers	Period end
Profitability, sleeve percentile 28.7						
Gross profitability	not computable	27.1%				
one or more required annual facts are missing						
Return on invested capital	not computable	10.0%				

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pretax income must exceed the validity floor and imply a 0%-100% tax rate					
Accruals ratio	(9.5%)	(5.8%)	28.7	502	2026-01-03
Gross margin stability, five years	not computable	2.2 pts			
five annual gross margins are required; found 0					
Solvency, sleeve percentile 76.0					
Twelve-month failure probability	not computable	0.04%			
latest liabilities, cash plus short-term investments, book equity, and shares are required					
Altman Z double-prime	(0.06)	2.06	60.9	387	2026-01-03
Net debt to EBITDA	7.64x	2.51x	88.3	181	2026-01-03
Interest coverage	not computable	2.45x			
one or more required annual facts are missing					
Current ratio	0.74x	1.33x	78.9	507	2026-01-03
Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 53.8					
Revenue growth, three-year compound	not computable	5.1%			
four annual observations are required; found 2					
Free cash flow growth, three-year compound	not computable	8.9%			
four consecutive annual FCF observations are required; found 2					
Reinvestment rate	not computable	11.9%			
pretax income must exceed the validity floor and imply a 0%-100% tax rate					
Asset growth, three years	not computable	4.1%			
four annual observations are required; found 2					
Net share issuance, one year	0.3%	(0.5%)	53.8	352	2026-03-10

Warnings

1 of 7 checks triggered; none of them enters the letter

Check	Measured
Thin data	5 of 14 grade factors are computable; minimum is 7

What the price implies

at the 2026-11-03 close; none of these enters the grade

Measure	Value	Peer median	Percentile
Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month	(68.5%)	(0.6%)	5
Distance from 52-week high	(65.8%)	(22.7%)	9
EBIT to enterprise value	(2.0%)	4.2%	17
Free cash flow yield	45.2%	4.1%	99
Book value to price	1.91	0.34	96
Sales to price	11.20	0.69	97
Composite equity issuance, five years	not computable	(8.8%)	
Relative strength against the sector, log excess return	(1.27)	(0.13)	5

Diagnostics

shown on every report; none enters the grade

Measure	Value
Piotroski F-score None of 9, period end 2026-01-03	
Return on assets above zero	fail
Operating cash flow above zero	pass
Return on assets improved	fail
Operating cash flow exceeds net income	pass
Long-term leverage fell	fail
Current ratio improved	pass
No new shares issued	fail
Gross margin improved	fail

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Asset turnover improved	fail

Cash, filings, liquidity

Cash and equivalents	$173.7M
Operating cash flow, four quarters	$209.5M
Months of runway	not finite
Days since last periodic filing	83 (10-Q received Aug 13, 2026)
Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions	$1.6M

Sources

every fact behind the inputs; each row links to its filing index on sec.gov

#	Concept	XBRL tag	Value	Period end	Received	Form	Accession
1	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	-$20.1M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
2	pretax income	us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc...	-$93.3M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
3	income tax	us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	$19.5M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
4	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$927.5M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
5	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$755.3M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
6	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$133.2M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
7	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$926.0M	2024-12-28	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
8	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$864.5M	2024-12-28	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
9	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$62.3M	2024-12-28	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
10	net income	us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss	-$112.9M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
11	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$238.5M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
12	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$3.7B	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
13	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$3.6B	2024-12-28	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
14	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$358.0M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
15	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$484.9M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
16	retained earnings	us-gaap:RetainedEarningsAccumulatedDeficit	-$82.6M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
17	liabilities	us-gaap:Liabilities	$3.0B	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
18	depreciation amortization	us-gaap:DepreciationDepletionAndAmortization	$124.0M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
19	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$2.7B	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
20	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$2.7B	2024-12-28	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
21	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$128.3M	2026-01-03	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
22	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$214.8M	2024-12-28	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
23	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$412.8M	2024-12-28	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
24	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	118,355,797	2026-03-10	2026-03-13	10-K	26-106342
25	shares outstanding	dei:EntityCommonStockSharesOutstanding	118,006,276	2025-03-19	2025-03-21	10-K	25-043210

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