

The inspiration for the Kaufman products



Four generations of the Kaufman family

The guiding principles of test construction with the Kaufman products are reflected in the words: Novel, Fair, Fun, Family. These concepts have been front and center since Nadeen and Alan started developing clinical tests in 1978 when they embarked on the construction of the Kaufman Assessment Battery of Children (K-ABC™).



NOVEL

The Kaufmans wanted to develop novel tasks, not the same content that had been developed by Alfred Binet in the early 1900s (verbal) or by World War I psychologists to test immigrants and malingerers (nonverbal). Those tasks had been cycled and recycled for more than a half century and the research team wanted something new.



FAIR

They sought to develop tasks that were as free of bias as possible based on research and literature. Teaching items were used to ensure that young children and lowfunctioning individuals of all ages understood exactly what was expected of them on each and every task. They wanted measures of intelligence to be fair to students with learning disabilities and didn't want to penalize students for low achievement, so they offered options to keep factual knowledge separate from mental ability scales.



FUN

It was important to make the testing experience fun for the examiner and examinee. Tasks were designed to be easy to administer and score. Tasks were also developed to be ageappropriate, including toy-like tasks for children and more advanced and captivating tasks for adolescents and adults. They included game-like tasks (e.g., Atlantis, Rover, Riddles) and used attractive, imaginative pictures and concepts in the K-ABC, KTEA, and KBIT. An early reading comprehension task required acting out a command ("Make believe you're smelling a flower when suddenly you discover there's a bee inside it.")



FAMILY

The Kaufman tests have always been a family affair. Nadeen is the consummate clinician and observer of test behaviors, a set of skills that has always nicely complemented Alan's psychometric and theory-based approach. When they started working on their own tests, every day began with a business breakfast and test development became part of their daily life. As parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents (see photo above), the Kaufmans have always involved their children and grandchildren as test subjects. Their family has always been the first ones to try out any new task. Their reactions and opinions were instrumental in decisions and continue to inspire the next generation of Kaufman tests.

Dr. Nadeen L. Kaufman was Lecturer on the clinical faculty at Yale University's Child Study Center in the School of Medicine from 1997 to 2023. She is an expert in learning disabilities assessment, test construction, clinical assessment, and case report writing. She has been a teacher of learning-disabled children, school psychologist, learning disabilities specialist, university professor, test developer, author, and founder-director of several psychoeducational clinics.

Dr. Alan S. Kaufman is Research Professor at the University of Connecticut (2023 to present), after having served as Clinical Professor of Psychology from 1997 to 2023 at Yale University's Child Study Center in the School of Medicine. He is an internationally recognized expert in psychometrics, test construction, intelligence (theory & practice), clinical assessment, and psychoeducational assessment.

Alan and Nadeen were at the University of Georgia where their research team of doctoral students that worked closely with them to develop the original K-ABC included Bruce Bracken, Jack Cummings, Patti Harrison, Randy Kamphaus, Jack Naglieri, and Cecil Reynolds.

"Ultimately, we want to know how to best support the child's growth and assist others in planning which direction to take. People are usually referred for testing because of problems. The Kaufman family of tests, when coupled with an intelligent tester, helps solve those problems."

Nadeen Kaufman

"Always interpret all test results (including clinical observations), not just the numerical scores, and help make a difference in the person's life."

Alan Kaufman

